



Friday, January 3, 2003

## Golden Grizzlies Band revived

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Assistant Professor of Music Ken Kroesche lately has spent a great deal of time unpacking new musical instruments.

"It's sort of been like a late Christmas around here," Kroesche said of the new trumpets, mellophones, sousaphones and other instruments he's opened from their crates.

Kroesche will lead about 50 Oakland University students who make up the Golden Grizzlies Band, which will perform at all home men's and women's basketball games beginning with the men's game against Youngstown State on Monday, Jan. 6.

"Our vision is that this band will be the core spirit organization for the university," said Kroesche, who began teaching low brass (trombone, euphonium and tuba) and coordinating the instrumental applied music area at OU last fall. "The band will provide a real service to the university and a creative outlet for our students. Our music majors focus primarily on making serious music. This band will provide another opportunity for them to perform as well as let their hair down and have a good time. For our non-music majors, the band will provide almost a kind of recreational experience. It's really a great opportunity."

OU has had pep bands at various times in the past and has used the Pontiac Northern High School band on occasion. But this latest effort by Kroesche and the **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** is a concentrated move to create a permanent vehicle for spirited musical expression at OU basketball games.

"The Golden Grizzlies Band will create an atmosphere in the arena that will be unmatched," said Mark Doman, OU assistant athletic director of marketing. "It's about more than just playing music. It enhances the entire experience for both fans and players. We're also getting the entire university more involved in our athletic events. I think the band will exceed everyone's expectations."

Kroesche gathered about 50 students from OU's Symphonic Band to perform at the Midnight Madness event last October. He was convinced by the quality of the performance that a regular band could be assembled for performances.

"The university community saw what we could offer, and made a strong statement in terms of support for our band," Kroesche said. "A substantial budget was created for new instruments and uniforms and other things such as a PA system. The university has been hungry for this kind of a group, and I'm confident that the students will do a great job."

The Golden Grizzlies Band will play energized, pop-oriented, rhythm and blues classics by bands such as Chicago and Blood, Sweat and Tears. "**OU Fight**," the official university fight song, also has been re-orchestrated by Tom Wallace, a contracted staff arranger at the University of Georgia. The Golden Grizzlies Band will premiere the new orchestration of the fight song at the Jan. 6 game.

"Wallace is one of the finest and most sought after marching band arrangers in the country," Kroesche said. "He did the arrangements for the University of Georgia for this year's Sugar Bowl, and he also does a great job for bands of our size. The fight song will have the same lyrics and melody. I'm really pleased what Wallace did in terms of the re-orchestration."

The band has openings for both music majors and other students who have had some experience playing in a high school band program. Those interested in joining should contact Kroesche at (248) 370-4303 or [kroesche@oakland.edu](mailto:kroesche@oakland.edu).

For more information on Golden Grizzlies basketball, visit the **OU Athletics** Web site.

### SUMMARY

Assistant Professor of Music Ken Kroesche leads the Golden Grizzlies Band, which will perform at all home men's and women's basketball games beginning with the men's game Monday, Jan. 6.

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