Big Band Swing Dance to feature UW Oshkosh Jazz Ensemble

by Jaime Hunt - Monday, March 10, 2008

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The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh community will be transported to the 1930s as they do the Charleston and the Lindy Hop at the University's Big Band Swing Dance 7-10 p.m. March 14.

The music of Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and other great big band musicians will provide the backdrop for the dance, bringing together campus jazz musicians in a celebration of an American art form.

The UW Oshkosh Jazz Ensemble will provide the music. The group, comprised of about 18 students, is a regular class that meets four days a week. While most of the members are music majors, students who just love to play trumpet, trombone, piano or other jazz instruments audition each fall. For this year's jazz ensemble, about 60 students auditioned.

"The students love playing in jazz band, and that's why so many students audition every year," said Marty Robinson, associate professor of music for UW Oshkosh. "For many of them, it is the highlight of their days! And mine, too, as the director."

Tickets to the Big Band Swing Dance are available at Titan Central in Reeve Memorial Union. Admission is free for UW Oshkosh students, $15 for non-UW Oshkosh students (with ID) and $20 for the general public. For more information, call (920) 424-1234.