



Dance marathon gives lifetime of memories

By **Jermichael Tanner**
Staff Writer

Nearly 100 people danced, ate, and played games throughout the night in the auxiliary gym of Boshamer gymnasium on Saturday as part of the BC Dance Marathon.

The Dance Marathon, which was a far stretched dream of Dean of Students Chris Holland, was put into action as the senior IWIL project of Katherine Parnell, a theatre education major, with a lot of help and a little luck.

Chris Holland mentioned the plan of having a Dance Marathon at BC to a selective group of staff members two years ago, but was unable to follow through with it because of prior engagements. When Parnell heard of this plan two years later, she decided that the Dance Marathon was what she wanted to do as a senior project for the IWIL program here on campus.

After it was established that this project would take place, Megan Walters, Director of

Student Involvement, had lunch with an old friend from college who just so happened to be a former producer for the show "Too Fat for 15"; Walters told her of the idea Parnell had, and that's where the idea of the marathon being televised came from.

The producers of "Too Fat for 15" got word of the idea of a Dance Marathon and thought it would be great for the ten qualified campers from the Wellspring Academy to attend as a way to have fun and exercise at the same time.

"I never knew Zumba would give me such a workout, but be enjoyable at the same time," freshman linebacker Donovan Barker said.

Penn State University conducted the first Dance Marathon, which was a 48 hour event, in 1973 in order to raise funds to combat children's cancer. More schools have since then joined the tradition, including Appalachian State University and UNC Chapel Hill.

All of the schools that participate raise thousands of dollars each year to put

towards helping various charities and local organizations.

Because of the size of Brevard College compared to that of the bigger universities participating in this tradition, we chose to collect entry fees, donated canned goods, and clothes to give back to local organizations. "We collected about 214 canned goods, 40 bags of clothes, and had about half of the people that were there at the beginning of the night stay for all 13 hours," said Jessica Blanford, Director of Service Initiatives.

"We want this to become a tradition, involving all groups of students each year," Blanford said. Freshman safety Anthony Shakir said, "The Dance Marathon was a great way to interact with new people." Maybe in the future more students can come interact.

All the festivities of the night were recorded and will be aired on the show "Too Fat for 15" as part of the third season, beginning in the fall of 2011.

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Students dance in sync during the 13 hour Dance Marathon. Students, faculty and campers from the Wellspring Academy gathered for a night of dancing and other festivities. The event will be televised on the TV show "Too Fat for 15" this fall.