



People of purpose

BY JESSICA SAVOIE ('14), *alumni relations assistant director*

On March 16, Madison Week culminated with the third annual Alumni Awards Banquet. Presented by the JMU Alumni Association, the banquet recognizes some of the brightest and most extraordinary graduates of James Madison University.

The event kicked off with the presentation of the Graduates of the Last Decade Network Young Alumni Award to **Pratt Templeton** ('14). As a young alumna, Templeton has served the university as the inaugural president of the Student Alumni Association and again as the first-ever president of the GOLD Network. His loyalty to JMU and willingness to serve when called makes Templeton the perfect embodiment of what it means to be a GOLD Network Award recipient.

Charles May Jr. ('83) received the Inez Graybeal Roop ('35) Alumni Service Award. When it comes to service to teammates, university and country, Special Agent May, a former JMU football player, sets the standard. He is executive assistant director for Atlantic Operations for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. May recently retired from active duty in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of colonel, fought in three wars and never lost a soldier. To increase the number of African-American students at JMU, May founded the Ole School Alumni Group in 2004. The group annually awards two scholarships to deserving students.

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— **CARRIE COMBS** ('07, '09M),
alumni relations director

Next, seven alumni, one from each college at JMU, received Distinguished Alumni Awards. From business people and scientists, to educators and diversity advocates, to an actress on USA Network's television series *Royal Pains*, the recipients represented a broad range of talents and professional achievements, all stemming to their time and studies at JMU.

The night culminated with the presentation of the Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award to **Mark Rendell** ('88). Named after the late JMU President Emeritus Ronald E. Carrier, this award is the highest recognition bestowed by the JMU Alumni Association and is given to an alumnus/a who has demonstrated significant achievements of enduring value to

(L-R): Mark Rendell ('88), Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award; **Ashley Head** ('05), College of Science and Mathematics; **Charles May Jr.** ('83), Inez Graybeal Roop ('35) Alumni Service Award; **Peter Denbigh** ('02, '11M), College of Integrated Science and Engineering; **Maribeth Herod** ('82), College of Business; **President Jonathan Alger**; **Margaret Kyger** ('80M), College of Education; **Walter Shaub Jr.** ('93), College of Arts and Letters; **Lynette Chappell-Williams** ('79), College of Health and Behavioral Studies; and **Reshma Shetty** ('99), College of Visual and Performing Arts. **Not pictured, Pratt Templeton** ('14), GOLD Network Young Alumni Award.

society. As the current superintendent of the Indian River County School District in Florida, Rendell has touched the lives of thousands of youth. He devoted his entire professional career to enhancing educational opportunities and providing access and inclusion to excellence in education for all children.

During the evening, Carrie Combs ('07, '09M), director of alumni relations, said, "JMU alumni are people of purpose ... people who take risks, who adapt to change, and who use their equal parts intellect and action to produce opportunities for themselves and for others." Her description is especially true for the 10 alumni who were honored during the banquet.

For more information on all of the winners from the 2018 Alumni Awards Banquet, visit alumni.jmu.edu/alumniawardsbanquet. 