RECORD NUMBER 9 STUDENTS TAKE CARILLON LESSONS

With a record nine students taking lessons this semester, the final concert was spread over 2 days, taking place on April 27th and 28th.

Spring semester students taking lessons for the first time included:

- David Battel, senior in Industrial Engineering who played The Bells of Iowa State
- Alex Kin, senior in Mechanical Engineering
- Jason Cheng, sophomore in Electrical Engineering
- Taylor Decker, senior in Mechanical Engineering

Returning students included:

- Casey Cunningham, junior in Finance
- Macklin Derscheid, sophomore in Electrical engineering
- Johnathan Germick, junior in Electrical Engineering
- Patrick Keep, senior in Mechanical Engineering, who played The Bells of Iowa State
- Sarah Reger, freshman in Music

A final concert was held on April 27. David, Alex, Sarah, Casey

A final concert was held on April 28. Taylor, Macklin, Jason, Patrick, Johnathan

BELLS TO BE QUIET—TEMPORARILY

There will be NO Carillon Summer Series again this summer, as the Campanile will be closed for maintenance. From Inside Iowa State: The work includes replacing the waterproof membrane within the bell chamber, replacing the roof access hatch and installing new wire guides that connect the 50 bells to the carillon keyboard. Dave Blum, Facilities Planning & Management explains: “this project will repair building components and prevent water damage in the structure”.

Ted you Know?

The Carillon Society is sponsoring the #3 D Bell on the Campanile Model. If you are interested in being part of this exciting project, you can help fund the bell.

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Enjoy the Noon Concerts Every Weekday 11:50-12:10 On The Web

www.music.iastate.edu/carillon/webcast/
The campanile—carillon model project continues to move forward. This semester students in the ME 415 mechanical engineering capstone project class and students in Architecture had the opportunity to provide their lasting contribution to this project.

Five ME students choose to work on this project. Members included:
- German Barcenas
- Michael Conroy
- Jonathan Hermsen
- Phil Pakes
- Jacob Vogts

Jacob shared his reason for choosing this project: “It’s going to get done and be used. Some other projects were easy, or not feasible or practical; just not rewarding. This was fulfilling and enjoyable”.

The team was able to revise and update the previous semester’s work. German explained what they did: “We worked with Rick Watson a lot this semester. We needed to redesign the plans to make sure it fit through double doors. We also worked on finalizing details like where the motor for the scissor lift would be. We also added additional safety features”.

There were many difficult parts this semester. Mike explained a couple of them: “One was the beam fluctuation calculation. But another was having a solution and then finding out the project manager didn’t like your solution”. But he said it was a very rewarding project. “My favorite part was all the communication with so many other people. It’s hard to organize something with so many people. I can design something without a problem by myself, but to include so many others was a challenge. It wasn’t just a homework assignment.”

The tie to such a prominent ISU icon is important to many of them. German told the Stanton Foundation: “I liked the Iowa State connection. I came to ISU as an out of state student from Texas thinking Iowa was just corn. Now I have this connection to the campanile and I love ISU.”

The students presented multiple times during the semester. Presentations were given at the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation annual meeting, the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors meetings, and the ISU Extension and Outreach annual conference. In addition, they presented at the Mechanical Engineering Design Expo and gave a final presentation to Dr. Tam. In attendance at the final presentation were other ME 415 students and Carillon Alumni Society members Eric Wittrock and Amy Brandau, and Spring 2016 ME team member Mackenzie Sissel.

Patrick Keep, who was on the team last fall, continued work on the project through an Honors Independent Study class. He focused on the trailer and pallet jack that will be used.

Work will continue next fall on the project, with additional collaboration from the civil engineering department.

As of today, 25 of the 27 model bells have been funded. We are asking all carillon alumni to consider a gift to the Carillon Alumni Society bell. If fundraising goes as planned, the project should be completed in Spring 2018. Visit the website for more campanile model details.
STUDENT CARILLONNEUR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

While the engineering and design students have been busy designing the campanile model, current carillon student Casey Cunningham has started a new student organization on campus. SCLC – Student Carillonneur Leadership Council was created to share the enthusiasm for the Iowa State University campanile, the carillon and ISU traditions, as well as being an ambassador of the campanile-carillon model.

The campanile-carillon model will be managed by a student group, with student members having the opportunity practice event planning for the model. The club is currently in the process of writing an operations manual that will describe the group mission for outreach of the campanile-carillon model. The group’s membership currently includes carillon students and students in the engineering and design classes who are part of the project. In the future, other students will be included as some students already expressing interest in being part of such an elite club.

STANTON MEETING

The Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation Meeting was held on April 3 and 4, 2017. Foundation members met at the University Archives in Parks Library on Monday to look at the vast collection of campanile and carillon pictures, items and documents. Over 15 members were in attendance at the Tuesday meeting to discuss future support of the carillon and carillon events. This year’s Lecture Series was presented by the students from ME415.

Much was accomplished with an emphasis on planning a 120th anniversary celebration of the Campanile in spring of 2019, that will feature the campanile-carillon model during a symphony concert in CY Stephens. Watch for more details coming in future newsletters.

During lunch, members of the ME 415 campanile-carillon model class, current carillon students, Stanton Foundation board members and ISU dignitaries visited with each other, sharing stories about their experiences at Iowa State.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOHNATHAN GERMICK

Visiting with current student player Johnathan lead to conversation on how he was able to take lessons at the Hopeman Memorial Carillon.

Last summer I was part of a program that allowed me to do image processing research at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. Luckily for me, the Hopeman Memorial Carillon was just a short bike ride away sitting on top of the University of Rochester library. Thankfully, Doris Aman, the carillonneur, was also happy to give me lessons while I was there. Their carillon is very different from ours. It has 50 bells but they are an octave higher and they were cast by the Royal Eijsbouts foundry in the Netherlands. As you might expect the sound signature is very different from our Carillon. Where our carillon features full warm bass bells, the Carillon in Rochester has what I can only describe as a sparkly, delicate tone because of the high transients characteristic of such lighter bells. Overall, this wonderful opportunity gave me a much greater appreciation for the immense variety of instruments and playing techniques.
Audra Kincart decided to write her final paper for JL MC 414X: Digital Newsroom on the Campanile. Her story was printed in the ISU Daily on March 23, 2017, but she offered let me print it here too. Her final project included additional photos, breakout boxes on Love Stories and Julia Stanton’s bio, and a carillon recording. For space, I am just including the article.

The still of the summer heat gets interrupted by the chime of bells. A faithful colleague of all Iowa Staters stands watching the sweat drip off the backs of returning students. He listens to the sigh of relief when the sun hides behind a cloud. He welcomes students back to another year of homework and tests. Our faithful tower stands watching over another year of youthful kisses. He stands, omnipotent, as ecology labs venture to study shade and sun leaves. He sings at another proposal. He watches as a nervous freshman walks by in his first semester, and leaves a confident senior in a blink of an eye seven semesters later. Commonly known as the campanile, he welcomes us all back with the bells of Iowa State.

The Keeper

Located in the center of Iowa State University’s campus stands the campanile, an icon of the science and technology school. The freestanding building towers over the middle of the land-grant college at 110 feet, watching students on their daily walks to class. Walkways lined with trees cover the 50,000 bricks that form the campanile – a word stemming from the Latin campana, meaning bell. In the fall, the campanile juts above the brilliant colors of cardinal and gold, and the sound of 50 solid bronze bells is challenged with the crunch of leaves.

The familiar sound of bells shared by students and faculty is produced by an instrument housed 79 steps from the base of the bell tower. That instrument is called a carillon (pronounced care-eh-lawn). Each day, at 11:30 a.m. of the bell tower. That instrument is called a carillon produced by an instrument housed 79 steps from the base.

“For your companion is a virgin. and hit your partner’s head during the episode of romance, Rumor also has it that if a brick fell out of the campanile and hit your partner’s head during the episode of romance, your companion is a virgin.” Schroeder said. And once, he even admitted to playing the campanile nude on a particularly harsh Iowa August day.

The Dawn

The winter is stark in Ames, Iowa but the campanile shows its architectural beauty through the empty branches and clear sky. It was a winter of particularly brutal weather in 1899 Ames, Iowa, the year of the birth of our dear friend the campanile, when a man helping with construction slipped and was caught by his ankles, saving him from falling to his death. The temperature was 10 degrees below zero.

That year also saw the birth of the bells. Together the bells have a story of their own. Scientifically tuned, the bells weight ranges from 400 pounds to 3600 pounds, cast by Taylor Bell Foundry in England. Bryce Taylor, a member of the Taylor family, visited Ames from overseas to view the newest spectacle within the carillon community. Inside the looming campanile rang the 50 bells courtesy of his family’s trade secret; a secret was once

(Continued on page 5)
almost lost if not for Bryce’s grandpa. The carillon became the campanile’s most prominent talent.

To understand how the campanile was established, flash backward twenty years to university faculty member Edgar Stanton’s winter wedding. “Mr. Welch was brighter than I,” said the wife of Mr. Welch, Mary. “He guessed at once who it was when Mr. Stanton told him he was thinking of being married this winter.” Margaret McDonald became Mrs. Stanton in 1877 and the couple shared a life centered around three kids and campus life at Iowa State University. Their time together was cut short when Margaret passed away, and Mr. Stanton dedicated a memorial to his late wife. The freestanding campanile was built out of love and respect and later transformed into a landmark of loyalty and pride.

Genesis

The rebirth of spring brings with it a lawn surrounding the bell tower peppered with students throwing Frisbees and hanging from hammocks. Each spring also brings with it the reunion of the Carillon Foundation, the protectors of the campanile, whose members are descendants of Edgar Stanton.

“What an honor it is to have something to do with it,” said Jennie Gromoll, great-grandniece of Edgar and Margaret.

Without the foundation, the campanile would have lost the whimsy of a live performer and switched to a dead core of digitally composed concerts.

The foundation was started in 1954 to turn what initially started as a family donation into a family affair ensuring a fund to protect the soaring tower and its bells. Today, the foundation includes family members from California to Washington D.C., some with connections to Iowa State and others without, as well as notable figures including CEO of the Iowa State Alumni Association Jeff Johnson and mayor of Des Moines Frank Cownie.

“We feel strongly about it, the same bells were heard by my relatives” Grommel said, “When you come back, it’s home.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: TAYLOR DECKER

When I heard from a friend about a class at ISU that teaches you how to play the carillon, I jumped right onto it.

With my love for music and the Campanile being such a big deal on campus, this was a class I just HAD to take. Going inside the Campanile has always been on my college bucket list, but I never thought playing it would be an option.

Learning to play this semester has given me a new level of respect for the regular carillon players. I play several different instruments including the piano, so I have a lot of experience reading music. I was surprised with how challenging it has been to learn the technique used in playing the carillon. It is much more difficult than I expected. Playing the carillon on central campus is an honor for me (and a little stressful) since the sound of the bells reach thousands of people every day.

Both of my parents are Iowa State alumni. For the spring concert, my parents and grandparents came to listen to me play for the first time. They were all so excited, my parents drove three hours to Ames while my grandparents drove an hour and a half. My mom and dad were also invited up into the campanile to see where the carillon is played. After the students were done playing, Dr. Tam was talking to them about the history of the ISU Campanile. She told my dad to play the 10 oldest bells. His face lit up like a little kid! It made me so happy that I could bring them back to their Alma Mater and take them inside one of the most recognized symbols of Iowa State.

This semester was a great experience that I recommend to any student who loves Iowa State University. I am looking forward to my senior year, continuing my lessons.
GCNA MYSTERIES

In the last email I sent out with the newsletter link, I put in a link to a Guild of Carillonneurs of North America. (GCNA) Mystery photo. Jaime Fogel, Collections Manager at The Bok Tower Gardens said they maintain files on nearly every carillon, including the one at ISU. She was looking to find out who these people were. Someone from the Guild responded with Hudson Ladd and Mark Peterson, but they were obviously wrong because after only 24 hours from when I sent out the email, an ISU Carillon Society member wrote back — that was him in the picture! (photo credit: Bok Tower Gardens)

From Erv Mussman: Amy — I was particularly surprised when I clicked on Mystery #27.

It is indeed a photo of Dr. Richard von Grabow (cool plaid jacket) with 5 carillon students at the time including myself. I think the picture was taken in the 1974-5 school year (fall probably) — we were posing for a story in the ISU Daily. The person to the right of Dr. VG is Charles Sukup and then Douglas Schenck. I believe the gal is Charlene Nunnikoven. I'm on the bench in the foreground (lower bells). I not sure of the other guy on the bench (upper bells) in front of Dr. VG — possibly Ed Arp? Not sure where the names Hudson Ladd and Mark Peterson you mention below came from.

I have lots of fond memories taking lessons, practicing in the old music hall building, and Dr. VG pushing me to do some composing/arranging and performance for membership into the GCNA at Valley Forge in 1976. Doug was a house mate during the 75-76 school year and we often did carillon duets — our specialty was “Stars & Stripes Forever” along with our arrangement of “I Want a Gal” ala Jo Ann Castle (Lawrence Welk Show) honky-tonk style.

This last week, I received another email from Austin Ferguson, new carillonneur at Mayo Clinic, asking the Guild for help in identifying the people in an Ames, IA Nov 1959 picture, especially the person playing. The Guild quickly responded with Ira Schroeder, ISU Carillonneur. Apparently it was a well known photo, as many people responded. The picture was printed in the GCNA Bulletin, Vol. 59 (201) pg. 25. Member, John Gouwens chimed in: That was from what was for awhile an annual gathering that Ira organized at Ames. I heard both Ronald and Milford talk about what fun and how rewarding those mini-conferences were. Everyone provided honest feedback to all who played, including Ira and Percival. I never met Charles Ward or Geoffrey Garrett. Garrett was a brilliant math professor, as I understand it, and also reportedly a fine player.

From Erv Mussman: Amy — I was particularly surprised when I clicked on Mystery #27.

From left, seated: Percival Price, Univ. of Michigan; Ira Schroeder, ISU. Standing: Ronald Barnes, Univ. of Kansas; Dean Robinson, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Charles Ward, Reuter Organ Co., Lawrence, KS; Milford Myhre, Culver Military Academy; and C.G.B. Garrett, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Morristown, NJ.

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