

[Hall of Fame]

Virginia Sports Hall of Fame honors Ronald Carrier

President emeritus named "Star of Commonwealth"

By MICHELLE HITE ('88)



Friends of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, JMU administrators and educators across the commonwealth gathered at the Hall of Fame in April to honor JMU President Emeritus Ronald E. Carrier at the dedication of the "Stars of the Commonwealth." Athletes born, bred and educated in Virginia, and who have gone on to some of the most memorable and storied careers in American sports are represented on the second floor of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame recognized Carrier for his dedication to academics and athletics while serving as president of JMU (1971–1998) and for his leadership in education.

David Tynch, hall of fame chair, said, "Ron Carrier has

The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame honored JMU President Emeritus Ronald E. Carrier for his dedication to student-athletes and university athletics during his tenure as president of JMU.



been a mainstay in Virginia education for many years. He provided quality leadership for 31 years and was dedicated to building JMU into one of the top universities both in Virginia and the nation."

Under Carrier's administration, the JMU athletics program grew and added a football team and Bridgforth Stadium. The university itself changed from a 4,000-student, predominantly female teachers college to a major comprehensive university with 14,000 students. The school changed its name from Madison College to James Madison University in 1977. The size of the campus was enlarged by more than 100 acres and the campus spread to the east side of Interstate 81. ¶

* Read more about Ronald Carrier at www.jmu.edu/madisononline/Carrier.shtml.

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— DAVID TYNCH, *hall of fame chair*

[Graduate Programs]

First M.P.A.s conferred in Roanoke program

JMU's Master of Public Administration Program at the Roanoke Higher Education Center graduated its first cohort in August. The inaugural class began studies in 2008. The M.P.A. program at the Roanoke Higher Education Center operates as a sequenced group, with students taking two courses per semester and finishing in slightly less than two years. The schedule allows students to form professional relationships that will benefit their careers.

"Going through the entire program with a core group of individuals really helps you develop an appreciation for varied backgrounds and skill sets. I now have a group of friends whom I can call on for professional advice on policy issues," says James Lyon ('10), a budget analyst for Roanoke County.

RHEC Director Gary Kirk says, "Roanoke is underserved in terms of higher education opportunities. There are no master's-level public institutions there, and JMU saw this as an opportunity. The program really fits with the M.P.A.'s focus on serving local communities and the region." ¶

* Learn more at www.jmu.edu/mpa/roanoke.shtml.

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— GARY KIRK, *RHEC director*