6 STUDENTS TAKE CARILLON LESSONS

Spring semester students taking lessons for the first time:

- Jered Stratton, graduating senior in Genetics
- Sophie Kock, freshman in Political Science
- Marcy Ritchey, junior in Music

Spring semester returning students included:

- Casey Cunningham, sophomore in Pre-Business
- Cayla Cunningham, senior in Elementary Education
- Johnathan Germick, junior in Electrical Engineering

STANTON MEMORIAL CARILLON FOUNDATION MEETS

The Stanton Carillon Memorial Foundation (SMCF) met on April 18th for their 62nd Annual Meeting. President, Jennie Grommel presided over the meeting. Fifteen members and guests were in attendance. The Foundation is working hard to provide support to all the on campus carillon and campanile activities from helping fund scholarships to raising awareness through a lecture series, to initiating a new historical book on the instrument.

BELLS TO BE QUIET—TEMPORARILY

There will be NO Carillon Summer Series this summer, as the Campanile will be closed for maintenance.
CAMpanile Model

Dr. Tam has been working on a very large project. A year ago she addressed the Stanton Carillon Memorial Foundation (SMCF) about an idea for a scale model of the ISU campanile and carillon. A year later, the project is well underway. Dr. Tam assembled a group of Iowa State faculty and staff from across campus to not only create a working mini campanile, but give the students of Iowa State an opportunity to work on a really exciting project. James Heise, ISU Mechanical Engineering instructor on the project commented, “It’s a crazy project Tin-Shi talked me into. But it didn’t take too much arm twisting”.

The model will be a 27-bell working carillon that is housed in a movable frame. It will provide many benefits including

- Accessibility to a carillon. The current tower is not handicap accessible, nor is it available for those under age 13. This will allow everyone to see and even play.
- Taking the working model to various venues and events. It could be used with a symphony at CY Stephens or at graduation in Hilton Coliseum.

The project began with the mechanical engineering department’s capstone design class ME 415 given the following direction: the university desires a functional scale model of the campanile to take to university events. Ten students choose to work on this project over other projects including football helmets, noise cancelling windows, light sensors, and grain dryer fans. “I liked working on something that is so important to Iowa State students”. Mackenzie Sissel

At the end of the semester, the students had put an idea into a final design. The class provided working 3D models, dimensions, fabrication plans, a plan for transportation, and a linkage connection process.

The ME 415 class presented multiple times. They first presented to a small group from the Stanton Foundation and Rick Watson. The next week they presented a poster at the ME Design Expo. Finally, they presented their findings to a large group of campus stakeholders, including Alumni Association staff, Stanton Foundation members, University Relations staff and ISU fundraising staff. Dr. Heise commented “There’s a lot of engineering left to be done yet, but it’s been a fun project”. The students were all very excited and more than willing to talk about their experience.

“IT was difficult, frustrating, and a lot of fun. In the model I designed the music stand to flip down so there is room to list all the contributors names”. Daniel Obren

“I didn’t think it would be this complicated”. Kevin Houlihan

“At first we thought the idea of a pop up camper was a joke, but that’s the design we used in the end”. Michael Bondi

“I didn’t really think this was a doable project, but rather just an exercise. Now at the end of the semester I realize this could really happen”. Aaron Hett

Next semester, the next group of graduating mechanical engineers will collaborate with students in Civil Engineering and Industrial Design to continue the work. Future work will include acoustics, appearance, and stress analysis. Dr. Tam already has a lead student on it—as Patrick Keep, a ME student has decided to take carillon lessons and work on the mini campanile in the fall. He said, “I’m excited to work on a project that will be around for a long time”.

In addition to the ME class, two carillon students were assigned to work on the website for their semester project. Find the website here:
http://www.music.iastate.edu/carillon/campmodel/

In addition, the University announcement can be found here:
http://www.inside.iastate.edu/article/2016/04/28/model

If fundraising goes as planned, the project should be completed in Spring 2018. Follow along to see the progress.
Alumni Spotlight: Alfred Mahany

Eric Wittrock, carillon alumni and member on the Stanton Foundation shared his grandfather’s memoirs, which included playing the ISU Carillon when it was still a 10 bell chime. Alfred E. Mahany arrived in Ames in 1920 and graduated Iowa State College in 1923.

I sold out everything I had and with the small balance and a gift from a friend, I went to Ames. Arriving a couple of weeks ahead of school semester, I booked a room in a rooming house and started working, washing dishes for my meals in the Y Cafeteria. Going to the Post Office for my mail I read a nice “Wanted: Student to play chimes in the Campanile.” At once I saw a solution to my fiscal problems and hied me up to the Registrar’s office; here I met the Registrar, Mr. Sage personally and explaining my prospects, applied for the position. He said that it had been the custom to have two men, one for the morning and one in the evening program, but one had graduated and the other had joined a Fraternity. The latter was on Campus and I was sent up with him that afternoon to “learn the ropes.” Blessing my Board School training in “tonic solfa, “I had no difficulty with any tune I knew, and commenced playing right away, waiting till the end of the week before again visiting the office. Mr. Sage asked if I thought I could learn it, and was surprised to hear that I had been playing all week. The job had an appendage — the winding of the big four-faced clock in the Campanile tower. Altogether the salary would amount to approximately $30 monthly.

UNI Student Carillon Group Visit

Deb Schiel-Larson, carillon alumni, helped facilitate a field trip for the University of Northern Iowa student carillon player group.

Deb Schiel-Larson fondly remembers taking carillon lessons from Dr. von Grabow. With those memories and her passion for the carillon, she encouraged her daughter to also play. Anna has made multiple trips to Ames to hear the bells, even playing them herself before college. Now that Anna has reached college age, she can take lessons! Except, she attends the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), not Iowa State. Luckily there is a campanile and carillon on campus. Unfortunately, there is not a carillonneur to give lessons, so it is a student run group. A visiting professor comes once a semester to teach a class. The students are only allowed to play with their hands and can only play duets. When Deb visited her daughter and met the other carillon students she kept telling them that they should visit Iowa State and Dr. Tam. Thanks to Deb insistence, the group visited campus this past April. They were able to visit with Dr. Tam, see the practice keyboard (no practice keyboard at UNI), listen to an ISU student concert, climb the ISU tower to play, and share stories and experiences as carillon players.

Find us on-line!

isucarillon.blogspot.com @isucarillon #isucarillonsociety
Cunningham Carillon Quartet

It was a very special day on campus for the Cunningham family, when all four children came together to play a quartet. Cayla, current carillon student and 3rd of the four children provided this reflection.

On Sunday, April 17th, history was made. When Dr. Tam asked all four of my siblings to play in a carillon quartet, I could not believe this was possible. Then she asked me to arrange the song, I still could not believe this was possible. My world turned upside down this semester with my rigorous work load and my love for the carillon. I spent the majority of the semester preparing for this song. We did it. We all played, Do Re Mi, on the carillon as a quartet. The song played smoothly, my siblings made me laugh the whole day, and my friends and family were at the base of the campanile listening and singing away. This day is not only something that Iowa State will remember, but something we can all remember. I want to personally thank Dr. Tam, for her patience, dedication, motivation, inspiration, and her loyalty to our family. Through the thick and thin, Dr. Tam showed to us that she is the best professor at ISU. Iowa State might have made history because of us, but I believe Dr. Tam will go down in history for her kindness toward her students.

Next generation Cunningham watching Aunt Cayla play.

Casey, Cayla, Dr. Tam, Carrie, Craig

Campus Visitor: Rick Watson

Rick Watson, carillonneur and co-owner of Meeks, Watson & Company, a bell founder and carillon builder company was on campus in April. He presented multiple times. He gave brief comments at the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation annual meeting. His comments were entitled: Horseshoes, Genealogy, and Other Tidbits. He spoke of his admiration of Ira Schroeder, former carillonneur at Iowa State, and the impact Ira had on Rick’s life’s work in the carillon industry. He is also related to the Stanton family and shared his connection. Watson and Art Pickford were 3rd cousins, once removed. Today Art’s daughter is the president of the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation.

As part of the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation meeting, there is a lecture. This year’s lecture was “Renovation and Innovation: ISU Carillon Keeps Up with the Times” by Richard Watson, Designer of the ISU Carillon renovations and bell maker-consultant for the ME 415 class. He spoke to the development of the model carillon, the history and future of bells at Iowa State, the intricacies of bell making including tuning, hanging, recording, and preserving. Rick began with a history of the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America and the importance of their work in setting standards for playing consoles and pedal design.

Rick finished his visit to Ames by meeting with the ME 415 class. He had spoken to them on the phone as a consultant for the model project, but this was a chance for all parties involved to converse in person.