4 students take lessons Spring 2013

Dr. Tam had all returning students take lessons this semester. Students included:

Carrie Cunningham, junior in Elementary Education
Josh Hellyer, graduating senior in Community and Regional Planning
Erin Reger, junior in Accounting
Kate Moore, graduating senior in Art and Design

Snow impacts final concert

“I thought I broke it!” “Am I that bad?”
“The song is so much better prettier than that.”

“I could barely keep a straight face!”
“Want to go up and scrape off some ice?”

These were all comments I heard during the final student concert on May 3rd, thanks to a late snowstorm. The students all thought it was quite a unique experience to play the bells when they were frozen. It made about 3/4 of the notes sound like they were being played staccato.
FIELD TRIP TO CENTRAL LUTHERAN IN MINNEAPOLIS

This year’s class field trip took the carillon students to the Twin Cities in Minnesota to visit two different instruments. The group started at Central Lutheran Church in Downtown Minneapolis and then continued to House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul.

Alum Julie Hart joined the group at Central Lutheran Church. Julie found the carillon very interesting and provided the following overview.

The church had always planned to have a bell tower since it was built in the early 1900's but didn't have money so the tower was never built. Then about 10 years ago an anonymous donor gave the money to complete the tower per the original plan. The church planned to put in just a few automated bells so they could have pealing bells for special events, but when they started to look into it, their plans grew into a chime and then a carillon. The carillon was installed but they do not have a practice instrument or a carillonneur, so the instrument is mainly used for a summer concert series with guest carillonneurs.

This is the first carillon I've seen a pneumatic system that plays the bells automatically.
You can hear the compressed gas cylinder faintly hissing when in the playing cabin.

In addition to the carillon bells, the tower also contains swinging bells which are operated through a separate electronic mechanism in the church. This allows the carillon to operate as pealing bells.

The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America will gather for the annual congress this year in the Twin Cities, with concerts at both House of Hope and Central Lutheran.
Dr. Tam received a most unique Friday request this past semester. Iowa State Football was going to play a big game on November 3rd that would be televised as an ABC game of the week. The producer emailed Dr. Tam asking if she would play the ABC College Football theme song on that Friday.

Dr. Tam said yes of course, and asked for the music. The producer sent her...a clip of music. Undaunted, Dr. Tam wrote the theme song for carillon. But she didn’t stop there. She asked the Marching Band Director, Mr. Smyth, if a few drummers could also join her in playing. Mr. Smyth replied his ENTIRE drum line said yes.

Dr. Tam also asked the Athletic Department if they could send Cy over too. Yes, there was a Cy available at that time also.

The result? The ISU Campanile and Carillon had 30 seconds of fame on ABC College Football’s Game of the Week. While there is not a copy of the ABC clip, the ISU News Service did record the event. You can view it at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1oymuaalh4.

VEISEHA Events April 20
This year’s Carillon VEISHEA events started with the Alumni Society members giving campanile tours for the Alumni Association VIP tours and the VEISHEA Scholarship recipients.

At 3:00 PM, the currents students performed a half-hour carillon concert during VEISHEA’s Village Stage. A TV monitor was rolled out from Music Hall so everyone could watch the performers. After the performance, students provided campanile tours to the public.

People started to line up for the public tours during the concert.

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Excerpts from the past

I never tire of reading old letters and memoirs about the campanile. For this newsletter, I have chosen selections regarding Edgar Stanton’s will, using excerpts from Ira Schroeder’s memoirs, published in the January 1988 Bulletin of the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America.

In April 1920, Edgar Williams Stanton realized that he had not mentioned Iowa State in his will. In re-writing his will—after certain family bequests—he left the residue of his estate to the Iowa State College, leaving it in the hands of the family with five years in which to determine what form such a memorial should be.

To comply with the bequest in Dean Stanton’s will, Julia Stanton, the dean’s second wife, and the children decided to add to the ten bells to make a 36 bell carillon. Mrs. Stanton, executrix of the estate, knowing that this would please the dean, was anxious to have the whole thing settled. She signed all the last papers in Des Moines and the carillon was assured. With much relief she went back to Ames to the hairdresser in the Memorial Union. There she had a heart attack and died.

In case of Mrs. Stanton’s death, the dean requested that his daughter Margaret Stanton Kirshman complete and carry out the provisions relating to the memorial.

The court declared the “Stanton Carillon” as the memorial designated in the will of E. W. Stanton and placed the reaming funds in trust to replace and repair the carillon or to increase the carillon to 48 bells.

During the 1930s and 1940s various correspondence took place relating to extending or enlarging the campanile to accommodate the carillon enlargement considered by Mrs. Kirshman.

During these years of planning and indecision, strange things happened. President Friley tried to appropriate the Stanton Trust Fund for student scholarships. The head of the music department was not interested in the carillon. He visited Mrs. Kirshman in Lincoln, Nebraska, and tried to persuade her to turn over the remaining Stanton Trust Fund for a recital/rehearsal hall. This infuriated her.

Conditions in the music department became untenable for me, and I was planning to resign. Mrs. Kirshman assured me that not only was it possible to add to the carillon but that it was going to be done! She had put through the courts a restraining order stopping any transfer of the fund until she could get the family together to organize a foundation. That was enough for me!

In 1954 the former Trustees of the memorial funds joined with others as incorporators in establishing the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation as successor to the prior Trusteeship and for the purpose of continuing and administering the provisions of Dean Stanton’s will. The Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation was incorporated under the laws of the state of Iowa on December 31, 1954.

During the summer of 1956, the installation of the additional thirteen bells occurred. The fiftieth bell, was installed in 1967.