

NORTHWEST SIGNAL

NAPOLEON, OH

PM-CIRC. 5,800

216

MAR-14-01

Music extends beyond the classroom for professors

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FREMONT (AP) — For a group of professors, getting together to share the love of music means more than performing.

"It's a nice way to let go of the cares of the day," says Toledo resident Pete Ford, a music appreciation instructor at Terra Community College. "It's less formal and more fun. It's like getting psychological pay."

Ford, along with two other music department faculty members and one English department faculty member make up a faculty jazz/music ensemble at the school.

"Since we have a brand new music department, we formed the band as a sort of advertisement for the program so we could get some recognition," said jazz band member Ed Harrington of Green Springs.

"We might take the band to local high schools eventually to get kids interested in the program and electronic music," said Harrington, an adjunct faculty member who teaches courses in music appreciation and history and also gives lessons in trombone and bass.

Richard Repp, head of the

school's music department, plays the guitar synthesizer for the faculty group.

"The group is a great way to provide an interchange between faculty members," said Repp of Fremont.

"It's a way to bond and produce music at a high level and provides the opportunity for fellowship. I'm the only full-time music instructor here so people are in and out all the time. It helps me to get to know my fellow faculty members," he added.

Ford plays the piano for the group, and enjoys the stress relief the band provides.

Rick Halstead of Perrysburg is the only band member who isn't part of the Terra music department. Halstead, who teaches English, plays drums.

He is thrilled to have a chance to play, since jazz music, he says, is his "first love."

The band showed off its skill at the Ohio Music Educators Association Convention in Columbus last fall.

"At the beginning of the show, Rich introduced me as 'Rick Halstead on the drums,' not bad for

an English teacher," Halstead said.

"It was a little intimidating to be playing with and for people whose main occupation is playing and teaching music. But at least I'll always have the crutch of being able to say I'm just an English teacher if I ever mess up," he said with a laugh.