Thompson reflects on one year in office

History teacher Miss Brittany M. Thompson tackled a new role at Villa Maria this year: Dean of Students.

Hannah Rosenberger
Editor-in-Chief

As Dean of Students, Thompson wants to bring more creative and meaningful elements to her job beyond just the routine.

On the job, which Thompson described as “situational,” she had to learn to handle the gray areas between the lines of the handbook.

“I think there is an art and a science to being an administrator: the science is the handbook, and the art is how you deal with it, realizing that everyone’s got their own situations,” she said.

By embracing this philosophy, Thompson places emphasis on learning from mistakes over demerits or detentions. While discipline is necessary to keep order at school, “learning experiences” take precedence.

“Things that happen in this office are about learning experiences. It’s not about consequences; it’s not about punishments. It’s okay to fail; it’s okay to make a mistake as long as we learn from it,” Thompson said. “[That’s why I wanted to] bring in more learning moments because I think they’re the most important parts of high school.”

In taking this approach, Thompson sought to provide more experiences that would expose students to vital life lessons that they can take beyond their four years in high school. One such attempt was the speaker Katie Kintner, from the sexual assault awareness organization Respect My Red, who gave a presentation in April to students.

Julie Satterthwaite
Assistant Editor

“Winning the state championship last year and continuing with a strong season this year, these five lacrosse players helped the team succeed. All five of these students have been playing lacrosse for most of their lives. Delaney has played since she was in first grade and Finley and Carden have played since they were in third grade. Young says that she can’t remember a time in her life when she wasn’t playing lacrosse: “There is a picture of me with a stick in my hand when I was three years old. I’ve been playing it forever,” Young said.

While the players have been involved in the sport for what seems like forever, they all agreed that scoring that 100th goal was an amazing experience that they will never forget.

“It felt very special, and it couldn’t have happened without all of my amazing teammates, and it was such a fun time celebrating with them,” Carden said. “It was a milestone that I always hoped I would achieve in high school, and to do it was such a good feeling.”

>>> continued on pg. 4
The best summer summer

Congratulations, Villa. We have survived another year. How will we be rewarded for the hours of dedication we put into our school work? With three books to read and multiple AP packets to do over our marvelous summer break. Now, before we go out burning textbooks in an angry mob, whining about how unfair it is to have to complete summer work, let’s think this through.

Let’s get one thing straight: A break from school is extremely important. Nevertheless, we all know the feeling when we’re sitting in math on the first day of classes, and we can’t remember what 2 x 3 is because we haven’t had to actually multiply numbers in three months. This is where summer work has its back. It keeps all of our academic knowledge fresh in our brains so that everything we learned over the summer doesn’t fall into the abyss during the three months of no school.

Although seemingly evil to many, summer work is extremely beneficial to AP students and teachers. When circumstances call for AP classes to end earlier than standard honors and CP classes because of AP exams in May, it makes perfect sense to begin covering material over the summer months. This makes less hectic for students when they have to contend with the stress of their other classes as well. So while having to do work when we’d rather be lying out on the beach isn’t ideal, essentially, it is saving us a couple hours of sleep during the school year.

In the end, summer work isn’t the big bad wolf we all make it out to be. Ideally, by completing summer work students are getting ahead for the school year, using their time management skills, and keeping themselves academically informed. Better to complete the course work now than during a random week in October while simultaneously studying for three tests. So this summer, during the few moments spent sitting inside reading textbook pages instead of lying out on the beach, just remember that our future self will thank us.

Advice from the class of 2019

2023

Don’t change yourself for other people. Find yourself and what you stand for.

Enjoy every moment: every lunch, walk on the path, dance. It’ll fly by.

Don’t feel like you have to change your self to make friends. You’ll find your people. Don’t be afraid to get involved.

The Villa environment can be intimidating at times and might make you doubt yourself; remember that Villa accepted you because Villa WANTED you.

Take your time, don’t try to rush through high school. It goes by in like four days.

Work hard to build a strong foundation for your GPA.

Make as many friends as possible and don’t be shy! Be nice to everyone, you never know what people are going through.

2022

Join in as many activities as possible. Get active and learn your studying techniques.

Don’t feel pressured into taking AP classes.

Do not wish time away because you will blink and it will be over.

Wow! Sophomore year... Sophomore means “wise fool.” Make smart decisions this year.

Don’t get a big head! You girls have been here for a year, and you think you have it all figured out. Things will go sideways sometimes, so be ready!

You can never have too many friends. Expand your circle, and grow closer to more of your classmates!

Remember you can still change your friends; nothing is set in stone. Always be yourself and remove yourself from situations that are not helpful.

Make a plan for yourself.

2021

You will get through this year! Everything will be okay, you’ll get through. Try and sleep when you can, and don’t be afraid to ask for help!

There were: Know your limits.

Junior year can be a lot but try to get ahead if you can! Don’t get caught up in it, though, make sure you spend time with friends.

You can do this! This year will be difficult, but you will survive!

Spend time studying for SATs/ACTs, but remember your score does not define you.

Don’t take everything too seriously; it’s not the end of the world.

Take each day one at a time. Find something to smile about even on your worst days. Everyone gets through the college and tough school stuff, so there is no need to worry.

2020

Live your life! Have fun and enjoy the last moments. It’s the end of Villa, but it’s a start to a great new beginning.

Cherish the people you have in your life.

The final lap. This is it. Enjoy every moment: lunch, walk on path, game, performance, hug from a friend. Before you know it, it’ll be your last.

You’ve made it to senior year, but you can’t just slack off now. There’s still a lot you have to do, so stay focused!

Your schoolwork is still important but so is your mental health. Listen to others’ advice, but make your own decisions. Worry about yourself and your own best interest; don’t compare yourself to the girl next to you. Collaborate, don’t compete.

Don’t let all of the things you need to do ruin your last year at Villa.

Start college applications in the summer! You will be thanking yourself in the fall.

Cherish every day. Laugh at the bad days. Take lots of mental pictures and put friends/family before school.

Senior stories

As senioritis set in for the class of 2019, they had some...moments of lapse in judgment. Read their stories here.

I fell asleep in the senior lounge and woke up to a tour being given to prospective parents and students.

Forgetting to wear my socks to school.

I forgot to bring my backpack to school.

Pulling several all nighters to spend time with friends in the two weeks of AP testing.

I turned in a paper at 3:00 a.m. a week late.

I applied to the wrong program on an Early Decision college application and didn’t realize until four months after I received my legally binding letter of acceptance and my deposit was already paid. Luckily, after some research, I fell in love with the program I was accidentally accepted into.

Lesson: There’s always the potential for something good to come out of a situation you think is doomed!

My friend accidentally ran over my foot, but I was fine! Nothing broken or even hurt.

By creating June and July deadlines, teachers are doing their best to save students from having to face a mountain of work with one week left of August. However, summer deadlines aren’t always conducive to students’ summer schedules. In the midst of summer jobs, college programs, and family travels, it can be tough for students to hit multiple mid-summer deadlines in a graceful manner. Students should be utilizing the time management skills that they perfected during the school year to fight the urges of procrastination.

In the end, although intending to be beneficial, summer work leaves students pulling their hair out rather than peacefully completing a few extra assignments over their time off.

So let’s all agree to zip up our backpacks on the last day of school...and keep them closed.

The grind should stop

After nearly 180 days of tirelessly completing homework assignments, endlessly studying for tests and quizzes, and repetitively chewing iced coffee, we’re made to it in summer. So start packing beach bags full of new bathing suits and bottles of sunscreen, but don’t forget to save room for heavy textbooks so that you can complete all of your summer assignments in time for the new school year.

While summer work can be beneficial in some circumstances, it often reaches a point of becoming excessive. Our time off should be spent relaxing with a lot of academics sprinkled in, rather than spent buried under new textbooks in what may feel like (to a teenage girl) academic solitary confinement. Therefore, in an effort to keep summer work controlled, it would be helpful to set a few guidelines.

Nothing is more frustrating than sitting in class in March reading a book we were required to read over the summer, thinking about how we could have posted an extra weeks worth of beach pictures in June. Summer work makes sense when it saves students and teachers from having to go over content during the year, but it feels like a waste of time when the material is revisited in class months later.

Even in cases where summer work is a necessity, it can be challenging for students to submit coursework during the summer months.

By creating June and July deadlines, teachers are doing their best to save students from having to face a mountain of work with one week left of August. However, summer deadlines aren’t always conducive to students’ summer schedules. In the midst of summer jobs, college programs, and family travels, it can be tough for students to hit multiple mid-summer deadlines in a graceful manner. Students should be utilizing the time management skills that they perfected during the school year to fight the urges of procrastination.

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Inside Villa Maria’s biggest brain

Understand what makes this year’s Valedictorian click.

Alivia Orvieto
Editor-in-Chief

Senior Valedictorian Olivia Hall succeeds in school by finding balance and discovering her personal system.

In the beginning of high school, Hall’s main focus was on her school work. “I often fell into the trap of becoming an academic robot,” she stated. However, during her junior year, she began to understand the importance of striking a balance between her academic and personal life.

“As I progressed and matured I realized that there is so much more to high school and life for that matter than academics,” Hall stated. Hall finds herself busy with many activities both in and out of school. She is the co-president of the Bio Club, a member of the Mission and Ministry executive board, and participates in National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society, Math Honor Society, PA Math League, altar serving, Global Sisterhood Initiative, and a volleyball team.

Since she is involved in so much, she must understand what value it is for her to plan out her week.

“I think it’s important to use your own organization system and figure out what works best for you,” she stated. “For consistent academic achievement, Hall has had to give up the things that bring her temporary happiness, like Netflix, and decide how to better spend her time.

“I’ve always been the type of person that if I can teach it to someone else, I probably know it,” she stated. “Since I don’t always have an audience at my disposal, you can catch me on many a night talking to the window about physics.”

For consistent academic achievement, Hall has had to give up the things that bring her temporary happiness, like Netflix, and decide how to better spend her time.

“I do my best to prioritize the things that make me the happiest, such as time with family,” she stated. Hall had second-guessed if all the years of hard work, stress, and discipline were worth it. After receiving a college scholarship for academics, she admitted that it was worth it.

“Honestly, alleviating that financial stress for my family was incredibly rewarding, so I do believe it was worth it,” she stated. Hall will be attending Villanova in the fall to study mechanical engineering. In addition to keeping up with academics in college, she hopes to improve on her networking skills to secure summer internships in the future. To other students looking to reach Hall’s level of academic excellence, follow her message of advice.

“Try to swallow the frogs as Mark Twain puts it. Do it, possible, do the thing you’re dreading the most early in the day so you can be productive throughout its remainder,” she stated. “If you feel as though you are caving under pressure and stress, take a moment to evaluate whether what you are focusing on will be important in 10 years, chances are it won’t.”

Changes made to next year’s calendar

Ms. Linda Henderson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, shares new changes to the calendar for the upcoming school year.

Anna Heppelmann ’21
Villa Life Editor

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction discusses the process of various schedule changes as well as feedback she has received from teachers, students, and faculty.

Principal Sister Regina Ryan, IHM has received numerous questions over the last few years from parents about possibly moving spring break, which prompted her to send out a survey regarding schedule changes this past January.

“[Sister Regina] wanted to throw [the survey] out to all her constituents—the students, the parents, and the faculty and see what they thought. She was willing to let the decision be in their hands,” Henderson stated. The survey included a section where students and parents could make additional comments.

“The parents who wanted to move [spring break] cited other school’s children are in, who have it in the last week of March, primarily Malvern. Malvern made the move to this year,” Henderson said.

With such a late Easter in 2019, Henderson felt it was a long haul from Christmas to spring break, which may be the reason many other students and parents voted to move spring break to the end of March.

“We had 519 responses total, and it came out that 67% wanted to move [spring break]. We had 202 total students respond to it and half of them wanted to move it, and it was pretty much the same for the parents,” Henderson stated.

Henderson and other staff members had to consider different possibilities if they were to move spring break.

“We’re going to have the high holy days around Easter off; that will remain the same,” Henderson said. “I guess the one thing comes up when Easter is super early and falls the last week of March, how many years is that going to happen?”

Henderson did not hear much feedback from the parents regarding mini-term but felt the students seemed to enjoy it this year.

“Some of the difficulties we ran into were scheduling issues,” she said. “There were some sports [events]. I know and I know some students involved in club sports had [commitments] during that same time, which posed a conflict. Otherwise, [from] the students that I participated, I heard pretty positive things.”

Next year, the name for mini-term will go back to J-Term and will occur immediately after returning from Christmas Break in January, but there are many aspects, such as the length of time, about J-term that are still up for discussion.

“It’s still in the works,” Henderson stated. “It is going have more of a service focus. The faculty discussed it right around the same time mini-term was happening, and everybody really liked the idea [of altering the calendar] and having a service focus as a community.”

‘S.O.S.: Jonas Brothers are ‘Burnin’ Up’

Just when we thought they were “Goodnight and Goodbye,” 2019 is officially the year of the Jonas Brothers.

Hannah Stethura ’20
Reporter

“Does the Jonas Brothers’ new music really live up to the hype or should it go back on the ‘Shell’?”

Imagine: it’s 2007, and you’ve just gotten your first-ever CD titled “Jonas Brothers” with a picture of three teenage boys on the very James Bond-esque first-ever CD titled “Jonas Brothers” with a picture of three teenage boys on the very James Bond-esque album they’re releasing on June 7, in case you’ve never is Kevin? How is he doing? Is he fine?

“Married to Jonas” or “Nick Jonas and the Admin Frontenac-Ohlouz-Music and Sophia Ortega on set book day during mini-mester class in March. Next year’s students will participate in J-term activities that will be more service-oriented. / Charm Polk

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MISSION STATEMENT
The Villa Voice is a student-run publication created to inform the Villa Maria community with truthful and relevant information. We strive to give students a safe outlet for their opinions and accurately represent the student body of Villa Maria.

EDITORIAL POLICY
The unsigned editorial is to represent the student voice of The Villa Voice. The unsigned editorial is not an anonymous column. It is an opinion piece written by appointed students on the Editorial Board.

SUBMISSIONS
Submissions from any students in the Villa Maria community are encouraged, specifically letters to the editor and feedback. Submissions must include name and email verification, and anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Not all submissions are published.

JOINING OUR STAFF
Students are welcome to join the staff as contributors throughout the school year. Members are required to attend at least one monthly meeting. Please contact a staff member listed below for more information.

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VILLA NEWS
June 2019

The Villa Voice
Young felt immense gratitude for her teammates and friends, as she felt that they made this experience so memorable.

"I just wanted to thank them specifically. They made it such an amazing time and such a day I’ll always remember," she said. "They all ran over to the field and hugged me, and my friends made a poster on the sidelines. The Villa community just made it ten times more exciting for me." As she was anticipating her 100th goal, Finley, who is verbally committed to play in college at Drexel University, was nervous but excited. "It was such an exciting feeling, so I was nervous leading up to the goal, but I was so happy and overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from my teammates and coaches when I scored the goal," she said.

Finley will be playing lacrosse next year at Franklin and Marshall University and hopes to only get better at the sport at the collegiate level.

"My next goal for lacrosse is to continue improving my skills and to have a successful college career," she said. "Lacrosse has taught me so much, and I want to take these lessons to the next level." Last year, as a sophomore, Young finished the season with 95 goals, ending the season with her 100th goal in sight. This season, though, she broke her hand in one of the earlier games. It was a hard blow to come back from, but with the help of her teammates, she was able to return to the field sooner than expected.

"They were always encouraging me to come back to practice, and they were my biggest support when I was out," Young said. "It was really exciting when I was able to return to the field sooner than expected.

Young has committed to playing lacrosse at the University of Massachusetts since she finished high school. She is excited for this next step in her lacrosse career. "My goal is to continue to succeed in my career and to have a successful career," Young said.

Young's memories of her experience at Villa Maria continue to be special to her, and she hopes that this year's team is able to win it again.

"I hope going forward that we can build on our program and win Districts and States for the second year in a row," she said. With the lacrosse team District 1 Champions and currently competing in States, the whole Villa Maria community can't wait to see them on the field.

AskMrs HASHAGEN

You asked; she answered. What does the Counseling Department have to say about your most pressing questions?

Do you feel that students should come to Counseling more often?

One of the best answers is YES! But really, we want every student to feel comfortable visiting the counseling offices if she needs to. We are able to help with so many different parts of your life at Villa and beyond. That's why we want to change the word "counseling" to "support". When you come to the field and bigger as you want! The Counseling Department is a support for you when you need it most. The more you know and trust your counselor the better the support, and we absolutely love getting to know you better. So, stop by and give us an update on your most recent game or performance. Let us know when you're struggling or doing really well in a class. Fill us in on the things that make you happy or the changes when you're not feeling your best. We are truly a "judgment-free zone" and are here for you no matter what. And don’t forget there’s usually a bowl of candy and a adorable dog if you need further incentive to pay us a visit!

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you? What is the best advice you ever gave someone else?

Hands down the best advice I’ve ever received comes from my Dad, "Mind your pinch points." Back in the days of factory work, this warning was posted everywhere as a reminder to keep an eye on where the machinery was or you risked serious harm. My dad translated the phrase to apply to everyday life; be aware of the surroundings, be careful of the people you associate with, and never put yourself in a situation that you can’t get out of. This advice has taken me from the playground, to college, to the workplace and always helped me respect my own boundaries and stay safe.

The best advice I’ve given someone else probably depends on who you ask, but my favorite advice to give is to “follow your own path” or for someone you who know me, and my love of driving analogs, “drive your own car.” It’s really easy to be enamored with the fancy new car that pulls you up alongside at a red light. You imagine the glamorous places that car is going, and you wish it was you driving it. I can assure you, your car and your destination are designed for YOU. Who knows, maybe that fancy car ends up in a fender bender the very next day or is driving to a boring seminar while you’re on a Target run, blasting your favorite playlist. Suddenly the rust on your own car doesn’t seem so bad. I truly believe you are your happiest when you listen to your gut and trust that the winding path that unfolds in front of you may not make sense to you now but ultimately leads you to exactly where YOU are meant to end up. The sunny days of summer: highlighting student lifeguards

Dive into the experiences of student lifeguards.

Madeline Ladd ’21
Villa Life Editor

Junior Caitlin Hamill ’20, Catie Mannato ’20, Emma Sweeney ’20, and Caroline Wellington ’20 spend their summer days working by the pool.

School is out, summer is here, and students cannot wait to spend long days by the pool without a care in the world.

However, for some girls, their summer jobs are just beginning, and they have a big responsibility ahead of them. Several students are employed as part-time lifeguards at local pools, working long hours in the heat for up to eight hours a day and helping to keep their communities safe.

Junior Caitlin Hamill lifeguards during swim sessions at Urones College and also acts as a swim instructor when she is not lifeguarding.

“My favorite part of lifeguarding is watching some of the younger [kids] have fun while learning to swim,“ Hamill said. “The kids are always so happy! I also like to make sure everyone is safe while having a good time.”

Junior Catie Mannato has lifeguarded for one summer and currently is employed at Nine Oaks Swim Club in Kennett Square.

“Lifeguarding at Nine Oaks is unique because the guards mostly consist of all current or past members of the Nine Oaks Swim Team, so we are a close, tight-knit community,” Mannato said. “Lifeguarding at Nine Oaks is unique because the guards mostly consist of all current or past members of the Nine Oaks Swim Team, so we are a close, tight-knit community.”

Junior Caitlin Hamill lifeguards during swim sessions at Urones College and also acts as a swim instructor when she is not lifeguarding.

"Lifeguarding at Nine Oaks is unique because I’ve been able to make so fun special to me, and I love hanging out with my work friends outside of work," Mannato said.

As school lets out for the summer, these girls will be ensuring the safety of their pools while hard at work in the sun. Getting to be outside makes it so much more enjoyable, and by a positive group of people makes lifeguarding a job that is fun, rewarding, and unique.

Thompson’s history at Villa Maria, as a teacher and an administrator, ensures that she has the students’ and the school’s best interests at heart.

“I’ve been here for nine years. I taught algebra here and I was hired right after I student taught. I can’t buy into Villa any more than I already do,” she said. “But where are we going? As Villa, we know who we are and where we are going. I hope we have a lot of competition in the area, so what makes Villa, Villa? What can we do to take ourselves 10 years, 20 years [forward]?”

I can’t buy into Villa any more than I already do. Shark attack. My Red back in December, it just seemed like something that should come from my office. That was one of the highlights of the year for me. She could not have been a better fit.”

Looking forward, Thompson has three ideas and plans about how to involve students more in the maypole and to do the nice aspects of her job. In conjunction with the Student Advisory Board, which she says is comprised of "the student leaders of the textbook," Thompson is discussing a change to the current disciplinary model.

“We’re looking at maybe implementing an Honor Counsel model, where some of the lesser things on the dementals can be handled by students,” she said. “As a student who’s 15, what do you think a consequence should be that’s fair but drives the point home?”

Thompson has the flexibility, willingness for change, and care for her students that helps fuel this drive to move Villa Maria forward. However, she also has to handle the more disciplinarian tasks, like deeming it such an amazing time and feeling it such an amazing time and feeling adorable.

Caitlin also works as a lifeguard at Glenhardie Country Club in King of Prussia.

“My favorite part of lifeguarding is having such fun coworkers,” Sweeney said. “The friendships that I’ve been able to make are so special to me, and I love hanging out with my work friends outside of work.”

All four girls agreed that the people they are surrounded by improve their work environments and reflected on the perks of being outside.

“Getting to paid to sit in the sun, plus the free ice popsicles, is just an added bonus of lifeguarding,” Mannato said.

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