

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2010

CARILLON ALUMNI RETURN TO PLAY

Carillon Alumni Ed Arp wrote an article for the last newsletter where he talked about playing the *Stars and Stripes Forever* with Debra Schiel. Shortly thereafter, Deb and Ed decided to try playing the song again. So, on February 25th, the two alumni met at the practice room to play *Stars and Stripes Forever*. They included a picture as proof! Looks like they had a lot of fun. Today

Ed and Deb are both Landscape Architects in central Iowa.

Ed's article also brought back memories for Alumni Karen Meyer Campbell. She also played *Stars and Stripes Forever* as a duet with her roommate Chris Roules. Today Karen and her husband are missionaries based in Thailand.



Deb and Ed practicing

"IT DOESN'T SEEM QUITE THE SAME"...

Carillon Alumni Julie Allemagne: commenting on the playing cabin during a trip up into the campanile in May 2010. Julie took lessons from Dr. von Grabow in the early 90s, before the cabin was refinished.

Join our Facebook group: Iowa State University Society of Carillon Alumni and Friends.

Michael has put up pictures to share with everyone.

FOUR CARILLON STUDENTS TAKE LESSONS

Four students took carillon lesson during the Spring 2010 semester.

Jason Paull just graduated in Chemistry. Spring 2010 was his second semester of lessons.

Jonathan Beck took lessons for a second semester and graduated in Finance this spring.

Griffin Getz is a sophomore Open-Option major, who also took

lessons for a second semester.

Joshua Hellyer started lessons this spring. He is a junior in Pre-Architecture.

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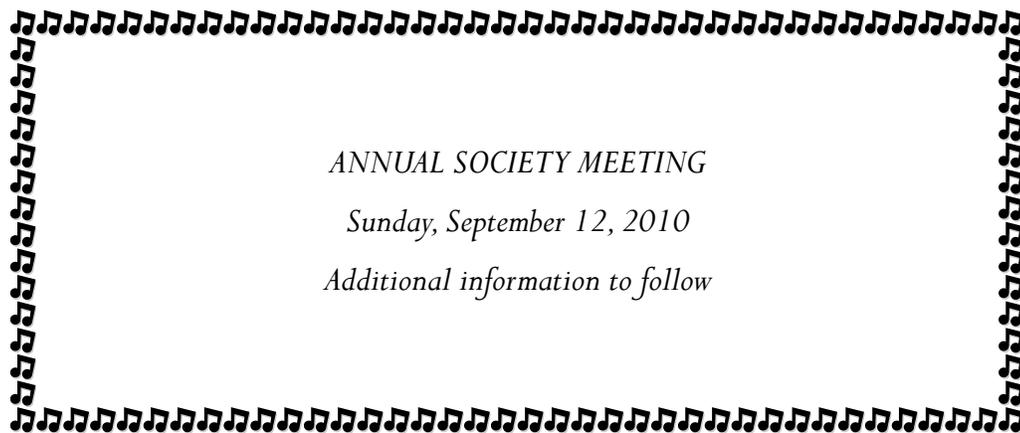
ENJOY THE NOON CONCERTS EVERY WEEKDAY 11:50-12:10 ON THE WEB

<http://www.music.iastate.edu/feeds/carillon/>

ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING

Sunday, September 12, 2010

Additional information to follow



CARILLON SUMMER SERIES CONTINUES

Three guest Carillonneurs are taking part in the 2010 Summer Carillon Concert Series.

All concerts take place on Central Campus. Bring your lawn chair!



Jeremy Chesman, from Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri will perform Tuesday, August 17th at 7:00 pm.



Amy Johansen, from Sydney University in Sydney, Australia performed June 29th.

Amy traveled to the United States with her husband Rob and daughter Emily. After the evening concert, the family made a trip to Perfect Games in Ames to bowl and play laser tag.



University Carillonneur **Tin-shi Tam** will perform with the ISU Percussion Ensemble and Central Iowa Brass Quintet on Sunday, September 12th at 3:00 pm.



The Annual Society of Carillon Alumni and Friends Event will be held in conjunction with this concert. Additional details will be available at a closer date.



Min-Jin O, from Hyecheon University in Daejeon, Korea will perform Tuesday, July 27th at 7:00 pm.

ISU SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Officers:

Amy Brandau, President
 Michael Pawlovich, Vice-President
 Eric Wittrock, Secretary

Board of Directors:

Amy Brandau abrandau@iastate.edu
 Michael Pawlovich tigerpaw@isualum.com
 Eric Wittrock ewittroc@yahoo.com
 Julie Hart jumaha20@hotmail.com
 Debra Schiel-Larson dlarson@ci.johnston.ia.us

Ex-officio:

Tin-Shi Tam tstam@iastate.edu

EXCERPTS FROM THE PAST

From the Parks Library Special Collections, this section features the history of the Campanile taken from the 1924 Bomb (the College Yearbook).

The Campanile

For nearly a quarter of a century, Iowa State students have timed their daily routine by the Campanile chimes at fifteen minute intervals.

Dr. E. W. Stanton, late junior dean and vice-president of the college, was the donor of the chimes, which cost \$7500. They were purchased from John Taylor and Company, bell foundry, of England, in 1899. The tower in which the chimes were placed were erected by college authorities at an expense of about \$4500, and the clock also furnished by the college, cost \$2300.

A duty of \$3000 on the bells should have been paid according to tariff laws of that date, before they could be admitted to this country. Sen. William B. Allison of Dubuque, chairman of the ways and means committee, influenced Congress to remove this duty and thus eliminate part of the expense of the bells.

When the idea for the erection of a Campanile was first considered, the southwest tower of Margaret Hall was selected as a location but later investigation showed that the tower wasn't strong enough to hold the chimes. Some consideration was given to the placing of the bells over the Women's gymnasium in Margaret hall but this idea was discarded, because the authorities believe that it would destroy the architectural beauty of that building. Later the

present site was chosen.

When the Campanile strikes lower "C," a mass of copper and tin four feet nine inches in diameter weighing over a ton and a half vibrates to make the noise. The baby bell, high "E," represents only 415 pounds of metal and is two feet, two and a half inches in diameter. The ten bells, comprising the chimes, range between these two extremes.

A memorial tablet of terra cotta on the north side of the tower facing the campus bears an inscription which gives the Campanile much of its significance, "These chimes are dedicated in hallowed memory of Margaret McDonald Stanton by her husband, Edgar W. Stanton."

Inscriptions dedicating the bells to Dr. Stanton's first wife were molded into each bell when they were made and they can still be seen very plainly.

Starting with the highest pitched bell, the inscriptions are as follows:

"And soften down the rugged road of life" - Kirk White

"Ring merrily, ye chimes, evermore" - Charles MacKay

"Harmonizing this earth with what we feel above" - Shelley

"My language is understood all over the world" - Hayden

"Every deed of goodness is like a chord set in the heart" - Thomas Macklelan

"Sweetly on the evening air, sounds the vesper chime of prayer and rings a thousand memories, at vesper and at prime" - Cox

"Music is the child of prayer—the companion of religion"
- Chateaubriand

"A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised — Proverbs, XXXI:30"

"Then pealed the bells, more loud and deep; God is not dead; nor does he sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail—with peace on earth, good will to men" - Tennyson

The Campanile tower proper is Italian Renaissance in style and rests on a foundation extending six feet below the surface of the ground. The tower is 110 feet in height and the chimes rest on a concrete arch 75 feet from the ground. The structure is 18 feet, eight inches square.

A removable panel was placed on the south side of the tower for the purpose of admitting the bells, which were drawn up by block and tackle and horse power. Tradition has it that when the largest bell was lifted almost to the top, the team, after reaching the animal husbandry barns, was unable to hoist it further. Several men took hold of the rope and accomplished the final lift.

The company which cast the bells is today considered the largest establishment of its kind in the world, having been organized in 1366 in Leicester, England. The Ames chimes were the first order received by that company from America.

The chimes are played each morning and evening by an experienced bell ringer. The striking of the bell every 15 minutes is controlled automatically by the clock, working by a system of ropes and pulleys.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MARLOW AND FRAN COWAN

CARILLON MEMORIES

During VEISHEA this past year, I ventured over to the main stage because I heard the You-Tube Sensation “charming older couple playing the piano at Mayo Clinic” would be appearing. That “charming couple” turned out to be Marlow and Fran Cowan from Ankeny, IA. They put on a lovely program involving piano, bells, and audience participation. In-between songs Marlow recalled stories and told some jokes. I about fell over when he said both of them had played the carillon while students at Iowa State, taking lessons from Ira Schroeder. I made my way to the stage after they finished to find out first hand about their carillon experiences. Believe it or not, I had to wait in line until all their fans had taken pictures with them! Marlow later sent me a letter reminiscing their experience playing the carillon. Also in the letter I received were copies of past articles and flier documenting their experiences. I have decided to include most of the letter, even though it doesn’t all pertain to the ISU carillon. Amy

Our lives since our last years at I.S.C. have continued to be very involved with music...not professional...but just as a fun hobby. Both of us zeroed in on the piano from an early age as well as the organ (I in roller skating rinks and Frances for church). Frances learned to play the accordion so that we could play both piano and accordion duets on our programs.

As we mentioned to you at VEISHEA I attended Iowa State from 1937-1941. During that time I played weekly piano programs for 30 minutes on Friday afternoons on W.O.I. as well as doing considerable accompanying for group singing led by Ray Cunningham, YMCA Director, and took carillon lessons from Ira Schroeder my senior year playing short morning or noon interludes UNTIL Ira and the music staff decided that my “jazzy” or

“swingy” selections were not appropriate, thus terminating my mini presentations. Frances, on the other hand, attended Iowa State from 1943-1947, also studied with Ira her last year doing her little “concerts” with much more “acceptable” music on the carillon.

Our marriage in 1947 was followed by two years graduate school for me while Frances taught Jr. High home economics and our doing piano and accordion duet programs, etc. Bells did not come into our lives until 1954 when I took the position of Youth and Camp Director. Our music interest led us to develop youth singing groups, soon adding bells and performing and travelling Easter vacations throughout the US, Mexico, South America, Switzerland, etc.

Starting in the late 1950s Frances taught piano in our home studio while I opened up a Bell Repair Shop repairing our own bells and then bells for churches and school all over the U.S. and Canada...which I am still doing mainly as a service for bell choirs. We again started our Piano Duetting and Bell Ringing duet programs after our years with youth groups now some 30 years of programs for schools, churches, civic and service groups, hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, etc. With the Nov 2008 “mini concert” at the Mayo Clinic resulting in our You-Tube “adventure” on to Good Morning America, National Public Radio Michael Feldman “Whad’Ya Know” program, web-cam hook up with Japan’s public broadcast system NHK and on to the recent VEISHEA celebration program.



Fran and Marlow Cowan, Des Moines Register

God has continued to bless us so richly with our musical talent all through our some 63 years of togetherness so we will continue making our “brand” of a Joyful Noise unto the Lord as long as He permits us... “Our obedience pulls the ropes which rings the bells in heaven’s belfries”..and “Our actions on the keyboards of earth triggers hammers on the piano strings of Heaven”

In addition to what the letter included, Fran also provided me some additional memories during VEISHEA. She told me that she played before 8:00 class, hurrying to both play and make it to class on time. Some things haven’t changed in 65 years—there were still only about 2-3 students taking lessons and the practice keyboard was in Music Hall in 1947. She also told me she came back for her 50th class reunion and went on the Campanile tour, where her friend spoke up saying Fran used to play. With the tour guide providing some music, Fran had to give it try, being sure to leave out the pedals!