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Colonial Dames in Indiana select Herron student's design for official pin



(l to r) Selection committee members Lisa Liles, Betsy Cochran and Gay Dwyer wearing their pins.
Image credit: Herron staff

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) in the State of Indiana www.nscda-indiana.org has adopted Herron School of Art and Design student **Jennifer Jackson**'s design for its official pin. "She did an exceptional job of capturing the uniqueness of our Society. She really did her research," said **Betsy Cochran**, a member of the selection committee.

The Indiana Society came to Herron looking for someone to design 100 custom pins for its members. As far as the selection committee members know, none of the other 43 societies, from North Carolina to Hawaii, has approached an art school or had a custom piece of jewelry fabricated to identify its members.

Jackson, a senior from South Bend who is working on an Integrative Studio Practice degree with an emphasis in furniture design, said the committee "wanted a pin that would well represent the Indiana Society and yet would be harmonious with the national pin. They wanted something that did not look like it was ordered from a catalog."

Researching the organization gave Jackson "respect for the work they do in education and historic preservation." She toured the Lanier Mansion, a grand, Greek Revival home in Madison, a gift to the State of Indiana from the descendants of frontier banker J. F. D. Lanier. Indiana's Colonial Dames help support the house's restoration.

"That's where I got the inspiration for some of the design elements," Jackson said. The fan-shaped pin includes nods to the mansion's ironwork and moldings and the tulip poplar, Indiana's state tree. Jackson also took cues from the David Lenz House in New Harmony, which Indiana's Colonial Dames own.

There are 126 Indiana members of the NSCDA, which has more than 15,000 members. Founded in 1891, the organization preserves history and encourages all Americans to know the story of America's founding and development. Members have ancestors who were here prior to July 5, 1776 and rendered significant service to the country's founding.

The commission came because member **Gay Dwyer** knew of Herron's Basile Center for Art Design and Public Life www.Basilecenter.org. "We had a wonderful experience with the Basile Center," said Cochran. "We had a lot of fun collaborating with the students at Herron and tapping into their creative energy. It worked out beautifully. We could not be more pleased."

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