

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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4 STUDENTS TAKE CARILLON LESSONS

Four students took lessons this past semester.

Fall semester students included:

- Cayla Cunningham, senior in Elementary Education
- Casey Cunningham, sophomore in Pre-Business, taking lessons for the first time
- Johnathan Germick, sophomore in Electrical Engineering
- Matthew Petron, graduating senior in Computer Engineering, taking lessons for the first time



L-R: Casey, John, Cayla, Matthew

STUDENT CARILLON PLAYER: CASEY CUNNINGHAM

Casey Cunningham is the fourth and last Cunningham sibling to take lessons. Here were his thoughts on the experience.

After one semester of taking carillon with Dr. Tam I now understand the amount of difficulty there is in playing this unique instrument. Flashing back to the first few lessons, I was petrified every time I walked in, because I had no musical background. Dr. Tam came to me and said that she would love if I would take lessons. I willingly agreed because it is such a rare and unique opportunity, I knew I could not pass it up. To be honest, I am not sure she knew what she was getting herself into. As the weeks progressed I quickly learned how much I needed to be in the practice room. To my surprise it turned out to be much more than I expected. The hard work all semester paid off for me when I was able to play during the 12 o'clock concert. It finally felt real that I was playing the bells over Iowa State. During this concert I played a duet with my older sister, Cayla which will be an unforgettable moment for the two of us and our family because my other older sister, Carrie arranged the Christmas medley. That moment was special because our mother was beyond proud of all of us. Overall this class is a memory I will never forget and I am so thankful for the patience that Dr. Tam has shown while working with me.



Christmas Bells
Cayla and Casey Cunningham

DID YOU KNOW?

The Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation and Dr. Tam are working on creating a working **campanile model** for the 125th anniversary celebration. It will be a 27-bell carillon that can be used for outreach, recruitment and education, in addition to being a **musical instrument**. Students in Engineering, Design and Liberal Arts & Sciences will collaborate on this project.

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[www.music.iastate.edu/
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ISU HOSTS CARILLON FESTIVAL 2015 & MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

BY: CAYLA CUNNINGHAM

During the weekend of September 18-19, Midwest Regional Carillon Conference was held in conjunction with ISU Carillon Festival 2015 sponsored by the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation. The festival-conference began with an Opening Concert in Martha-

Ellen Tye Recital Hall. This public concert was not your typical concert. Three ensemble works were performed in two remote locations.



Opening Concert: Tin-Shi Tam & New World Symphony Percussion Ensemble

Musicians were connected via LOLA, a low latency audio-visual streaming system, and performed together by watching each other on LED

monitors. Tin-Shi Tam, ISU University Carillonneur performed *Mirror Image* by Chris Hanning on the carillon at ISU with the New World Symphony Percussion Ensemble in Miami Beach, Florida. In addition, she also performed *Nola* by Felix Arndt and *Hunting St.* Hubert



Tin-Shi Tam & ISU Student Brass Quintet

by Ondřej Šárek on the carillon with an ISU student brass quintet in Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall. Other music selections included Ad Wammes' *GlasWerk* for carillon and soundtrack, Peter Paul Olejar's *Threnos* and Alex Weiser's *For Whom The Bell Tolls*.

Following the concert, people gathered in the lobby of Music Hall for a reception sponsored by the ISU Society of Carillon Alumni and Friends—including campanile cookies.



To conclude the night, Chad Jacobsen, recording engineer at ISU, and Justin Trieger, technical director for distance



Panel Discussion: Carillon SuperHighway I-35

education and new media initiatives at the New World Symphony led a discussion about how they were capable of using LOLA to connect Ames with Miami Beach. Because the carillon is not a portable instrument, it was amazing to watch these collaborative cyber-performances.



After a rainy day, Saturday morning was beautiful for an *Art on Campus* guided tour given by the staff of the University Museums. The tour began at Gerdin Business Building, continued to Music Hall, and ended at Morrill Hall.

Following the walking tour, attendees gathered around the campanile and listened to the final round of the ISU Carillon Composition Competition. This year's winning composition is *Sisyphus Stone* by Kendal Lafayette Fortson of Los Alamos, New Mexico.



Competition Voting box

Composers Ad Wammes (The Netherlands), Peter Paul Olejar (North Carolina), and three past winners of the ISU Carillon Composition Competition Philip Rice (Michigan), Kyle Shaw (Illinois) and Alex Weiser (New York) then



Composer Forum

joined a composers forum via videoconferencing in Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall. This discussion emphasized the various thoughts a composer has when writing music for the carillon. A few questions were asked by the audience such as, should the composer write for us players to interpret the music or should we play as they have it written? All composers have different opinions.

(Continued on page 3)

FESTIVAL CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

Following the forum, guest carillonneurs for the Festival George Gregory and Julianne Vanden Wyngaard held a seminar called *Your Space or Mine?* This seminar emphasized the features of a great duet and all aspects of how to choose a partner, how to play next to someone else, and how to mark the music. They gave advice for players of all skill levels.



Seminar: Your Space or Mine?

After this informative and enjoyable seminar, a sack lunch was served at Reiman Gardens. Attendees enjoyed the gorgeous fall weather surrounded by plants, streams, tree houses, and special exhibitions in the garden.



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Current carillon students both attended and helped host the Conference



Concert being broadcast at the base of the campanile

After their wonderful carillon concert, the public had the opportunity to tour the campanile guided by current ISU carillon students, and conference attendees were able to play the carillon.

After lunch, a carillon concert was performed by the carillon duo George Gregory and Julianne Vanden Wyngaard.



Conference attendees taking a turn playing



The festival-conference concluded with a dinner-party in an Italian restaurant in town. Overall, the weekend was wonderful and well-organized. As a current carillon student at Iowa State University, I have been extremely inspired by all aspects of this festival-conference.



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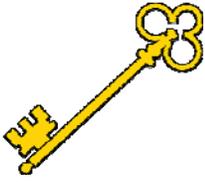
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STANTON FAMILY HISTORY

Mary Jean Fowler, family member of the Stanton family sent me the following story for everyone to enjoy more Campanile history.



This is the story of how my Aunt and Uncle played the Carillon at Iowa State. Aunt Laura told it to me when I visited her in the early 1970s. She took a small, jointed brass key out of a glass display case and told this story.

(The key is now in the Iowa State Archives.)

When the bells were installed in the Campanile on the Iowa State campus, my uncle, Seaman Knapp, was fascinated. He followed the procedure carefully. Seaman's family lived on campus; the bells commemorated his aunt, Margaret McDonald Stanton, his mother's sister. Seaman played the bells the year he was a senior, 1908-1909.

In the spring of 1909, before graduating, he was dating Laura Storms and she would go up to the playing floor and play the bells along with Seaman. To ring a bell Seaman, or Laura, had to jump on the bell rope that hung down

through the bell floor to the floor below. Laura played enough so she got to be quite good.

So, before graduating, Seaman wanted to make arrangements so Laura could play the bells the next year, during her senior year. Seaman asked his father, Herman Knapp, who was Treasurer, Vice President, and many other positions at Iowa State including the one who decided who played the bells. Herman Knapp, typically, was doubtful, but open minded, and he arranged that Seaman and Laura would play a concert. If Herman could not tell which pieces Seaman played and which Laura played, then Laura could play the bells the following year. After the concert, Herman could not tell the difference between their playing, so Laura played the bells her senior year, 1909-1910.

Seaman didn't stop playing bells. When the bells were installed, one of the workman had a set of handbells. Seaman then got a set of handbells and played them for many years. When I was a little girl, I remember him playing at Christmas for his mother, Mary McDonald Knapp. Later Laura and her sister Florence helped play and the three of them would play Christmas concerts in the rotunda of Beardshear Hall.

NEW ADDRESS FOR THE CAMPANILE

The University has been working on a project to develop a street address system for campus buildings. While the project intent is to shorten emergency response times, it will also help visitors with wayfinding. The effort covers more than 650 locations and includes the campanile! Starting January 1, the Campanile's street address is:

Campanile, 2235 Union Dr.



The difference one day makes: left Nov 19, right Nov 20



GARDEN RAILROAD

Reiman Gardens at ISU had a garden railroad in the conservatory the past 6 months. Three trains meandered past iconic University buildings including the Campanile. Dr. Tam provided a recording for the display. As a train passed by a trigger point, one of three ISU songs played including *The Bells of Iowa State*.

Dr. Tam admiring the Campanile and listening to her recordings

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