

## University Carillonneur passes tough exam

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ALFRED, NY -- Laurel Buckwalter, Alfred University Carillonneur, passed the test this summer to become a carillonneur member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North American. With this step, Buckwalter, the third carillonneur in the life of the University's carillon, joins a select group of only 153 carillonneur members. Even more select is the company of women carillonneur members; out of the 153, only 43 are women. The Guild also has 300 associate members, people who play the carillon but haven't yet passed the exam, plus a few supporters of the carillon art. For the exam, Buckwalter submitted a tape of three difficult required pieces, plus other music. After the exam committee approved it, she was invited to play an examination recital at the Guild's national congress. Her playing was unanimously approved by the judges, who recommended that she be granted membership. The Guild voted her in. The three required pieces this year were "Chorale Prelude on St. Anne" (O God Our Help in Ages Past) by the English composer John Knox; the extraordinarily difficult "Sonata de Clarines" by Antonio Soler; and "Paraphrase on a Sicilienne" by Pasquale Ricci, arranged by Ronald Barnes. For her elective pieces, Buckwalter played, among other works, "Prelude in g minor" by Matthias van den Gheyn, a composer she described as "sort of the Bach of the carillon," and "Haro No Umi (Spring Sea)," a famous Japanese piece arranged for carillon. "I play it often because it is a beautiful piece," she said. AU's first two carillonneurs were Ray Wingate, who served from 1937 to 1968, and Joanne Droppers, 1974-94. They were both also carillonneur members of the Guild.-- 30 --