

# MYNDERSE ACADEMY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NEWSLETTER

Issue IX

June 2016

## The Class of 2016

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTORS  
PETER WORMUTH – CLASS of 1954  
SENECA FALLS RECREATION DEPT.

HONORED TEAM  
1993 VOLLEYBALL TEAM

FORERUNNER TO TITLE IX  
JANE COOK – CLASS of 1941

INDUCTEES  
DANA DICKSON – CLASS of 1978  
COACH MICHAEL MARRIAM  
STEVE RITTER – CLASS of 1967  
THERESA SHIPLEY – CLASS of 1981

## INDUCTION WEEKEND 2016

The 2016 Induction Class has been selected and announced. It's time to begin thinking about the fall induction ceremony.

The 2016 Induction Ceremony will once again be held at the New York Chiropractic College on Sun., Oct. 9. The cocktail/dining reception will go from 4:30 to 6:00 immediately followed by the Induction Ceremony. Please note that we have delayed the opening from the usual 4:00 to 4:30. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at the Mynderse Academy High School Office or from any HOF committee member. We have been able to keep the cost at \$25.00 per ticket.

The HOF Committee invites all current and past members and their guests to the informal "get together" at the Seneca Falls SMS Lodge on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 6:00-8:00. This event is designed for HOF members, teams and their guests. There is no charge for this event. Substantial appetizers will be provided along with a cash bar. If you're in town, please plan to stop by the SMS, even if it's only for a few minutes. We will be using the downstairs room at the SMS this year.

### CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE INDUCTION?

There's nothing like being there on Induction Sunday, but if you're unable to attend for some reason. FingerLakes1.com will cover the induction ceremony again LIVE. Go to FingerLakes1.com around 5:30 PM on Sunday, Oct. 9.

### Hall of Fame Website

You're invited to check out the MA Athletic Hall of Fame on the Seneca Falls School District website. The website contains information and photos of every Hall of Fame member and team.

Go to the district website at [www.sfcs.k12.ny.us](http://www.sfcs.k12.ny.us) and click on the "Athletics" tab. You should see the link for the Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame.

## WE'VE BEEN LISTENING

At the past few induction ceremonies, HOF Committee members have heard both current and past inductees expressing an interest in visiting Mynderse Academy. In response to this interest, the HOF will conduct a tour of Mynderse and the athletic facilities just prior to the SMS gathering on Saturday Oct. 8. Members of the committee will greet any HOF member and their families at the front entrance to Mynderse at 5:00 PM on Oct. 8. Those people that participate in the tour will be shown some of the changes that have been made in the school since its opening back in the mid 1950's. The tour will also show off the newly renovated Bracht Field and the new track and field venue. Those attending will also get some insight to future possibilities for the school. We hope you'll be able to join us for this new Induction Weekend offering. Once again, this special tour is open to any new or past Hall of Fame member and their family.

## THIS YEAR'S HONORED TEAM 1993 Volleyball Team



**The first and only Section V Championship Girls' Volleyball team.**

**Back Row:** Coach Trish Brewer, Angela Green, Jodi Campbell, Jodie Docteur, Sarah Strussenberg, Colette Watts, Emily Ryan **Middle Row:** Veronica Masino, Elizabeth Giovannetti, Katrina Lorenzetti, Danielle Elias, Kathleen Kelsey **Seated:** Christina Uticone

# MYNDERSE ACADEMY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

## MEMBERS

JERRY ANDERSON - 1992  
JOSEPH AVVEDUTI - 1970  
LISA CARACCILO ANDERSON - 1986  
BETH ANNE BRADSHAW - 1993  
BOB BUCHWALD - 1962  
GARY BULLIS - 1979  
GEORGE CAPACCI - 1971  
DOM "CARTS" CARACCILO - 1952  
DOMINIC CARACCILO - 1980  
GENE CARACCILO - 1955  
LINDSAY GOTHAM CORNUE - 2001  
DANA DICKSON - 1978  
CHRIS DRAGONE - 2002  
COACH GEORGE DAVIS  
COACH MIKE FERRARA - 1975  
LARRY GIUSTI - 1971  
LISA POLZINETTI GALVIN - 1982  
COACH ALAN HENRY  
LEE LETIZIA - 1948  
KRISTA RUSCHAK LONG - 1997  
KAREN LOUCKS - 1977  
JEFFREY MANNING - 1977  
COACH MICHAEL MARRIAM  
DAVE MCNANEY - 1973  
RICHARD "ABE" MEYERS - 1956  
COACH JOHN NICHOLSON  
JOHN PANNUCCI - 1953  
FRAN PISCITELLI - 1966  
MARK PISCITELLI - 1969  
STEVE RITTER - 1967  
LES ROBINSON - 1962  
STEVE SIEGFRIED - 1982  
THERESA SHIPLEY - 1981  
BOB VALESENTE - 1958  
GEORGE VALESENTE - 1962  
ANDREW VERKEY - 1997  
MATT VERKEY - 1992  
ROD VERKEY - 1964  
DAVE WORMUTH - 1959

## LIFETIME CONTRIBUTORS

ART BAKER  
JOHN BRACHT - 1903  
PETER DEBOTTIS  
BRUCE KNAPP, SR. - 1950  
NICK NETTI  
MICHAEL NOZZOLIO - 1969  
DOM PARADISE - 1949  
ANGE SUFFREDINI  
DAVE BAKER  
DR. J. STANLEY MARSHALL  
ELIZABETH BECHT - 1970  
WARREN "SPEED" WORMUTH  
PETER WORMUTH - 1954  
SENECA FALLS RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## MYNDERSE TEAMS

1946 FOOTBALL TEAM  
1938 FOOTBALL TEAM  
1992 BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM  
1985 GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM  
1994 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM  
1952, '53 & '54 BASEBALL TEAMS  
1966 & 1967 WRESTLING TEAMS  
1993 VOLLEYBALL TEAM

## FORERUNNERS TO TITLE IX

ANGIE BANTUVANIS  
HAZEL REYNOLDS WESTFALL - 1958  
BARRIE DOANE CLARK - 1946  
DIANA PANNUCCI - 1957  
1922-23 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM  
JANE COOK - 1941

## Departed Members



The Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame permanent display located in the lobby outside the Arthur L. Baker Gymnasium.

Some good news, we think. The Hall of Fame Committee has not heard of any Hall members passing away since our January 2016 Newsletter. We would remind all members to contact any HOF Committee member, listed below, if they hear of a Hall member that has departed.

### The Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

*Lisa Anderson, Liz Becht,  
John Capacci, Tony Ferrara, John Nicholson, Ted  
Novak, Rod Verkey and Pete Wormuth*

## AN INTERVIEW WITH HALL OF FAME CHAIRMAN, ROD VERKEY



The Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame is looking at its seventh induction this coming October. The past six inductions have been filled with humor, inspiring reminiscence, happiness and some sadness. The Committee thought it may be worthwhile interviewing Rod Verkey, the MA athlete that got the ball rolling on the Hall, to get his take on how he feels things are going.

**Q:** What was your motivation behind getting the Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame started?

**Rod:** We had just finished starting a HOF in Lyons where I taught and recently retired. I wondered why Mynderse did not have a HOF. Working with the Board of Education and district administration, I was given the “go ahead” to begin our own Hall. Having spent the majority of my life in Seneca Falls, I really believed that Mynderse was long over due to have their own athletic Hall of Fame. The many athletes and coaches of Mynderse Academy had produced a legacy of people that needed to be recognized for their accomplishments. With such a rich athletic history, they, the athletes, needed to be singled out. With this glorious athletic history in mind, I thought, why shouldn’t MA have it’s own Hall?

**Q: What did you hope the MAA HOF would accomplish?**

**Rod:** I think this question is best answered by our mission statement. “The purpose of the Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor exceptional athletes, coaches, teams, pre-Title IX female athletes and other individuals who have made a contributions to Mynderse athletics.”

**Q: With an ever-growing list of great Mynderse athletes, what do you think is the most difficult part in the selection process?**

**Rod:** The selection process is always a tough assignment. There is a need to represent many different decades of athletes and teams, men and women and organizations. When one HOF class is finalized, we start working on the next class. Mynderse Academy is most fortunate to have a committee that works year round on our mission. We are in a desirable position of having excellent candidates every year to choose from. Often it is not a question of if an athlete will get in, but when they will get in.

**Q: If you could see into the future, what would you hope to see in the HOF?**

**Rod:** I hope we will be able to maintain financial support and community interest in the HOF. If we can, the HOF will continue to serve the school and town of Seneca Falls with the same excellence we’ve seen in past years. We are only able to operate our HOF through the contributions of our many generous sponsors and will do our best to improve every year. I truly believe that we have the best HOF around.

**Q: This October will be the seventh year for the HOF. What brings the most satisfaction?**

**Rod:** We have had outstanding cooperation from the school district administration and the Board of Education. They have created a permanent site for the HOF in the Middle School gym lobby, provided space for HOF committee meetings and use of equipment. We’re thankful to the New York Chiropractic College for allowing us a great place to have our induction dinner and ceremony. I am pleased that the SMS affords us a place to have our informal get together the night before our induction. I draw great satisfaction from our committee for all their effort each year. But, the most satisfaction comes from hearing the Title IX, Lifetime Contributors and HOF recipients talk of their high school experiences and their deep appreciation of growing up in Seneca Falls and the people that helped them along the way.

Our next issue of the MAAHOF Newsletter will be mailed in January 2017. This winter edition will cover the 2016 Induction Ceremony and other HOF information. Remember, if, for some reason, you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact one of the HOF Committee members listed on the previous page.