Dale Bazan widens horizons, brings diverse history to UL music department

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dale Bazan, Ph.D., is the Coordinator of Music Education at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and has taught in Nebraska, Alaska, Florida, Ohio and Canada.

His music experience ranges from teaching band in elementary schools to conducting and performing in symphonies to being the professor that he is today, according to his resume.

Bazan has loved music from an early age and played on multiple instruments throughout his childhood, starting with a non-traditional one.

"When I was about four I think I got my first accordion, so that was my first instrument," Bazan said. "I'm Canadian, and I have a Ukrainien background, but my dad was an accordionist so that's where I got started."

As he got older, Bazan started playing instruments more commonly found in high school.

"Then when I started getting into towards junior high, when we started choosing band instruments, I started trying clarinet," Bazan said.

At the time, I didn't have an instructor, I think that that was about the end of fifth grade, and I didn't do very well personally learning clarinet by myself, but then I tried saxophone, and I kinda liked that. Saxophone was my major instrument through junior high. That's what got me scholarships through college, but then in late junior high I started getting into rock bands."

As a teacher, Bazan uses his music background for both his teaching and research.

"One of my objectives is trying to diversify the opportunities for kids in schools because traditionally, there has been only been like the band and choir tracks in high school," Bazan said. "One thing that I've tried very hard to push is the increase both things like guitar and rock band programs, inside or outside of school, and also cultural, ethnic types of ensembles."

One of his former students Colten McCauley, the director of choral activities at Omaha North High Magnet School in Omaha, Nebraska, has only positive things to say about him.

"Dr. Bazan is an outstanding professor and has pushed me to perfect all aspects of my musical instruction," McCauley said. "I am very proud to say that he has been a great teacher, mentor and friend throughout my years as a music educator."

UL Lafayette was also excited about his teaching, giving him a warm welcome on Facebook in June. "We are excited to welcome Dr. Dale Bazan to our faculty this Fall!" UL Lafayette's post read.

Bazan, outside of teaching, said he thinks his research and travel have been most important.

"So I've published research in journals, written articles and presented at a number of conferences in Brazil, Greece, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, and it's all been based on topics that I talked about encouraging popular music, encouraging more avenues for students and children to get involved in music within schools," Bazan said.

Dr. Bazan has also done some performing, but believes that that is second to teaching.

"The contributions I've made to seeing some of the alumni coming out of the programs I've taught for and the impact that they're making in their schools, and just how transformative they are to the lives of children," Bazan said.

"He was good at giving us opportunities in class to try things out on our own and learn from our own mistakes and shaping our teaching style to each unique personality, instead of just giving us a very specific mold we all had to fit in, while still making us all high-quality professionals," Mathis said.

"As a supervisor, he always gave me really good feedback and was very helpful when I had questions about something I was struggling with or new strategies to use in my classroom."

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