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96-68

February 22, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DANCE CLASSES AT EIU

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's Office of Conferences and Non-Credit Programs is offering dance classes in country and western, classical ballroom, and line dance/solo on Tuesday evenings, beginning Feb. 27.

Each class will meet for six sessions on Feb. 27, March 5, March 12, March 26, April 2 and April 9.

The country and western dance class for couples meets from 6 to 6:55 p.m. and covers the one-step, Texas two-step, waltz, country swing and various combinations.

The classical ballroom dance class, covering the Fox-trot, waltz, tango, rumba, dance of choice and combinations, meets from 7 to 7:55 p.m.

The line dance/solo class will meet from 8 to 8:55 p.m. Participants will learn the cab driver, cowgirl twister electric slide, one-step back and two-step back, and other combinations.

Cost is \$24 for one class (6 sessions); \$45/two classes; and \$63/three classes. Participants can come as couples or find partners.

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DANCE CLASSES

All classes will be held in the University Ballroom in the University Union.

Ollie Mae Ray, health studies professor at Eastern, is the instructor. Ray has written several books on solo and country-western dances and discotheque dancing and recently completed research for another book on solo and line dancing for the disabled and the elderly. Her Encyclopedia of Line Dances: The Steps that Came and Stayed, was selected as "Book of the Month" by Princeton Book Company. She also has written about the use of the computer in dance education and performance.

She has been interviewed or provided material on dance for such publications as the Washington Post, Working Families Magazine, Saturday Evening Post, American Square Dancing Magazine, Friends Magazine and Milwaukee Journal. She also has been honored with several presidential citations for outstanding work by the National Dance Association.

At the campus level, she has been instrumental in organizing the university's Health Fair/Symposium and activities for the African American Heritage Month Celebration. She has a special interest in HIV and its effect on women and minorities and recently participated in an HIV training workshop on campus.

To register for the dance classes, call Eastern's Office of Conferences and Non-Credit Programs at 581-5116.