

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dancers come together to learn a fun, invigorating art and new moves

To an outsider it may have looked like a lot of complicated twists and twirls, but to members of William & Mary's numerous dance clubs, dancing was another way to relax and have fun after long hours of studying. Clubs offered lessons from beginner to advanced, and were open to all who were ready to take up the challenge.

"I love to dance because it's great exercise," sophomore Ballroom and Swing club member JT White said. "Ladies like a man who can dance, and it means I don't have to dance like a high schooler to every song I hear." William & Mary dance clubs offered a wide variety of styles, from Swing and Rhythm to Taps and Ballroom.

Ballroom dance members participated in competitions such as the Triangle Open Championship, where 34 members danced and competed in finals in every style of dance. But dancing was about more than competition to many members. "Ballroom is all about loving

to dance and sharing that appreciation with other people," Ballroom treasurer Missy Montagna said. "It's a really fun group of people that are extraordinarily silly, but also have an incredible competitive drive."

William & Mary Heritage Dancers also enjoyed learning English country dancing since the club restarted in 2006. Members participated in Williamsburg's George Washington Ball where they were able to show off the historic dancing style so closely tied to the area's roots. Other club dance performances included the Swing club's fall Moon-dance and Family Weekend dance and the belly-dancing club Beledi's Fall and Spring Haflas.

With so many options, it was easy to find dance styles to fit every taste at William & Mary. "We're one giant group of friends, and we do all kinds of dancing," said Montagna.

>Jessica Miller



Carlos Patrick Gallegos and Lauren Ellis swing dance at the Family Weekend Dance. The Swing Club hosted a number of dances and encouraged members to go to dances at other schools such as UVA and Virginia Tech.

»showpractice



Steven Enriquez, Usmaan Bashir, Mark Johnson, and Kristian Obcemone practice the Maglalatik dance for FASA's culture night. Students shared various aspects of their Filipino background, including dance, at FASA's biggest event of the year.



Members of Rhythm and Taps meet for a beginner session. Along with other dance clubs, Rhythm and Taps performed in Love Your Body Week in the "Celebrating our Bodies Dance Showcase."



Beledi Club member Meredith Howard and president Catlin Jones practice their veil routine at the intermediate belly dance class. At the end of each semester Beledi club members danced in a performance called a Hafla.



^ Alex Cloud and Carolyn Osinki dance at the annual Charlotte Danceport Challenge. The competition was held on the UNC Charlotte campus.

< Richard Robinson and Katie Van Haasteren twirl around the dance floor at the D.C. DanceSport Inferno. Competitors danced in 18 different dance styles including American and international variations.