

ALUMNI FOR LIFE

# Celebrating distinguished alumni

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

The JMU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize JMU alumni who have achieved noteworthy accomplishments in their profession, brought honor to the university and made significant contributions of time and/or philanthropy to the university and their communities.

During the 2019 Alumni Awards Banquet, alumni won the Inez Graybeal Roop ('35) Alumni Service Award, the Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award, college-specific Distinguished Alumni Awards and the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Network Young Alumni Award.

## Inez Graybeal Roop ('35) Alumni Service Award

Inez Graybeal Roop's *Being the Change* spirit is our role model and shows us all what it means to be an exceptional alumna dedicated to JMU. Her lifelong dedication and service to our institution make it fitting for the Alumni Service Award to be named in her honor.

Joining the ranks of Inez Graybeal Roop ('35) Alumni Service Award recipients are **Lara** ('92) and **Eric Major** ('91). Lara, an early childhood education graduate, currently serves as vice rector of the JMU Board of Visitors and a member of the College of



(L-R): Lara Major ('92), Inez Graybeal Roop ('35) Alumni Service Award; Arthur Moats ('12), GOLD Network Young Alumni Award; Kathy Warden ('92), Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award.

Education Executive Advisory Council. Eric, a political science graduate, serves on the College of Business Board of Advisors and the board of the Leslie Flanary Gilliam ('82) Center for Entrepreneurship. Earlier this year, the couple announced a seven-figure gift from the Major Family Foundation to name the Major Laboratory for Innovation, Collaboration, Creativity and Entrepreneurship in the future College of Business Learning Complex.

Despite all that the Majors have done and continue to do for JMU, they still

feel that JMU has given them so much in return. During her acceptance remarks at the Alumni Awards Banquet, Lara said, "In exchange for giving, the university returns us with the reward of experiences and connection to incredible individuals within the Madison community."

## Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award

Named in honor of JMU's fourth president, the Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award is the highest recognition awarded by the JMU Alumni Association. As one of the country's most dynamic and effective college administrators, Carrier catapulted JMU to prominence and left his mark on a grateful campus community.

The 2019 recipient of the Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award is a powerhouse in her own right. As the CEO of Northrop Grumman, **Kathy Warden** ('92) is one of 27 female CEOs in *Fortune 500* companies. She has made her career as an expert in military information technologies and cybersecurity, but as a first-generation college student, Warden didn't always know which direction her path would take her.

During her acceptance remarks, Warden said, "When I graduated from this university, I had no idea what I would go on to do, but I knew I was better prepared to go out into the world as a result of having been here."

For more information on all of the winners from the 2019 Alumni Awards Banquet, visit [alumni.jmu.edu/alumniawardsbanquet](http://alumni.jmu.edu/alumniawardsbanquet).

(L-R): Kirk Cox ('79), College of Arts and Letters; Michael Thomas ('76, '77M), College of Business; Suzanne Rathbone Dickson ('52), College of Education; President Jonathan R. Alger; Stanley Jones ('54), College of Science and Mathematics; Monica Rogan ('01), College of Integrated Science and Engineering; Phoef Sutton ('81), College of Visual and Performing Arts. Not pictured: William Riley ('79), College of Health and Behavioral Studies.

