

Pep band will be music to Huskies ears

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Starting next semester, SCSU will have an athletic band to play for selected football and men's and women's hockey and basketball games starting next fall.

"Imagine a school without football, or without basketball," Professor Glen Tuomaala said. "That's what it feels like not having an athletic band at this school."

Tuomaala was hired by SCSU to direct the upcoming band, and this isn't his first time starting one.

"I started (an athletic band) at a high school in Cincinnati that only had seven members," Tuomaala said. "In three years, we had 134."

Tuomaala earned Bachelors degrees in horn performance and music education from Bowling Green State University. He continued for his Masters in Music Education from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Tuomaala taught at Alma College (Alma, Mich.), Marygrove College (Detroit, Mich.), Wayne State University (Detroit, Mich.), and the College of Mount St. Joseph (Cincinnati, Ohio), before landing the position at SCSU.

Tuomaala has also written reviews of music literature and was a regular columnist for *Band & Orchestra News*, *School Band and Orchestra*, and <http://www.schoolmusic.com>, which gave him the chance to speak on new music technology at the University of Dayton and the

University of Delaware.

Tuomaala heard SCSU was looking for someone to direct the band and jumped at the opportunity. As he has started a band before, he knows the biggest challenge that lies ahead of him.

"The big challenge is that I have nothing. No equipment, no history, no nothing," Tuomaala said.

Membership will be a key factor in starting the band, and Tuomaala said word-of-mouth would be the best way to get people interested.

"I have 44 names of students who are interested," Tuomaala said. "My number one concern is recruiting everyone I can, and creating a network of people. 'You know someone? Great, bring them!' That's what I am looking for."

Tuomaala is getting plenty of support from the athletic department as well.

"I have a meeting every week with members of the Athletic Department," he said. "The coaches are excited about it. Think about it, it helps them because you have 30, 40, 50 crazy lunatics screaming their heads off. It will only help the team."

Not only will this help the athletic department as well as adding atmosphere for events, but Tuomaala expects the music department to benefit as well.

"Five or six football games will perform for just as many people as the rest of the music department. That is neither good nor bad, that's just the way it is."

Once the athletic band is in

full swing the number of people enrolled will rise, and may lead members to join many other bands available on campus.

Mallory Peper, a fourth-year student, thinks an athletic band would add atmosphere to sporting events at SCSU.

"It seems we can't wait to score at hockey games and say 'sieve,'" she said. "St. Cloud State made a good attempt to learn the rouser, but people have no clue it is the rouser. If it's the rouser, why not use it as a rouser? Isn't that why it's called a rouser?"

Some students may remember outcries for a sports band. However, previous attempts have faltered. Tuomaala plans to kickstart the trend.

"The main difference is that this is run through the music

department. Before it was student organizations running it," he said. "This is my job. This is what I am hired for."

As of now, the band will not be for credit, but he said it was "in the process" and may be an accredited class in the fall semester.

The audition process is simple, and no one will be denied if they want to play in the band.

"We can have five people, or we can have 500. But there will never be a cap," Tuomaala said. "I want as many people as possible."

"You need three things," Tuomaala said. "Attitude, work ethic, and attendance. Those three things are very important to me. I want people who are serious about this."