Dance group offers outlet for amateurs

By Angela D. Blessing
Lantern staff writer

OSU students can two-step and slide their way into dance and the performance arts while making new friends and sharing experiences through the OSU Dance Collective.

The collective was organized in last spring by a small group of dance students who wanted to give non-dance majors a way of participating in movement-oriented activities.

"We try to plan our events so that we have something for everyone. We include activities that interest movement enthusiasts on all levels," said Judy Block, student president and a founder of the collective.

The group sponsors activities for its members and other interested students every quarter. Coffee hours with visiting artists from the Department of Dance are scheduled regularly.

Classes with local and visiting choreographers and additional workshops are offered. The workshops cover such topics as massage, relaxation, improvisation and ethnic dance.

Past events sponsored by the collective include coffee hours with dancer Victoria Uris, a former dancer with the Paul Taylor Company, and Woody McGriff, an OSU graduate.

Additionally, two two "Alexander" technique workshops were given by Lucy Venible, OSU professor of dance. The technique is used in many educational, artistic and therapeutic circles to overcome problems inhibiting poise and movement.

"The workshops were well received," Venible said. "A small mixed group attended each session."

"The faculty strongly supports the collective. We like to see students doing something like this on their own," Venible said. "This group doesn't wait for things to be arranged for them as a class; they search out information on their own."

Two more "Alexander" technique workshops will be given by Ann Bluethenthal, a certified instructor, from San Francisco. One class, scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 21, will emphasize the needs of the dance community. Another session, focusing on the needs of the general public, is scheduled for at 1 p.m. Jan. 25.

In February, Louis DeWein, a professor of dance from Capital University, will present a creative movement-body awareness workshop.

"We are always open to ideas from our members about future activities. We encourage suggestions," said Laura Kazmer, treasurer for the collective.

Membership dues for the group are $3 per year. This entitles you to a quarterly newsletter and a discount on all workshops and events, Block said.

More information about the OSU Dance Collective and workshops is available through the Department of Dance, 422-7377.