

# Syracuse doctor joins Hall of Fame

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

ROCHESTER — She's best remembered around Rochester for her high-school basketball achievements. Slightly more than a decade later, Amy Reynders is a 29-year-old ear, nose and throat doctor in Syracuse.

How's that for slam-dunking the label "dumb jock"?

"What it comes down to is the individual person and their goals," Reynders remarked.

Before her medical career began, Reynders was a high-scoring hoops star at Aquinas Institute. The 5-foot-11-inch guard/forward led the Little Irish to the Section 5 Class BB title and state finals in 1991, as well as the sectional finals a year later as a senior. She went on to become a scholarship player at Division I Rutgers University, starting her last three years.

Academics have also been an area of considerable success for Reynders, who grew up in Rochester and attended Holy Cross Parish in Charlotte. She was Aquinas' 1992 senior class valedictorian, then graduated *summa cum laude* from Rutgers University in 1996 and *magna cum laude* from SUNY Upstate Medical University in 2001.

The well-rounded Reynders also spent a year before medical school as a full-time volunteer in Oregon with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, helping promote breast- and cervi-



cal-cancer screenings for low-income women. "That was probably one of the best years of my life. I think it was what I needed; people need a chance to catch their breath and decide what they're going to do next," she said.

As an otolaryngologist, she's currently in the third year of a five-year residency at Upstate Medical University, located in Syracuse. Among her wide range of responsibilities are tonsillectomies, biopsies and sinus surgeries. She works on everyone from senior citizens to "little babies with recurring ear infections," she said.

Reynders, who still enjoys playing several recreational sports, recently had the chance to relive her high-school athletic days when she was inducted into the Section 5 Basketball Hall of Fame. The banquet took place Nov. 8 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, where Reynders was joined by many friends and family members.

This year's 15-member Hall of Fame class was a banner one for Catholic high schools: Other inductees along with Reynders were Gina Montesanò (Our Lady of Mercy, Class of 1995); Doug Farrell (Cardinal Mooney, '69); Chris Fox (McQuaid Jesuit, '97); and Rob Rose (Cardinal Mooney, '82). Of that quin-



Leila Navid/Catholic Courier

Amy Reynders laughs with her mother, Marcia, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center Nov. 8 during the Section 5 Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Reynders, a 1992 graduate of Aquinas Institute, is now an ear, nose and throat doctor in Syracuse.

tet, only Rose, who is playing professional basketball in Australia, did not attend.

Two other 2003 inductees have connections to Catholic schools as well: John Baynes Sr., the late Clyde-Savannah and East Rochester head coach, who graduated from Aquinas in 1940; and Mike Ruff (inducted as a player from Fairport High), the former boys' head coach at Aquinas and Bishop Kearney. The 2003 group also includes Jim Boenheim, a Lyons High School graduate and coach of the defending NCAA champion Syracuse University Orangemen, who served as a keynote speaker at the banquet.

Reynders, during her acceptance speech, said she recently went through several pieces of memorabilia from Aquinas, poking fun at the big mane of hair that showed up in the sports photos. Following the banquet, which Reynders called "a nice honor," it was time to return to living in the present, not the past.

"I remember that we won sectionals in my junior year and that's about it. In the heat of the moment, as an athlete, it's the most important thing in the world," Reynders said. "It seems like a long time ago. When you look back, it was a very special time. But you kind of have to put things in perspective."



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## Events

■ TUE, DEC. 2 — Program "Certain Women," the story of Maria Clark, Bradford Dorothy Kozel & Jean Donovan, martyred in El Salvador in 1980. Gloria Uferino, presenter. Interfaith Chapel, University of Rochester, River Level, 320 Wilson Blvd., Rochester, MA 5:30 p.m.; dinner 6 p.m.; presentation 7 p.m.; parking available. Katherine 585/275-8321.

■ WED, DEC. 3 — Program "Believing and Doing: Catholic Christian Faith and Life" for SUNY Brockport students. Newman Center, 101 Kent St., Brockport, NY 14420. 7:30 p.m. Free. Call 585/392-1100 for more info.

■ THU, DEC. 18 — Christmas dinner for Catholics ages 20-45. Woody, 2275 W. Henrietta St., Henrietta, 7 p.m. RSVP: Laura 585/621-5672. [Rogers@scg10101.com](mailto:Rogers@scg10101.com).

■ WED, DEC. 24 — Christmas Eve Mass, Catholic Community. Sponsor: Interfaith Chapel, University of Rochester, 320 Wilson Blvd., Rochester, 6 p.m. Katherine 585/275-8321.

■ FEB. 2004 — Media show: Newman's 40th anniversary celebration. Spiritual Experience and the diversity of faith with Rochester's community. Call 734-2200 for more info.

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