

Monday May 7, 2007

NEWS

OFA music teacher receives national recognition

By [Monique Lewis](#)
Press & Sun-Bulletin

OWEGO -- Despite all his current and past accomplishments, Dan Fabricius said his life is really playing music and teaching his students to excel.

During Owego Free Academy's spring band concert, Fabricius received the Outstanding Jazz Educator Award from the National Band Association, the largest band directors' professional organization in the world.

"They got me good because I was not aware of this award, and I was certainly honored," Fabricius said.

Fabricius directs two jazz bands and a concert band at OFA. He has directed the bands since 1989. A percussionist, Fabricius performed his first professional gig in 10th grade.

He began playing in the fifth grade and never stopped. Today, he plays with the Binghamton Philharmonic, Mason Warrington Orchestra and his own band, Prism. He also serves on the music faculty of Binghamton University and conducts BU's percussion ensemble.

All three OFA bands took home awards at the Music in the Parks Festival, held April 28 in Williamsburg, Va. The festival is one of many venues where the bands have earned recognition -- from the Ithaca College Jazz Invitational Festival to the New York State School Boards Association Convention.

"(Fabricius) has put the O-A Jazz Bands in a position where they're recognized on a very wide geographic area for their excellence," said Robin Linaberry, director of Maine-Endwell High School bands and conductor of the Southern Tier Concert Band. "Most high schools struggle to get one jazz band."

"I'm just so lucky to work with a group of students like this," Fabricius said. "They're exceptional."



MONIQUE LEWIS / Press & Sun-Bulletin

Dan Fabricius conducts one of the jazz bands at Owego Free Academy.

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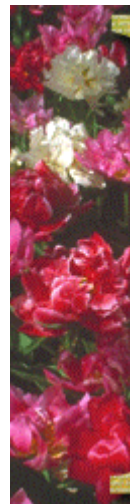
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