



Alumni Spotlight

Juanita (Bayless) Parsons '87 and her husband, Jim Parsons '87 traveled to Washington, DC, in February 2018 for the Rare Disease Legislative Advocacy Week to speak with those in policy making positions about what is needed for rare disease patients. They spent the week in trainings and met one-on-one with their senators and representative to explain what the needs are for the rare disease community and how it specifically affects them. Over 300 rare disease patients and/or their caregivers from across the US met to be educated on



Summer Alumni & Friends Events Kick-Off

You're invited to join fellow Pioneers at Appalachian Power Park in Charleston, West Virginia for an evening of baseball and fun. Monday, July 16 will be GSC Night at Power Park – wear your royal blue and cheer on the West Virginia Power while reconnecting with old friends.

For more information about the Power Park event, contact David Hutchison by [clicking here](#) or calling (304) 462-6381. This is the first of several events for alumni and friends that are being planned for this summer, stay tuned to the [GSC Alumni & Friends Facebook Group](#) for future dates.

federal legislative issues and share their stories.

Juanita, a Lewis County native and Business major at GSC, was diagnosed with a rare incurable lung disease called pulmonary alveolar proteinosis in February 2016 and has spent over 100 days in the hospital since then. They met other patients and caregivers who are facing the same challenges that they do. Her doctors at Cleveland Clinic are amazed that she is still alive after her ordeal last summer. Her mantra through it all is "I can and I will....Watch me!"

Although it was a long and tiring week, they felt that they made progress and one of their senators, Shelly Moore Capito, even joined the Rare Disease Caucus to keep up to date on what's happening. ([Click here](#) to see a photo of Juanita, Jim, and Senator Capito.) They will be speaking in their Huntington, West Virginia community about rare diseases, especially the one that Juanita has, and she has been invited to serve on a state foundation related to it. Their goal is to write a book about their journey to provide hope for other patients. Unfortunately, not much exists for these patients because there are so few of them that it is difficult to do trials on new drugs, etc.

Juanita and Jim currently reside in Huntington and she



Department of Fine Arts Chair Dr. Lloyd Bone, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gary Morris, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Victor Vega, Glenville Mayor Dennis Fitzpatrick '73, GSC President Dr. Tracy Pellett, Current Bluegrass Music Program Director Dr. Megan (Murphy) Darby '11, Founding Bluegrass Music Program Director Buddy Griffin '71, Board of Governors Chair Greg Smith '76, Board of Governors Vice Chair Tim Butcher '77

GSC Opens The Pioneer Stage in Downtown Glenville

On Thursday, June 21 Glenville State College held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of The Pioneer Stage and Bluegrass Music Education Center in downtown Glenville. The center will be the new home for GSC's Bluegrass Program and will be the location for classes, lessons, and some performances. The opening helped kick-off the annual [West Virginia State Folk Festival](#) and later was the site of a youth square dancing clinic.

[Click here](#) to read an article from *Bluegrass Today* about The Pioneer Stage.

serves as Director, Accounts Payable & Payroll at Marshall University. Parsons encourages everyone to reach out to her on Facebook if you have questions about rare diseases or know someone who does.

For her desire and willingness to help others with rare diseases as she can, we are proud to feature Juanita in this week's Alumni Spotlight and proud that she and her husband are alumni of Glenville State College.



(l-r) Brennan Hargis, Derrick Lowe, Donald Taylor '07, Renee Ritenour '16, Dr. Lloyd Bone, Travis Myers, Ethan Hacker, Teresa Dody, Morgan Dolly, Sarah Brunty, Clayton Swisher, Zaon Starseed '18, Jon Reid '17, Ben Neal '16, Kaitlyn (Bircheat) Neal '17, Ben Stingo '16, Angeline Smith '17, Jerrica Hilbert '17, Faith Smith, Breanna Bennett, Lindsey Travis '18, Jordan Pierson, Seth Elmore '17, Courtney (Cole) Elmore '16

Recent Graduates Wed with Several GSC Friends in Attendance

Two recent graduates, Ben Neal '16 and Kaitlyn Bircheat '17, were married at a ceremony on June 9 at the Logan County Country Club with over 20 current students, alumni, and professors in attendance.

Ben, who came to GSC from Nicholas County, is now the Band Director at Monroe County (West Virginia) High School. Kaitlyn, who is originally from Chapmanville, is the music teacher at Bluefield Intermediate in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Congratulations to the newlyweds who were able to celebrate their special day surrounded by special friends from GSC.



THE GIVING CORNER

Click the gift icon to make a donation of your own and join the Giving Corner.

Dominion Energy Services, Inc. – \$500 for PAC Football

Doug Patterson '83 – \$500 for PAC Baseball

Scott L. Stephens – \$400 for the Pioneer Athletic Club

Dwight W. Heaster – \$200 for PAC Football

Ralph '56 and Joanne Holder – \$200 for the Pioneer Athletic Club



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