



# Perspectives

...interior design news  
and views

June 2017  
Volume 9 Issue 2

Villa Maria College Interior Design Program, 240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225, [www.villa.edu](http://www.villa.edu)

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## The Spring Semester in Review

### Interior Design by the Numbers 2016 - 2017

During the 2016-17 academic year: -

- 4 Interior Design students were conferred Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees
- 1 student earned their Associate in Applied Science degree
- 1 of our 4 BFA graduates is completing her senior internship this summer while another is continuing to pursue her academic interest in architecture at Alfred State College.
- 2 students, Melanie Bruning and Renee Falsken, were inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma Honors Society.

Employment statistics are in for our 2016 graduating class, with 6 students receiving BFA degrees. 5 are working in the field, and 1 is still completing a senior internship.

In fall 2016 we accepted 15 students into the program. 12 started as freshmen and 3 were transfer students. 7 students will be continuing their studies in interior design. 3 of these students are in the Villa honors program. All 3 transfer students will be continuing in interior design as well.

## Distinguished Students of the Year

The Annual Interior Design Student Exhibit opened Friday, February 26, 2016, in the Paul William Beltz Family Art Gallery with a reception hosted by the In Club.

During a private review a panel of invited guests and faculty juried the projects in the main gallery and selected the three distinguished students of the year. This year's recipients are:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** - Melanie Daniels '18

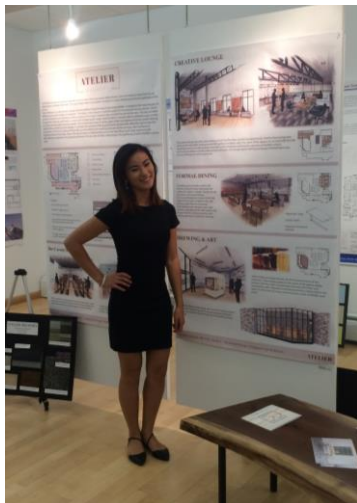
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - Melanie Bruning '17

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - Ryan Morley '18

**Freshman Best of Show recipient:**

Allissa Galenski '20 Freshman Color Rendering

*Prizes were courtesy of Eaton Office Supply, Prentice Office Interiors, Millington Lockwood, Norm Cramer Furniture + Design and Seneca Blueprint.*



*Melanie Daniels with her ASID NYU-CE award winning project and the table donated by Norm Cramer for her Villa first place prize.*



Melanie Daniels, Ryan Morley and Melanie Bruning, with NY11+ founder Ruth Lynford at the Haworth Showroom, NYC



Villa's space at the Show House featuring glass butterfly installation on the ceiling, original watercolors on the wall, wooden frames fabricated in the shop with suspended terrariums courtesy of room and a leather shag carpet

## New York Eleven Plus (+)

The 2017 New York Eleven (+) student exhibit was held at the Haworth showroom on Park Avenue. Our distinguished students prepared the Villa exhibit and attended the opening reception together with faculty advisor and NY 11+ board member, Sandra Reicis.

As part of this year's NY 11+ opening ceremonies, Emily Bolles represented Villa Maria College alumni as a guest panelist together with graduates from the New York School of Interior Design and the New York Institute of Technology. The three panelists responded to questions and comments about pursuing careers in related fields. Emily Bolles works as the Construction Coordinator for the Hamister Group in Buffalo, NY.

## IN Club Activities

The IN Club has officially been named an IIDA Campus Center. One of the first official activities was the Box Lunch Lecture with Candice Urban-Green, principal of BoxCraft Design.

Jessica Utley from Richelieu Products was welcomed on campus for a pizza lunch presentation and product display.

### **Special In-Club Project and Villa Service Learning: Junior League of Buffalo Decorator Show House**

The Villa proposal for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hallway at the 2017 Decorator Show House was a huge success. This year marked the highest level of student participation across all classes. Jesse Walp and Bethany Krull contributed professional art work, while students together with Sandra Reicis painted 16 original watercolors. Sister Kelly worked with Renee Falsken, Ryan Morley, Stacey Skurzewski and others to create a one of a kind sculptural installation of 37 glass butterflies as well as a glass window screen. The IN Club provided funds for furniture and accessories and room on Hertel Avenue loaned glass terrariums to hang from wooden frames crafted by Tyler Spahr in our Art Shop.

## ASID 2017 Student Competition Upstate New York – Canada East Region

The first place winner of the regional ASID student competition was Melanie Daniels, for her Atelier Restaurant project. The project is pictured on page 1. Melanie wins a cash award, as well as a ticket for the Awards Ceremony in Ithaca, NY.

## Honors Convocation

At the annual Honors Convocation, interior design honors included Renee Falsken and Melanie Bruning inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma Honors Society. Also, this year's recipient of the Interior Design Outstanding Student of the Year award was Ryan Morley. Ryan serves as IN Club president and student board member of the Buffalo Architectural Foundation. He has volunteered for numerous service learning and professional development projects, including Festival of Trees, Junior League of Buffalo Decorator Show House, the Villa Maria College Foyer Project, Arch + Ed and many more.

## Faculty News

We are very happy to welcome Veronica (Bassano) Ryskalczyk as part time faculty. She is Director of Interior Design at Scheid Architectural, has NCIDQ and LEED GA and will be teaching IND 310 Studio 4. This past semester she partnered with Sandra Reicis in IND 311 Studio 5.

Professor Sandra Reicis attended the IDEC National Conference in Chicago, Illinois March 8-12, 2017. She also attended the CIDA workshop together with Assistant Professor Jesse Walp

Jesse Walp together with his wife, Bethany Krull, had a joint sculpture exhibition titled 'Entwined' in April 2017 at the Indigo Gallery, Buffalo.

Adjunct faculty Sister Ann Therese Kelly attended the annual winter board meeting of the Stained Glass Association of America (SGAA) and Stained Glass School in Kansas City, MO January 11-15, 2017. She successfully led a certification initiative which will mean that Villa Maria students who successfully complete the IND 225 Introduction to Stained and Leaded glass will now earn certification through the SGAA.

Sister Kelly has also been completing glass projects for Sacred Heart Academy in Amherst and now teaches a glass class for senior students at the academy.

Adjunct faculty Doris Collins announces a first for the IND 308 Historic Restoration/Preservation course. Students were able to apply their restoration skills as well as design skills to complete an entire space, the Mezzanine conference room at Shea's Performing Arts Center.

Instructor Paul Brinkworth continues to participate in art and craft shows, exhibiting and selling both his paintings and sculptures.

## Italy 2017 – Villa Study Abroad

This year there were 14 participants who travelled to Italy from May 24 - June 4, 2017. We stayed in Venice, Florence, Rome and Sorrento and visited Naples and Pompeii. Five students enrolled in the study abroad seminar and will earn 3 credits towards their degree. The weather was beautiful and our itinerary was robust. Our tour guides were of the highest caliber and were all impressed with the interest and attentiveness of the Villa students. We were fortunate that many of our tours were extended and enhanced as a result. Our historic preservation specialist joined us on our trip as well. A presentation on the trip will be scheduled for the Fall semester. In the interim, plans for Study Abroad 2019 are underway with Barcelona, Valencia, Madrid and Lisbon on the proposed schedule.



*Students from the IND 308 Historic Restoration/Preservation course, from left Briana Chriss, Siera Rogers, Lauren Kielma, Tyler Spahr, Betty Green, Jamie Wesolowski and Melissa Marsh in the Mezzanine Conference Room at Shea's Performing Arts Center. The walls are painted using restoration skills and techniques learned in class and the wall images were selected by students, yet to be framed, but arranged for placement.*



*St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City in the background with the entire Villa group*

## IIDA Panel Discussion *Exploring Design*

On Wednesday, January 25 the IIDA Buffalo City Center hosted a panel discussion for Interior Design students in the Villa Maria College Library titled 'Exploring Design - Foundations for a Successful Project'. Area design professionals presented recent work and shared strategies for successful projects, followed by a networking session allowing students to engage with the attendees and speakers. Students from the ECC Architectural Technology program were also in attendance.

Panelists included:

**Laura Shoemaker**, CID, NCIDQ, Facilities Planner, Roswell Park Cancer Institute - Villa alum

**Lee Schlatterer**, Senior Designer, Carmina, Woods, Morris - Villa alum

**Todd Piotrowski**, Senior Designer, Carmina, Woods, Morris - Villa alum

**Carly Owcazrczak**, CID, NCIDQ, LEED AP BD+C, Clark, Patterson, Lee




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*"This was a great event.  
I learned so much about  
how design really  
happens" - Villa student*

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## Advisory Council

The Interior Design Advisory Council is pleased to welcome new council members Beth Tauke, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor from the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning, Michelle Peller White, Interior Designer and current president of the Interior Design Association of Western New York and John Brandon, president of Aerie Design Services, former designer for Herman Miller Canada and graduate of the London College of Furniture in London, England. The council met to assess program facilities, review a student presentation and discuss critical issues pertaining to the teaching, learning and practice of interior design as part of the CIDA self-study process. The council meeting also focused on recruitment strategies. The faculty and administration at Villa are deeply grateful for the dedication and commitment that is demonstrated by our advisory council.



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## Upcoming Events

**Faculty Exhibit**  
August 23 - September 15, 2017

**First Day of Classes**  
August 28, 2017

**College Fall Holiday**  
October 9-10, 2017

**CIDA Site Visit**  
November 18 - 21, 2017

**Final Critique**  
December 8, 2017

**Last Day of Classes**  
December 11, 2017

**Spring Student Exhibit**  
April 13 - 27, 2018