Dance club to offer training, performances

By Kelly S. Smith
Lantern staff writer

Do you want to dance? A new Ohio State dance club, beginning winter quarter, will offer professional dance instruction and give members a chance to perform in the area, said the club's organizer, Lisa White.

The club is open to beginning and experienced dancers and will offer instruction in social, folk and square dance, she said.

White, a junior from Upper Arlington, who is spearheading efforts to get the club started, became interested in forming a dance club when she visited the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Canada, and saw how popular the dance club was there.

Seymour Kleinman, professor of movement arts, and Sarah Boeh, a teaching associate in movement arts, are the club's advisers.

Kleinman said that an attempt was made to form a dance club a few years ago, but the effort was not strong enough.

"I think it (now) has great possibilities," Kleinman said. "At other campuses it has really become popular."

Nearly 20 people expressed a desire to help form the club at an organizational meeting held earlier this month.

The membership drive for the club will begin with a dance at Pomerene Hall, tentatively planned for Jan. 11, Boeh said. Membership forms, information sheets and background information will be distributed at the dance.

Once the club begins regular meetings, members will meet Saturdays for one hour of instruction from visiting professionals, Boeh said. After the first hour, members will have the opportunity to stay for a special choreography session which will be performed for the community, she said.

Although the club is not yet funded by the university but White hopes that it soon will be. Although the performances will be given with no charge to the public, donations to the club will be appreciated, White said.

Because the club is not a class, it will provide a chance to dance without the worry of receiving a good grade, White said.

Persons interested in learning more about the club may contact Lisa White at 424-1090 or Sarah Boeh at 422-4736.

A lot of students have expressed interest in forming a dance club at the university, Kleinman and Boeh said.

"I think there are a lot of people who are interested," Kleinman said. "It's just that we have never provided an opportunity for it," she added.