Unseen IU: The Student Building Chime

Video Transcript

[Video: The words “IU” on crimson banner left]

[Video: The word “DAY” on red banner right]

[Video: Two banners come together to form IU DAY banner]

[Words appear and encircle top and bottom of IU Day banner: ALL IU. ALL DAY.]

[Words appear on black film strip with IU DAY banner at top: HIDDEN GEMS OF IU: FRANCES MORGAN SWAIN STUDENT BUILDING]

[Video: Man walking toward the entrance of the Frances Morgan Swain Student Building as bells chime]

[Words appear: The Student Building’s 105-foot clock tower is one of IU’s recognizable landmarks.]

[Video: Man climbing steps in a stairwell]

[Words appear: The tower houses a 14-bell chime, which automatically chimes each quarter hour.]

[Video: Man opens door and enters a brick-faced room with a small window]

[Words appear: Only a handful of Hoosiers have ever seen the room where the chime is played.]

[Video: Hands operating wood levers; Moves to a view of man sitting on a bench reading music as he operates wood levers.]

[Words appear: Each one of these 14 levers rings one bell.]

[Video: Looking up at the spiral staircase and vertical cable bell pulls inside the tower; Digital control panel with date and time displayed on the screen]

[Words appear: Patrick Fischer, curator of organs and carillons at IU, plays “Hail to Old I.U.” every Friday.]

[Video: Patrick’s hands operating wood levers.]
It’s a tradition that began when the first chime was installed in 1906.

The original chime had eleven bronze bells.

They fell on December 17, 1990, when a fire destroyed the tower.

The new chime was installed when the new tower was rebuilt in 1991.

This hidden gem can be enjoyed all over campus.