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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

"STEP AFRIKA!" TO BRING HIGH ENERGY ACT TO EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

CHARLESTON – The Washington D.C.-based percussive dance ensemble, "Step Afrika! U.S.A.," will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

Special performances by members of local fraternities also will take place.

General admission to the show, set to take place in the Grand Ballroom, located in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, is \$4. EIU students with Panther Card ID will be admitted free of charge.

Since its organization in December 1996, SAUSA has performed before tens of thousands of Americans annually, highlighting the African-American fraternity and sorority art form of stepping and its links to dance traditions around the world. This dance genre is considered by some to be one of the most exciting created by Americans in the 21st century.

"The performers, equally adept at complex stepping, dancing and, most vital, acting, drove the crowd to whoops and hollers," raved writer Lisa Traiger in a *Washington Post* review.

A non-profit organization, SAUSA is, in part, supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to its professional touring dance company, the organization also serves as a leader in the field of Arts in Education, specializing in the history, development and performance of stepping. The company conducts step performances, clinics and residencies for the Kennedy Center, as well as in schools and for community-based organizations across the country.

SAUSA is considered the "American arm" of the Step Afrika! International Cultural Festival in Soweto, South Africa. A second satellite organization, "Step Afrika! U.K.," brings similar educational programming to European audiences.

"Step Afrika! U.S.A." is being sponsored the University Board, Eastern's student-run entertainment programming board. For information on SAUSA, visit its Web site at <http://www.stepafrika.com/>.