

By Marie R. Harris

Danville Community College's Alumni Association held its fourth annual Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony and reception June 6 in Oliver Hall in Temple Building on the DCC campus.

Inductees included Lewis Dennis Carter, Sports Director for WSET 13 in Lynchburg; Roger Lee Cook, former Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Coach at Tunstall High School in Pittsylvania County; and Bobbie Reid Hall Ingram, former basketball and softball coach and promoter of intramural sports at Danville Community College.

As the fourth honorees for the DCC Alumni Association's Sports Hall of Fame, composed of individuals associated with Danville Technical Institute, VPI-Danville Extension, and Danville Community College, each individual possesses extensive sports background.

Dennis Carter, Sports Director for WSET-13, in Lynchburg, Virginia, is a 1977 graduate of Danville Community College with a B.S. in Business Administration. Carter graduated from Virginia Tech in 1979 in Communications. He returned to Danville working in sports for WBTM/WAKG Radio from 1979 to 1983 while also working as a stringer for the *Danville Register*. He joined WSET (ABC 13) in 1983; currently he is in his 32nd year at the station and in his 30th year as Sports Director.

Carter has covered major local and national sports stories, including Virginia Tech's Sugar Bowl National Championship Game against Florida State in January 2000, the Daytona 500, NCAA and ACC Basketball Tournaments, and state high school championships. In 2007 ABC 13 Sports won the Virginia Association of Broadcasters Award for Outstanding Sports Coverage.

Also in 2007, Carter was honored by the Lynchburg Area Sports Hall of Fame with the Calvin Porter Award for Outstanding Area Sports Coverage. At the state level, he is a past recipient of the Marshall Johnson Award for Standout Coverage of Virginia High School Sports.

In 2010 the Virginia Association of Broadcasters honored Carter with the *George Bowles Award for Distinguished Performance in Broadcast News* while the Associated Press honored him with the *Best Year-Round Sports Coverage*. In October 2012, Carter was inducted into the Inaugural Class of the Amherst County Sports Hall of Fame.

The second inductee, Roger Lee Cook, attended VPI-Danville from 1964 to 1966, then transferred to VPI-Blacksburg, graduating in 1968 in Business Management.

He began teaching Industrial Arts for Pittsylvania County Schools. In 1984, female students at Tunstall approached him about coaching a fast-pitch softball team. That request began his 26-year coaching career in fast-pitch girls' softball. His teams posted a record 488 wins/84 losses, the second most wins in Virginia for girls' softball.

Cook's teams won 19 District Championships, 6 Regional Championships and were Virginia Stage Runners-Up three years. He was voted *Virginia State Softball Coach of the Year* on three different occasions.

Cook is the coach with the most victories in any sport in Tunstall High School's history. He retired from the classroom in 2006 but continued coaching for three more years.

According to Cook's wife Wendy, who accepted the posthumous award, "He was well known for his 'Perfectionism,' whether it was the immaculate ball field that he created in 1989 and maintained personally until he retired or the creases he starched and ironed into his coaching shirts and pants. He accepted nothing less than 100 percent effort from his players, because that is the same effort he gave to the program."

Bobbie Reid Hall Ingram chose, in 1981, to start a second career at Danville Community College after having completed a full career at C&P Telephone Company.

Part of her involvement included setting up for basketball games at local courts, assisting the intramural sports coaches and working with intramurals. Bobbye Rae Womack remembers her mother having a car trunk full of basketball and softball equipment. She also remembers her mother constantly trying to juggle softball and basketball game schedules, so students, who were working and attending college, could play.

According to Womack who accepted the posthumous award, "Not knowing all the rules didn't stop Mom from coaching. When she was unsure, the players could always clear up the rule and play

continued.” For fans and players, watching Bobbie Ingram on the basketball court meant watching a small, short lady standing between two towering basketball players as she propelled the basketball from her waist above her shoulders and into the air for the opening tipoff.

Not only did she work with the teams playing intramural ball games, but she constantly sought sponsors with funding, so the students, often with little funding, had at least the bare essentials.

In 1988 students at Danville Community College nominated Ingram for WBTM’s “Woman of the Day.” They wrote, “Mrs. Ingram finds the time to direct intramural sports. She keeps score for flag football, basketball and softball. She devotes her energy to making these sports trouble-free and enjoyable. In these activities, she serves as impromptu coach, umpire and referee for the fights that occasionally occur.”

The Danville Community College Sports Hall of Fame permanent display of 18 inductees is in the DCC Educational Foundation Office in Foundation Hall on the DCC campus.