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03-17

January 23, 2003

For Immediate Release:

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION BANQUET TO FEATURE "REGGIO THE HOOFER"

CHARLESTON – Individuals interested in attending this year's African-American Heritage Celebration Banquet – with special guest, "Reggio the Hooper" – have until Wednesday, Jan. 29, to purchase tickets.

The annual banquet, held in conjunction with African-American Heritage Celebration events on the campus of Eastern Illinois University, will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, in the Grand Ballroom, located in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Tickets, priced at \$12.50 (\$6 for children 6-12 and EIU students with Panther Card ID), may be purchased at the Union Ticket Office (west wing, second floor) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition to the traditional "Soul Food" menu, this year's banquet will feature "Reggio the Hooper," a.k.a. Reginald McLaughlin. "Reggio," who recently performed starring roles in "The Sammy Davis Jr. Story" and "Beggar's Holiday" in Chicago, will explore the history of tap dance by taking audience members through the days of Vaudeville, the Harlem Renaissance and Broadway musicals. Acrobatic tap, stair tap, the old soft shoe and, of course, "hoofing," will be vividly portrayed.

McLaughlin is a member of Maggie Daley's (Chicago's First Lady) Gallery 37 project, which brings the arts to inner-city residents.

Those needing additional information about the banquet/entertainment should phone (217) 581-6692.