

# KNIGHTLINE

BISHOP LUDDEN ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

*There have been many Bishop Ludden graduates over the years who have given of their time and talent and three of them are highlighted in this issue of Knightline. The accomplishments of Mike Gasapo, Dr. Robert Fangio and Dr. Joan Thorton are inspiring. There are also many students currently walking the halls of Ludden who have already accomplished great things. Kudos to them as well. Enjoy your summer and this expanded issue of your alumni newsletter.*

## ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Brenda Reichert  
Principal

Mr. John Bruzdinski  
Assistant Principal

Ms. Abbie Hoffmann  
Administrative Intern  
Academics

Mr. Gallagher Driscoll  
Director of Enrollment  
Management & Special  
Events / Interim Athletic  
Director

Ms. Andrea Marshall  
Director of Development

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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\*Ex-Officio Members

## Honoring Our Veterans

When Honor Flight Syracuse's Mission touched down at Washington National Airport last April, more than 80 military veterans were aboard thanks to the tireless work of **Mike Gasapo, a 1973 Bishop Ludden graduate**. Honor Flight Syracuse has completed seven missions since its establishment in 2012, bringing more than 450 veterans to DC. Gasapo, a retired Marine, serves on the board as the operations director.

The organization brings veterans, free of charge, to the nation's capital to see the monuments built in their honor. The Syracuse chapter is among more than 140 Region Hubs across the country. Accompanied by guardians, volunteers, and nursing students from Le Moyne College, the Syracuse chapter's daylong visit includes the WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Marine Corps, and Air Force Memorials, as well as the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. Everyone is invited to Syracuse's Hancock Airport to welcome the veterans home at the end of the day.

"I do it because first of all I'm a vet," Gasapo said, noting that his father, wife, and son are also military veterans. "I do it to give back to all of the people that I served with and the memories of all those people who didn't come home."

Gasapo and his brother, Jim and later his son, James, attended Ludden. A member of the baseball, football, and basketball teams, Mike Gasapo won awards for athletics and

*continued on page 3*



*Mike Gasapo, pictured right with a veteran and his escort*

**“At Ludden, they had the notion that we should all learn to give back — they instilled that in us.”**

## UPCOMING 2016 EVENTS

**Sunday, September 4**  
Football Season Opener  
Carrier Dome 5pm  
\$8 pre sale tickets  
\$10 at the door. Support the Gaelic Knights as they play Watertown H.S. in this historic game in the Dome!

If interested in purchasing a program ad, please contact Maria Walsh at [mariawalsh@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mariawalsh@twcny.rr.com)

**September 26-30**  
Homecoming Week  
Watch our website for list of activities.

**October 28-30**  
Fall Performance  
Show times and details will be on our website.

**Saturday, November 5**  
16th Annual Bishop Ludden Craft Show 10am-4pm  
Over 125 crafters! Bake sale, raffle, and lunch available. Contact Maria Walsh at 652.6306 or email [luddencraftshow@twcny.rr.com](mailto:luddencraftshow@twcny.rr.com)

**Saturday, December 3**  
4th Annual Fall Sweepstakes  
Tickets are \$50 each! Purchase one for your chance to win a grand prize of \$25,000.

**Wednesday, December 21**  
Christmas Concert 7:00pm

**Saturday, December 31**  
Rosemary Corcoran Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament  
Includes an alumni game. Stay tuned for more information!

## Graduation Memories

Members of the Class of 1966 were on hand to congratulate this year's graduates. Good Luck and God Bless to the Class of 2016!



## Braving the Shave!

Congratulations to Bishop Ludden students Joe Walsh, Kevin Burkhart and Alex Carbonaro for braving the shave in April at the St. Baldrick's Day event held at Kitty Hoynes in Syracuse.

St. Baldrick's participants shave their heads to raise money for childhood cancer research. This year over \$490,000 was raised locally. For more information on the St. Baldrick's Foundation, please visit [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org). 🍀



## Teacher of Excellence Awarded to "Doc O"



Dr. Ostrander, a junior and senior high school science teacher received a New York State Teacher of Excellence Award in May. The award was presented by Senator John DeFrancisco.

"Dr. Ostrander has been a joy to Bishop Ludden since he arrived in 2013", says Principal Brenda Reichert. 'Doc O' as he is affectionately called, continues to seek the best teaching methods and enthusiastically implements them in his classroom. He is a consummate educator, always seeking excellence from himself and his students."

Congratulations, Doc O and thank you for your passionate commitment to Bishop Ludden and your students! 🍀

## Honoring Our Veterans continued from page 1

academics. He also learned about service to others. “At Ludden, they had the notion that we should all learn to give back – they instilled that in us,” he reflects.

After graduation, Gasapo spent a year at Southern Connecticut State University. He then applied and was accepted into the Naval Academy, graduating in 1978. He went on to serve two decades in the Marine Corps. After many years with SRC Inc., he now works for the Linde Corporation.



With the support of many corporate sponsors and a legion of devoted volunteers, Honor Flight Syracuse has grown tremendously since its first mission. But the organization is not resting. “Our goal is to take every vet in Onondaga County down there,” Gasapo said.

To donate, volunteer, or participate in a Syracuse Honor Flight mission, visit [www.honorflightsyracuse.org](http://www.honorflightsyracuse.org). 🍀

## Giving Back to the Community

When **Dr. Robert Fangio, Bishop Ludden Class of 1974**, retired early from a long, happy career as a dentist, his plan was to focus on serving his parish, Holy Family in Fairmount, as a deacon. But it turned out dentistry and ministry were not mutually exclusive for Fangio thanks to a volunteer opportunity with the free dental clinic at Amaus Health Services in Syracuse. Amaus, an all-volunteer outreach of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, provides free health care and dental services to poor and underserved patients.

“The whole concept is wonderful,” Fangio said. “We’re targeted for so many people that are in the middle, people who are homeless, all those who are living day to day, don’t have the insurance, and don’t know where to go.”

Faith and service have long been central to Fangio’s life. Born and raised in Syracuse, his family was “very faith-filled, one of those families that really respected their faith, loved their faith, embraced it,” he said. He was drawn to Ludden where faith was paramount. “Whether it was Masses that we celebrated, classes in religion, community efforts that we did, there was a real bond there”, he remembers.

Citing the comprehensive education he received, Fangio credits Ludden with feeding him academically and spiritually. “I can’t imagine how high school could have fostered me any better than it did at Ludden,” he said. The Fangio’s two daughters, Maria and Monica, would later follow in their father’s footsteps as Gaelic Knights.

As Fangio approached graduation, he thought about a vocation to the priesthood, a career in medicine or teaching. He majored in biology at Le Moyne College, then went on to dental school at the University at Buffalo. The call to ministry never faded, though, and Fangio found himself drawn to the diaconate. With the support of his wife and family, he entered the formation program and was ordained for the Diocese of Syracuse in 2014.

Today, Fangio’s reflects on his service as a deacon and as a volunteer dentist saying, “this is a great blend for me because I’m able to help people medically, I’m very much a part of parish life as a deacon and I have the opportunity to preach and offer programs at Holy Family.” Having considered paths of health service, ministry, and teaching as his time at Ludden ended, Fangio now says, “I think I got them all.”

Amaus Health Services is located at 259 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse. Those needing to see a doctor or dentist or interested in donating services or funds can call (315) 424-1911 or visit [www.cathedralsyracuse.org/amausmedicalservices.html](http://www.cathedralsyracuse.org/amausmedicalservices.html). 🍀



*Dr. Fangio and his wife, Mary*

**“I can’t imagine how high school could have fostered me any better than it did at Ludden.”**

# Reunion Planning Underway

There's no better way to commemorate being a Gaelic Knight than by returning to your Ludden roots to celebrate your reunion! You will reconnect with old friends, make new ones, enjoy special events and have a memorable and fun-filled time.

Reunions are planned by volunteers from each class, and many classes have already started. The Development & Alumni Office is available to assist in a number of ways including providing addresses, ideas, venues and guidance.

If you are interested in being a reunion planner for your class, or if have questions about any alumni program, please contact Andrea Marshall at [amarshall@syrdio.org](mailto:amarshall@syrdio.org) or 315.268.0053. 🍀



**“Life gives us brief moments with one another... but sometimes in those brief moments we get memories that last a lifetime.”** —Unknown



## Calling Class of '66 Alumni!

The Class of 1966 Golden Reunion will be held Friday, September 23, at 6pm at The Blarney Stone in Syracuse. There will be a cash bar, and appetizers will be provided. On Saturday, September 24, we will offer tours of the school in the afternoon followed by a Mass for the deceased members of the class and veterans who have served our country. If you are a veteran or know of any classmates who are, please let us know so we don't leave anyone out.

The reunion dinner will be Saturday evening at 6:30pm. at Bellevue Country Club. The cost is \$65 per person, which includes appetizers, buffet dinner, dessert and two drinks. The cost also covers other expenses associated with the reunion, and any money left over will be used as a donation to the school in honor of the Class of 1966.

For any questions please contact Carolyn McPeak-Fletcher 315-823-0148 or e-mail [carolyn.mcletcher@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.mcletcher@gmail.com) 🍀

## SAVE THE DATE!



**Class of 2006 10 Year Reunion**  
**Friday, November 25, 2016**  
**7pm at Dinosaur BBQ**

For more information, please like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BishopLuddenClassof2006](http://www.facebook.com/BishopLuddenClassof2006) 🍀

# Basketball Standout Inducted Into Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame

Dr. Joan Thornton, Ludden Class of 1976, was inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame last fall. Surrounded by family, friends, former teammates and colleagues, she humbly said, “I never expected this to happen”

Thornton’s modesty belies the many reasons she was included in the 2015 inductee class. At Bishop Ludden, she was an accomplished three-sport athlete, playing basketball, softball and field hockey. She helped take Ludden to the CNY City League and Section III Class B basketball championships two years in a row. She attended Niagara University and was the first women’s basketball player to receive an athletic scholarship, as well as Niagara’s first women’s basketball player to score 1,000 career points. Thornton was also inducted into the Niagara University Athletic Hall of Fame and the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Basketball Hall of Fame Honor Roll Class.

Thornton was the first born of seven children, all of whom attended Holy Family School. She grew up playing sports with her brothers and other neighborhood kids. “We played whatever we could play – kickball, softball, prison break. Anything to keep ourselves outside and



Art by Bob Dorsey, courtesy Dr. Joan Thornton

busy,” she recalled. Basketball, she said, “sort of became my love. It was just the game that I enjoyed the most, it was the game that was easy to practice, it was the game that I could be out in the driveway shooting alone.”

After Niagara, Thornton attended Georgetown University School of Medicine. Her anesthesiology residency brought her home to Syracuse, working at St. Joseph’s Hospital. More than 30 years later, she is still happily practicing anesthesiology there.

Looking back on her careers – sports, academic, professional – Thornton sees the influence of her strong Catholic education and her dedicated teachers and coaches, saying “I don’t think there is any doubt that Ludden was instrumental in my success as a student-athlete and in providing a foundation for a rewarding career in medicine.”

And she only recently gave up playing basketball with her colleagues, due to some bodily wear and tear. But “Joan the Jet” isn’t sitting around – she’s taken up scuba diving since hanging up her sneakers. “Onward and upward to other things in life,” she laughed. 🍀

**“I don’t think there is any doubt that Ludden was instrumental in my success as a student-athlete and in providing a foundation for a rewarding career in medicine.”**

## New Website Launched!

After months of planning, we are proud to launch our new website. The new site gives both insiders to Bishop Ludden, as well as external constituents a glimpse of who we are and what we do. Take a few minutes to browse through the site and see all the wonderful features it offers. Go to our Alumni page and update your contact information so you will be sure to stay on top of exciting Bishop Ludden and alumni news and programs. We are still working on fine tuning some of the details, so please be patient if you see something missing or under construction. We appreciate your patience and welcome you to the new [bishopludden.org](http://bishopludden.org)!

Check out the new Bishop Ludden mobile app!





*Anthony Farino*



*Colleen Murphy*

## Students Honored by Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization

Bishop Ludden is proud to host a school based mentoring program, Big Brothers Big Sisters, to help children reach their full potential by starting friendships, providing guidance and inspiring young students. Our Big Brother Big Sister mentors impact many children in the community with outstanding results. Recently, two students were honored at a local awards ceremony.

The recipient of the Big Brother Big Sister of the Year Award is Anthony Farino. The recipient of the Big Brother Big Sister Michael P. Yeoman Award, presented to a Big Sister for 2 years of service and excellent attendance, and who has greatly impacted her Little Sister is Colleen Murphy. ♣

## Concert Choir Takes Top Honors

The Bishop Ludden Concert Choir won first place in the category of High School Mixed Chorus at the Darien Lake Music Fest '16! There were three choruses competing in that category.

Congratulations to Nico Santone who also won for best overall soloist for the high school division!

Congratulations to all!  
Students who attended Music Fest '16:

*Bridget Brogan, Natalie Fagan, Gabriella Parsons, Alek Aman, Annie Anderson, Karissa Farritor, Olivia Boyea, Nika Kemp, Valerie Brogan, Margaret Galeazza, Ben Hayes, Nico Santone, Anthony Farino, Dan Lacy, Joe Walsh, Zoe Fortin, Lundy Toia, Brooke Ward, Jennifer Macy, Kari Plumridge, Hailey Terchowicz, Benjamin Gross, Anthony Rosado*



*Music Teacher  
Anne Jamison*



## Singin' In The Rain Charms Audiences

Bishop Ludden students presented the classical musical "Singin' In The Rain" this spring.

The crowd sang along with many of the well-known songs, and cheered as the cast performed tricky choreography like seasoned professionals. Well done!

## We Have a New Priest!



Peter Tassini, a 2006 Bishop Ludden graduate, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Syracuse at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on June 4. This young man has chosen to offer his life totally in service to Jesus Christ and his Church. I believe his years at Ludden played

a very significant role in Peter's decision to serve others. It is there that he discovered an environment where it was ok to talk about God, where it was ok to pray, and where it was ok to be a person of virtue.

Father Tassini is one among many students from Bishop Ludden who have chosen to be generous with their lives. I firmly believe that his Catholic education formed his soul to be open to the possibility of being a part of a much greater drama in human life. The Ludden family can be proud of seeing their efforts bear fruit in this newly ordained priest. The Ludden family can be confident that the education we give students is distinctly unique in so far as it prepares our young people for lives of greatness. I personally hope and pray that we continue to see Ludden students be as generous with their lives as Father Tassini because it is in their lives given in loving service that we know we are seeing the "Ludden difference". 🍀

—Father Jason Hage

## Sister Marcia Celebrates Jubilee



Sister Marcia Barry, OSF, has been an integral member of the Bishop Ludden community serving as a guidance counselor and social worker for the past 15 years.

Sister Marcia entered the novitiate in 1965. She was drawn to the Sisters of St. Francis through the selfless examples of the sisters who taught her.

"I think it was the community of faith and their reaching out to people," she said. "It went way beyond school. They were there for the families."

Education has always been her focus. She holds a B.S. in Education from D'Youville College, an M.S. in Religious Studies from Aquinas College, an M.S. in Education from Boston College, and an M.S.W. from Marywood University. Sister Marcia, a native of Mattydale, has taught in schools in Syracuse and New Jersey, and was director of religious education at Immaculate Conception Church in Fayetteville. She also co-directed and ministered at the Franciscan Place at Destiny USA.

To a young woman discerning a call to the religious life, "I would tell them to pray over it and really to try it, to expect the unexpected," Sister Marcia advises. "And no matter what the changes are in the Church, that there will always be a ministry as we change with the needs of the time."

Sister Marcia celebrated her jubilee with her fellow sisters and with a Mass and reception at St. Margaret's in May. Congratulations and many thanks for your dedicated service to Bishop Ludden. 🍀

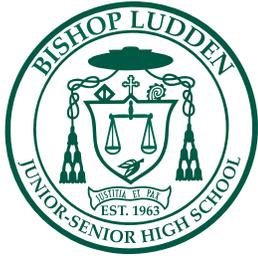
## Giving Back Gives Students a Chance to Succeed

An education is the most valuable gift a person can receive. Nearly 43% of our students benefit from tuition assistance provided by financial aid and our scholarship funds. With the generous support of alumni, friends, and the entire community, we are able to help students realize their potential and fulfill their desire to receive a Bishop Ludden education.

Please consider giving students the opportunity to fulfill their potential at Ludden and the chance to make life long memories like those that make you hold the school close to your heart. Contact Andrea Marshall, Director of Development at [amarshall@syrdio.org](mailto:amarshall@syrdio.org) or 315.468.0053.

*"Thank you for the opportunities you have given me throughout my high school career. I would like to thank you for this scholarship. It really has meant a lot to me throughout school. It pushes me to be the best I can be, because someone believed in me enough to give me a starting chance." ~Sarah '11*

*"Thank you very much for giving me this scholarship. I am very happy at Bishop Ludden and proud to be a student here. I will make the most of my scholarship by continuing to be the best student I can be as well as being a positive role model for others." ~Kevin '17*



Bishop Ludden  
Junior-Senior High School  
815 Fay Road  
Syracuse, NY 13219

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## Show Your Spirit!



Bishop Ludden Limited Edition Spirit Bracelets are now available for \$15. All proceeds benefit the Girls' Volleyball Team. To purchase a bracelet, please contact Mrs. Corcoran in the Main Office at 315.468.2591.

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI We Need Your Help



The Alumni Relations Office is seeking class representatives to help keep our alumni connected and up to date on the great things happening at Bishop Ludden, assist in planning their class reunion as well as to help us keep track of the difference our alumni make in their community every day. For more information on the role of a class representative, please contact Andrea Marshall at amarshall@syrdio.org.

## Where Are You Now?

People are always on the move, and we hope that they will keep us up to date on their whereabouts. If you have a new address, phone number, work and family news, e-mail, or if you know alumni that haven't received this newsletter, please let us know. Contact our Development office at 315-468-0053 or email blhsalumni@syrdiocese.org.

## Ludden at a Glance

  
100%  
Graduation Rate

  
18:1  
Student Teacher Ratio

  
\$6 Million  
In Scholarships and Grants

  
Top 50  
Catholic Schools in America

  
Award Winning  
Theatre Program

  
98%  
Received NYS Regents Diplomas

  
Only  
Full-time Chaplain in CNY

## Keep in Touch!

Phone: 315-468-2591  
www.bishopludden.org

  @bishopludden