



THE CORNELL  
**CHIMES**  
NEWSLETTER

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[www.chimes.cornell.edu](http://www.chimes.cornell.edu)

[chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu)

(607) 255-5350

Marisa Piliero '96, Editor

## What's New In the Tower...

...It has been a busy summer and fall in McGraw Tower, despite the fact that summertime is when the campus is "supposedly" quiet! At the end of the spring term, four new Chimesmasters were accepted from the competition, they are Cathy Jordan '03, Lauren Marino '02, Waitz Ngan '02, and Elizabeth Wallis '02. These enthusiastic and dedicated new players have quickly become an integral part of the group, taking on responsibilities beyond Chimes playing including planning for the upcoming Chimesmaster Reunion, cataloging new arrangements for the music library and leading tours. These Chimesmasters along with Courtney Kimball '01 (Head Chimesmaster), Victor Lin '01, and Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, MAT '97 (Chimes Advisor) are the tower's 2000-2001 musicians, each playing three concerts per week. Among this talented group we have orchestra members, volunteers, quilters, varsity athletes, and honor students. To learn more about the current Chimesmasters, look for their biographies on the new Chimes webpage.

During the past six months we have had many visitors to McGraw Tower. Over a glorious

Commencement weekend, the tower was packed with graduating seniors and their parents, as we bid farewell to our own graduates Erwin Chan, Christy Henzler and Grace Jean, (all three are now enrolled in graduate programs on the east coast). Reunion weekend also brought many visitors, and we were impressed with those that made the climb, especially the Chimes alumni who played the bells despite the soaring temperatures.



*Costumed chimesmasters gather for Halloween fun*

Since Reunion weekend we have offered more than 20 special tours for local school and civic groups, Cornell Engineering 150. This course, for freshman engineers, provides an opportunity for students to acquaint themselves with both their college and the University. The Chimesmasters have given several tours and concerts for

this class throughout the semester. We have also hosted some special Chimes visitors, including Harvey Bagot, a bell founder from Australia, Peter Ryde a long-time friend of the Chimes from Canada, and Tony Hill a carrillonneur from Minnesota who is looking to undertake a bell project with Meeks and Watson.

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While Chimes wedding concerts have always been popular with Cornellians who are getting married on campus, the requests for concerts seems to be booming since the Renovation projects. Over the course of the "wedding season" alone, (May-October) we played 33 special concerts. As the season winds down we have already had an overwhelming number of requests for weddings next year and have decided to update our policy. Effective January 1, 2001, the charge for a chimes concert to accompany weddings will be \$75 for a 15-minute concert or \$100 for a 30-minute concert (up from \$50/\$75). It has been several years since the prices were increased and we feel they more appropriately reflect the amount of time spent playing for each wedding in addition to setting up the arrangements, practicing, and waiting for phone calls for the concerts to begin! In addition to the price changes, we will no longer accept reservation requests more than 6-months prior to the date of an event. Brides and grooms were calling to make reservations for concerts a year and a half in advance!

While we have been busy giving many tours and concerts, in addition to our other extracurricular activities, we have still maintained the core traditions and needs of the bells. With the help of the electronic midi system, new arrangements are always being written and the Chimes music library continues to grow. This fall we hosted our annual open houses for Homecoming and Family Weekends. The Halloween Concert was a great success, drawing many visitors, some in costume, including a rock climber, Rapunzel (and all of her hair), a gardener, and of course a midnight appearance from the tubas! At the beginning of this month we launched the new Chimes website at [www.chimes.cornell.edu](http://www.chimes.cornell.edu).

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**[www.chimes.cornell.edu](http://www.chimes.cornell.edu)**

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The new site should be easier to navigate, but still maintains the popular links. With assistance from a more readily accessible webmaster we plan to update the site more frequently. If you have not already seen the site, please visit us, and tune in frequently for regular updates.

The tower is as vibrant and merry as ever, we invite you to visit us anytime you are on campus and of course look forward to seeing many of you at the Chimesmaster Reunion in July!

## Chimesmaster's Corner

Courtney Kimball '01, Head Chimesmaster

I am Courtney Kimball, the Head Chimesmaster for the 2000-2001 school year. I'm a senior majoring in environmental engineering within the School of Civil/Environmental Engineering. In addition to my activities as Head Chimesmaster, I am also a member of the Cornell University Symphony Orchestra, a community service co-chair in the Cornell chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers, and vice-president of the Civil Engineering Honor Society, Chi Epsilon.

I became a chimesmaster when the tower renovation and bell-tuning projects were just beginning. I was accepted when I was a freshman, and then watched the bells leave for Ohio and remain there for the duration of my sophomore year. It was hard to have the chimes taken away just when I had become comfortable with them. At that same time, the tower began to change before the eyes of the campus.

Recently I was asked what I think McGraw Tower and the Chimes mean to Cornell. As I reflect back upon my experiences as an undergraduate and as a chimesmaster, I realized that the tower and bells are one of the only constants at the University. Students come and go, some arriving years later as alumni at reunions. Construction, department and college reorganizations, and development of the surrounding area all change Cornell's structure and appearance over time. As a result, attendance in the tower is incredible during graduation and reunion weekends, wedding concert requests have boomed and tour demand has increased.

Because of the Chimes' absence during my second year here, I have come to appreciate the presence of the Chimes and the tower as someone does who has left Cornell and then has come back to visit. The Chimes are an integral part of the campus. Everyone hears the music during daily concerts. The tower offers a spectacular view of the campus, giving a unique perspective to visitors, locals, and students alike. The hour bells set the rhythm of life and the clock faces are illuminated brightly at night, a reminder that through the darkness, the tower is keeping watch over Cornell.

Although McGraw Tower remained during the absence of the bells, it too was disguised and changed during the year. Aluminum scaffolding

ascended all four sides and a tarpaulin was wrapped around the upper-most section, giving the tower a blindfolded, vulnerable appearance. As the work was completed and the bells were placed back inside the tower, all chimesmasters breathed a sigh of relief. The tower was once again intact, and ready to stand for another century as the icon of Cornell University.

The clock tower is an omnipresent feature of Cornell, and the year it spent as a patient of Meeks and Watson, and Cornell's Planning, Design, and Construction engineers and workers was well worth the time spent. The clocks and hour bells tell time for the entire campus. The tower changes to keep up with the times but will always be our beloved McGraw Tower, with the elaborate stonework, illuminated belfry, and piercing roof. The bells of the chime are the same, being tuned as a whole and increased in number, but still played on the same schedule and with the same enthusiasm as years past.

Cornell's Chimesmasters bring life to the tower and its Chimes, and consequently, the tower and the Chimes bring life to Cornell. I am proud to be a part of the Cornell Chimes tradition.



*Courtney Kimball '01 performs a midday concert*



## My Chat with Rob

Reported by Courtney Kimball '01

October 11, 2000

7 PM, Collegetown Bagels in Ithaca

He arrived for the afternoon concert at the tower and wandered into the office where I was wrapping up some business. "Wow, there's an office in here." I explained to him what kind of work we took care of, and he headed upstairs for the concert. After the concert he again stopped in the office and mentioned that he was writing an architectural engineering thesis on towers. He asked if he could interview a chimesmaster and I agreed. The following is an account of our discussion later that day.

On October 8, 1997, Rob put\* the pumpkin atop McGraw Tower's steeple. A student at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Rob has also studied at Plymouth State in New Hampshire, and a college in Montana. The pumpkin prank originated at Plymouth State where students annually place pumpkins on top of the local tower as a Halloween tradition. Rob's school in Montana received a tower pumpkin as well. Rob has worked as a sailor, and is a professional rock climber. He is currently on a road trip, touring towers and gathering information for his thesis. He also has a side mission — adorning towers with pumpkins.

I grabbed a coffee and sat down at the window counter with him. He began the interview with general questions about the tower, and then brought up the pumpkin. I figured this a natural question for someone so deeply in research of not only the structure of towers, but also their cultural impacts. I began discussing the campus reaction and the chimesmasters' horror when the pumpkin appeared. The conversation took a different turn when he stopped me and said, "Before you say anymore, I should tell you that I'm the one who put it there."

There, in Collegetown Bagels...the mystery was solved. "Ask me any details," he said. "I can prove that I did it." He began recounting the day that he took the pumpkin up to the tower to prepare for that night's mission.

He went up during the midday concert with the pumpkin in a box. It was hollowed out in the middle so it would easily sit on the lightning rod. He was going to place it in the hiding spot he'd picked, at the

*...Continued on page 6*



Satisfy your longing for the bells...with a book or CD!

“Remembered Chimes,”  
recorded by  
the Chimesmasters in the  
spring of 1998

The Cornell Chimes,  
by Ed McKeown

This book is filled with  
history, lore, and photographs  
of the chimes, chimesmasters,  
and the tower.

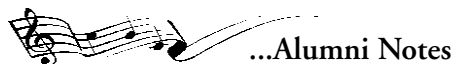
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through the  
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**Duane Barber PhD '97 (DBB)** and his wife Lise Brackbill recently celebrated the birth of their daughter Anneli.

*Wedding Bells...*

**Joe Dalaker '95 (JPD)** is living in Washington D.C. and he and his fiancée Helen will be getting married in New York in May.

*Wedding Bells...*

**Keith Jenkins '93 (KGJ)** married Stephanie Ortolano '98 on July 15th in Sage Chapel. They are living in Bangladesh, where Stephanie is working on a joint project with Tufts University and the Micronutrient Initiative.

Welcome back to **Gloria Lee '99** who came to the Commencement weekend Open House, we put her right to work, helping us perform the marathon of concerts! Also a big welcome to **Laura Brewer MA '91, PhD '94, Robert Feldman '66, PhD '75, Dick Lee '41, Rich Olson '97, Allegra Schafer '99, Jennifer Turney MS '89, Connie (Smatlak) Van Hoesel '93** and the Advisory Council who all made visits this Fall!

**Michael Mage '55** and his wife Rose visited Ithaca in June for Mike's 45th class reunion and their 45th wedding anniversary. The Chimesmasters were happy to play the "Madrigal," from the Mikado for them-the same song was played at their wedding June 12, 1955, the day before Michael's graduation. He attended and played at many of the concerts over Reunions. We were impressed by his ability to play audience requests without any music. One visitor asked for "White Christmas" (on a hot June day) and he played the song by memory!

**Robert Feldman (RLF) '66, PhD '75** Sue and I have settled into a new lifestyle in Framingham, and are now official Massachusetts drivers.

(Watch out!) My job is senior Technical Instructor for Cognex Corp. I teach customers how to program our systems in both live courses and over the web. I miss our Chimes very much but I have played an 11-bell chime in Newton and plan to visit the 18-bell chime at the Christian Science Church in Boston. I look forward to returning for the Chimes Reunion and hope to see many of you then!

**Grace Jean (GVJ) '00** is pursuing a graduate degree in journalism at Columbia University. Her classes and projects are keeping her busy, especially her latest experience broadcasting a live radio and web cast from the Gore/Lieberman Headquarters in Washington, DC on Election Day!

The Chimesmasters spent a wonderful afternoon with **Dick Lee '41** during his recent visit to Ithaca for his Sigma Phi reunion. He was serenaded by a concert of his original compositions followed by lunch. We look forward to seeing him again in July.

**George Ubogy '58** recently brought us a stack of new arrangements to try, in addition to the many he has sent us throughout the year!

**Amy Winkle (ARW) '98**

I know I've been very bad at keeping in touch, but the Chimes and Chimesmasters are often in my thoughts...it's been an eventful 2 years! After graduating, I traveled to Denmark to meet my boyfriend Soren; we then headed for the Greek Island of Kos to work for the summer. At the end of the season, we traveled back to Denmark, stopping in Athens, Malta, Italy, and Switzerland. I spent the next 7 months in Denmark before returning to America and moving to Maine. I am now working at the Water Research Institute at the University of Maine, where Soren is currently studying.

# CORNELL CHIMESMASTERS' REUNION

## JULY 27-29, 2001



*Do you wake at night and think you hear remembered chimes?*

**Yes!**

*I am thinking of having my hearing checked...*

Don't worry, you are not hearing things!  
It's just your subconscious telling you to come  
to the Chimes Reunion in July!

**No!**

*Why would I be hearing bells?*

Oh no! You've forgotten us already?!  
Hurry! Before it is too late!  
Come to the Reunion and  
rekindle those wonderful memories!

*Plan to come to the second ever Cornell Chimesmasters' Reunion!*

Spend the weekend playing the TUNED bells (don't worry, there will be plenty of opportunities to practice), seeing the tower renovations from 1998/1999, catching up with old friends, and carrying on the Chimes tradition!

You will receive a full registration packet in the mail this Spring. Details regarding the Reunion will be updated on the Chimes website at [www.chimes.cornell.edu](http://www.chimes.cornell.edu), as they become available. Please check it often. We are also trying to get a tentative head count for planning purposes. If you think that you will attend, let us know by email at [chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu).

Family members are welcome!

Blocks of 20 rooms have been reserved at each of the following locations for the nights of Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28. Please specify "Chimes Reunion" when making your reservations to qualify for these special rates.

**Best Western University Inn**  
1020 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca  
\$79 single/\$89 double  
(607) 272-6100

**Cornell Dorms**  
Campus  
Approx. \$30-45/night  
(607) 255-2373  
Call for details/housing form

**Statler Hotel**  
Campus  
\$110 single/\$120 double  
(607) 257-2500



bottom of the south clock face behind the Seth Thomas clock, when he encountered a young man coming down the stairs. The man told him he was “learning the chimes.” (The chimes don’t have competitors in October, who could this person have been?) Rob gave him a smile and continued up the stairs.

At the evening concert, he hid in his spot in the clock well, knowing that someone could have looked down from the playing stand level and spotted him. Apparently, no one did. He was going to put the pumpkin on the tower that night, but changed his mind and decided that he wanted someone with him while he climbed. He left the tower and came back the next night. His accomplice was a local who has been arrested for ice climbing in the gorges.

I don’t know if his accomplice hid with him during the concert, or if Rob let him into the tower later that evening. He said that he looked through the playing stand desk for keys to the Master Lock on the bell cage. He stated that he found a key ring, but none of the keys fit the lock. (He probably did this the first night, and then came prepared to cut the lock the next.) Using bolt cutters to clip the ring that the padlock went through, he and his cohort climbed up into the bell cage, hauling the pumpkin behind them on a rope. Rob reported that this was the trickiest part of the mission - getting past all of the cables and bells, knowing that the job would be jeopardized if one of the bells were accidentally rung. The two men spent 20 minutes getting through the cage.

Rob climbed outside through the service hatch at the bottom of the roof on the West Side. He climbed to the top, roped in, and hauled on the rope attached to the pumpkin. Rob then pulled it to the top and placed it on the spire. The two men left the tower.

Rob was staying with a friend living on West Campus. He had alerted her earlier that he would be doing something that night that could possibly land him in jail, and she agreed to bail him out if necessary. After the mission, Rob stopped at Hot Truck to get some pizza. He told the man working the truck to check out the tower the next day, and then headed for the dorms.

By this time, I didn’t really know what to think. For the most part, his story lined up with what I understood to be fact. We continued to have an amiable chat as my coffee went from hot to

lukewarm to cold. I encouraged him to write down his story so the pumpkin saga could have a conclusion. He said that he probably would someday. He was also interested in repeating the prank. As soon as I realized this, I told him that I would not let him into the tower, and that he would not find a chimesmaster who would. He indicated that he’d already scouted out a new hiding spot (above the bathroom) but when I mentioned the surveillance mirror in the corner, it appeared that he had missed a detail! He also believed that the deadlock on the bell cage was passable, but did not realize that the service hatch to the roof no longer existed. After I had convinced him that our security was too tight, he relented.

At 9 PM, I mentioned that I should really go to the library and so we said goodbye. As I walked to campus the next day, I squinted, trying to determine if the tower showed any signs of a nighttime visitor. For just a moment, my mind played tricks and I saw a pumpkin sitting up top. A second later, I realized the tower was untouched, and continued to class.

\*Rob’s story was convincing, but is still alleged. Another compelling confession was printed in the Cornell Daily Sun Graduation 2000 Issue, and reprinted on October 31, accessible at [www.cornelldailysun.com/perl/getArticle.pl?id=909](http://www.cornelldailysun.com/perl/getArticle.pl?id=909). While on the subject of gourds, a pumpkin also appeared atop a UC Berkley tower just before Halloween...

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### **I Never Noticed How Large Bob Feldman’s Feet Are... Jennifer Lory-Moran 96, MAT 97**

We all play the chimes with our shoes off these days. Most of us play in our socks; some people play barefoot. But in spite of all these shoes going on and off, I never realized how big Bob Feldman’s feet really are. Bob’s feet have taken him up and down the tower thousands of times. Maybe that made them swell a bit. Bob’s feet have also carried him all across campus, so often that everyone seems to know him. Traipsing around GCNA conferences across the country can’t have made those feet any smaller either. During his years as chimes advisor, Bob did so much for the chimes- and those poor feet taking him everywhere just got bigger and bigger. During the years that we played the chimes together, I never realized how big his feet had become. But Bob’s feet

are in Boston now, and I have found that he has left behind some really big shoes to be filled. I am Jennifer Lory-Moran, and I am the new Chimes Advisor.

Judy Ogden was the first chimesmaster in this position, then Bob, and now me. I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. I grew up in New Jersey in a very musical family. In high school I played piano, xylophone, flute, and oboe and was drum major for my marching band. I came to Cornell in August 1992 and found myself without a musical ensemble that I really fit into, until I found the Chimes.

I played throughout my undergraduate and graduate years, and I loved every minute of it. I was Head Chimesmaster my senior year, and when I got married the chimes played for my wedding. There is nothing like walking out of Sage Chapel, newly wed, and hearing the chimes play for you by people you know. After I graduated, my husband and I stayed in Ithaca and I got a job teaching middle school math.

I had the pleasure of co-producing the Remembered Chimes CD that was recorded just before the bells were tuned. Working with Barny Cole, the sound engineer, I learned to listen to our bells in a different way and I gained a better understanding of how they needed to be improved. While the bells were in Ohio, I had the opportunity to visit the foundry to

learn about the tuning process from Meeks & Watson. Now I listen to the bells and appreciate the difference in sound quality and the effort it took to improve them.

Now, almost 8 years after becoming a Chimesmaster, I continue to play three concerts each week and I still love every minute of it. The Chimes satisfy many needs in my life - musically, physically, and socially. Playing the bells is the perfect combination of musical expression and physical activity- a combination that is so good for my soul! My fellow Chimesmasters are amazing; each year there is a new group of intelligent, caring, and musical people. In the past few years the Chimesmasters have started having game nights and dinners together, getting together outside of the tower.

I love meeting Chimesmaster alumni who come to visit, and I have started collecting the autographs of all the former chimesmasters that I meet. I have also created a Chimes genealogy of all of the Chimesmasters who have played at Cornell. I look forward to Advisory Council and Reunion weekends and the opportunities they provide for connecting with alumni and sharing their stories. This history and enthusiasm we share for the bells creates a strong bond between Chimesmasters past and present. I have seen many wonderful things happen in the tower during my tenure, and as chimes advisor, I look forward to seeing what happens next!

*Did you know that your annual support for Cornell University can be directed to the Chimes?*

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT!**

## From the Chimes Advisory Council Co-Chairs...

On behalf of the Chimes Advisory Council and the University staff, I am delighted to welcome Kristen Simpson '98 as co-chair of the Council for the next three years. Phyllis McClelland '43 has decided that it is time to step down as co-chair but will remain a member of the Council. Kristen and I will work together during the next year through our upcoming Chimesmasters' Reunion. At that time, another new co-chair will come on board and I will be pleased to join Phyllis in the ranks of the Council. We are always looking for new, dedicated members, especially alumni who graduated in the early 1960's and late 1980's where we lack representation. What follows is a brief update, (provided by Kristen and I), from the Council's meeting with the active Chimesmasters and University staff in October.

Four newly formed committees are now in progress. The Reunion committee has already done a great job in its preparations for the Chimesmasters Reunion, July 27-29, 2001 under the leadership of Jennifer Lory-Moran, Bob Feldman and others. George Ubogy lends leadership to the "Future Efforts for the Chimes" committee. This group has broken down into three sub-committees: "Enhancing the Visitor Experience" - What can we do to further enhance guest visits to the tower? Ideas include completing the 1st floor museum, adding a closed circuit television for visitors unable to climb the stairs, placing additional placards in the stairway, and more. "Chimes Outreach" - How should we further involve our Chimes expertise and music in the U.S. and beyond? Potential projects include organizing a Chimes Guild or a music composition competition. "Funding Support" - Can we improve financial support for the Chimes, ensuring the continuity on the Chimes for the next 100 years through the creation of a program endowment?

The Council is moving forward and it is great fun to be a part of it. Join us at the Reunion and you, too, can continue to be a part of the remembered Chimes; sharing a voice in where we are heading.

-Dick Haggard '58, Ph.D. '65

Council Co-Chair (lame duck till July, 01)

-Kristen Simpson '98

Council Co-Chair



**Cornell University**

**B07 Day Hall**

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