

Ballroom dance twirls into town

By Sarah Baker Senior staff writer

Ballroom dancing isn't just for your grandparents any-

In fact, it's become better known as a "dance sport," and it is the newest hobby for young, fit 20-somethings.

With the recent popularity of swing, the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association is hoping for much of the same popularity as it plans to institute a local chapter of its organization in Nebraska.

Sally Simm, local coordinator for the organization, said she is working to develop a chapter in Lincoln, but hasn't had much response as of yet. nere hasn't been much press, so a lot of people don't know about it," Simm said.

The Association has chapters, like the one Simm is working on forming, across the I Inited States - all open to amateur dancers

The basis of the chapters is to hold social dances for dancers of all ages and dance levels, and to help new dancers get started with afford-

> Amy Castro, owner of Dance Sport USA, 237 S. 70th St., is a professional dancer who is helping to organize the local chapter. She said there are no other organizations like this one in Nebraska.

thought the chapter would be popular with University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

"People have the misconception that ball-

People are looking for different things to do, and this is exercise as well as fun."

SALLY SIMM

United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association coordinator

room dancing is serious, and that is really wrong," Castro said.

Ballroom dancing has two images, according Castro.

It is seen as either too formal and no fun, or it is associated with tacky competitions," she said. "Neither of those are true anymore."

The chapter would be open to amateur dancers, especially beginners.
Simm explained that each dance held by the

chapter would begin with a dance lesson for those beginners followed by three hours of recreational dancing.

If sufficient interest in the chapter is shown, Simm said she would like to hold dances as soon as this fall.

People are looking for different things to do, and this is exercise as well as fun," Simm said.

Castro said she also is working on forming a competitive dance team in conjunction with UNL, although it is still in the planning stages.

"If any students are interested in being part of a college dance team, I would love to hear from them," Castro said.

For more information on the proposed Castro said she Lincoln chapter, contact Sally Simm at (402) 436-4756.

> Students interested in the competitive dance team can contact Dance Sport USA at (402) 484-

Dance program faces financial, morale issues

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were irrelevant to the administration.

She said her plans were never given serious consideration, and she finally gave up on her hopes of having them implemented. She moved on to the University of Iowa with its six studios, 146 majors and eight full-time faculty members.

How are the students expected to react to her decision? If faculty members won't stay, why should the students? Eventually the lack of support drizzles down to the students who will no longer find the chance to attend UNL attractive.

Then again, maybe that is what UNL wants - no dance majors mean no dance program. The administration has certainly sent out those signals in the past.

If that is not the case, the administration needs to start making the dance program a priority

The arrival of two new faculty members provides an excellent opportunity. The administration could let them know their work at UNL is important. The administra tion could take an interest in the dance program faculty's ideas and goals, even if the ideas are no financially feasible. There could be a willingness to compromise and to find alternatives.

The dance program can make it on a small budget, but it can't make it on such little support.



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