

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | May 2024

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Mathew Anderson '12 has been serving as a Special Education teacher for 10+ years, working in both Fayette and Nicholas Counties. He also spends time as a wedding officiant through his business, Weddings by Mathew.



Plaques on display before the 2024 Glenville State University Alumni Awards Banquet.

Twelve Honored at 2024 Alumni Awards Banquet

The 2024 Glenville State University Alumni Awards Banquet took place on Saturday, April 27 and twelve Pioneers were honored for their accomplishments and service.

The award recipients included: Alumnus of the Year William "Bill" Pitzer '81; Alumni Achievement Award recipient Tracy Samples '92;

In fact, Mathew was named Wedding Officiant of the Year for 2022-2023 by West Virginia Weddings magazine. He has officiated weddings in 45 West Virginia counties and in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington – and he is looking to expand that tally all the time.

In 2018 Mathew published a book, *The Nifty Fifty for Sh*t's and Giggles: A Wedding Officiants Memoir*. In it he chronicles the planning, problem solving, shenanigans, and the incredible love people share that he has experienced during his time as an officiant.

The Nicholas County native completed a master's degree in special education from Grand Canyon University in 2019. Most recently he has been working at Divide Elementary School where he was named Teacher of the Year for the 2022-2023 school year and the 2023-2024 school year. Each year, students in his classes collect donations for their local animal shelter. Last year they had over 500 items to donate.

Anderson was recognized by West Virginia Governor Jim Justice for officiating weddings in over 40 counties throughout the Mountain State. And, in an effort to give back, he created the Weddings by Mathew Scholarship for West Virginia students majoring in business.

He and his wife Ashley reside in Oak Hill, West Virginia. In his spare time Mathew enjoys reading, traveling to new places, and spending time with his family and their cats.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, Mathew said, "A month before graduating from Glenville State with my degree in criminal justice I married my best friend

Community Achievement Award honorees Dennis Fitzpatrick '73 and Evelyn Post '69; Outstanding Teacher Award recipients Kimberly (Handley) Hunt '02 and Nancy (Bernola) McVaney '81; Outstanding Young Alumna Award recipient Emma (Bailey) Cogar '11; Outstanding Young Alumnus Award recipients Jesse King '14 and Johnny King '14, and Posthumous Award recipients Dr. Bill Deel '58, Professor Emeritus Jim Rogers '63, and Professor Emeritus Charles Scott.

[Click here to see photos from the Alumni Awards Banquet.](#)



Head Coach Kim (Stephens) Caldwell '11 of the Tennessee Lady Volunteers during a press conference in the Ray and Lucy Hand Digital Studio in Knoxville, TN. | Photo By Kate Luffman/Tennessee Athletics

Rocky Top Welcomes Kim Caldwell as Lady Vols Head Coach

In early April, University of Tennessee Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics Danny White and Chancellor Donde Plowman announced that Kim (Stephens) Caldwell '11 would be the new head coach of the Lady Vol basketball program. She was officially introduced during an April 9 press conference.

Caldwell, who has a 217-31 career record with eight NCAA Tournament berths in eight seasons as a head coach, most recently led Marshall University to a school-best 26-7 overall record and 17-1 league mark in her first year there in 2023-24. She was named the 2024 Spalding Maggie Dixon NCAA Division I Rookie Coach of the Year and the Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year after directing the Thundering Herd to both the league's regular season and tournament titles as well as the school's second NCAA Tournament berth ever and first since 1997.

Caldwell coached the Glenville State Lady Pioneers for seven seasons prior to making the jump Division I with the Thundering Herd. At Glenville State, she coached the team to the 2022 National Championship, was named 2022 National Coach of the Year, earned two Regional Coach of the Year awards, was MEC

Ashley (who is also an alumnus). Glenville truly means the world to me.”

We are pleased to feature Mathew in this month’s Alumni Spotlight and are proud to call him an alumnus.



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Women's Sports Coach of the Year, earned four MEC Coach of the Year honors, had a 191-24 overall record (132-12 in Mountain East Conference play and 86-2 record in the Waco Center), made seven NCAA Tournament appearances, advanced to two Final Fours, nabbed six MEC Regular Season Titles, and earned four MEC Tournament Championships.

Ever a Pioneer, Caldwell made several references to her time at Glenville State during the press conference. "I also need to thank Glenville State University, Jesse Skiles '87, Ike Morris, Doug Cottrill, and our entire loyal fan base there. You guys gave me my start, you will always be my family, and I love you." She went on to thank her former student athletes at both Glenville State and Marshall University.

Coach Caldwell has been busy since the announcement, settling into the program, learning about the current students, recruiting, and filling out her coaching staff - which will include two familiar names, Jenna Burdette and Angel Rizer. Both spent time with Caldwell at Glenville and MU.

Alumni Oral History Project Underway

As some of you already know, Glenville State University has embarked on a multi-month project to collect as many alumni stories as possible and store them in a commemorative book!

Every Pioneer has a story, but it would be impossible for us to touch base with each individual alumnus and record their story on our own. That’s why we’ve decided to embark on this project – *Glenville Memories* – to collect the stories of alumni in their own words. These stories will later be preserved in a book that celebrates the impact Glenville State has had on the lives of our alumni.

Glenville State alumni have likely already been contacted on our behalf by PCI (also known as Publishing Concepts) via email and postcard. These communications contain additional information on how to participate. You can also read more about the project [here](#) and see a list of [frequently asked questions](#).

Note that you will be given the opportunity to purchase a copy of the book and other Glenville State branded items when you contact PCI - know however that purchasing those items is totally optional, do not feel obligated to make any purchases.



Women's Leadership Circle Lunch & Learn Features Professor Emerita Janet Bailey

Glensville State alumna Janet (James) Bailey '79 was the guest speaker at the GSU Women's Leadership Circle Lunch and Learn held on Tuesday, April 9. Bailey shared how friendships and experiences from Glensville State helped make her who she is today. During her time at Glensville State, she served in multiple capacities from coach to athletic trainer, professor, and athletic director. In these positions, she cherished working with her students and student-athletes. She was awarded the title of Professor Emerita upon her retirement in 2016.

Lunch and Learn attendees were treated to lunch sponsored by Central WV Aging Services and alumna, Evelyn Post '69. The event also provided an opportunity to announce the 2024 WLC scholarship recipients: Graylin Floyd and Malerie Ross. Graylin is a Psychology major from Barbour County, WV, and Malerie is an Early Childhood Education major from Brookville, OH. Both ladies received a \$500 scholarship to help further their education at Glensville State University.



Glenville State University Athletic Director Jesse Skiles speaks to friends and former student athletes after being inducted into the West Virginia Wesleyan College Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 20. | Photo by Micki Queen/Dream Queen Photography

Skiles Inducted into WWC Athletic Hall of Fame

Current Glenville State University Athletic Director and former West Virginia Wesleyan College Track and Cross Country Coach Jesse Skiles '87 was recently inducted into the WWC Athletic Hall of Fame.

During his time at Wesleyan, Skiles and his teams won over 50 conference titles. Thirty-four of his athletes qualified for nationals and 10 were named All-American. On four separate occasions at Wesleyan, Skiles' teams won all four league titles in the same academic year; 1995-96, 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2014-15. His career (at Wesleyan and Glenville State) resulted in a total of 64 conference championships and he was named Coach of the Year 53 times.

At the induction ceremony, WWC Athletic Director Dr. Rae Emrick made note of Skiles' impact on the track and field program at Wesleyan, the student athletes, and her own work as an Athletic Director. The capacity crowd at the ceremony included many former Wesleyan track and cross country athletes, dozens of Glenville State staff, faculty, and supporters, and family members assembled to show support for Skiles.



Glenville State Professor Emerita Yvonne King recently visited the Robert F. Kidd Library to donate several books. She also brought along items collected from her trips abroad, particularly to Greece.

Professor Emerita Yvonne King Donates Books to RFK Library

Professor Emerita Yvonne (Hart) King '57 recently donated several books related to Greek mythology and Shakespeare to the Robert F. Kidd Library on campus. Library Director Jason Gum '05 expressed his appreciation to Mrs. King for the donation and noted that the books would be a nice addition to the library holdings.

On April 25, King spoke to guests and visitors in the Library about her work in the Division of English, her time as newspaper and yearbook advisor, and teaching at GSC – especially mythology.

“Mythology class was one I really enjoyed, but I also enjoyed the English and journalism classes,” King said. She went on to talk about trips to Greece where she and others immersed themselves in Greek culture.

In addition to her years of service to Glenville State, King also coauthored the English language guide, *Grammatically Speaking* with her friend Olga Pashkevich.



Alumnus Helps Keep WV Mine Wars History Preserved

In the town of Matewan, West Virginia the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum sits at the site of a historic battle which erupted in May of 1920, setting into motion a chain of events that led to the largest armed uprising in the United States since our civil war.

Thomas Jude '13 currently serves as the Museum and Communications Manager, handling the daily operations of the Museum and coordinating public communications. A native of Delbarton, West Virginia, Thomas holds degrees in music and education from Glenville State University. He spent nine years as a music educator in Mingo County and member of the American Federation of Teachers.

The West Virginia Mine Wars Museum preserves and uplifts the voices of the people who lived these stories of sacrifice, violence, and triumph.

The Museum offers the largest exhibition of Mine Wars history anywhere in the United States. Their staff walks visitors through this legacy with compelling exhibits of archival photos and videos, first-person accounts, rare artifacts and



Partial Solar Eclipse Wows Campus

Glenville State students, employees, and local school children had a rare opportunity in early April when the area was treated to a partial viewing of the solar eclipse.

The Department of Science and Mathematics provided equipment for viewing the eclipse - from solar eclipse glasses and pin hole camera viewers to Sunspotter and Celestron EclipSmart telescopes.

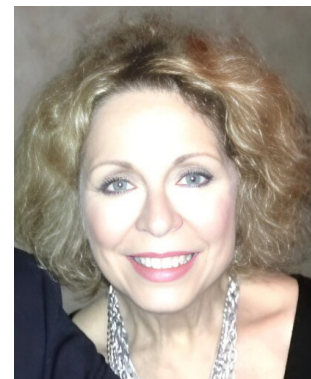
Faculty members also set up a LightSound Device which converts the light energy changes during the eclipse into sound, a PASCO GLXs with probes to measure the light intensity and temperature changes during the eclipse, and a parabolic reflector connected to speaker to observe changes in bird and insect behaviors during the eclipse.

Special thanks to Dr. Ashley (Murphy) Kooken '09 and Professor Emeritus Dr. Joe Evans '63 for their efforts related to the eclipse viewing activities.

In Memoriam

The Class of 1968 is sad to report the recent passing of Patti (Guzzie) Tonarelli-Bigi '68.

After graduating from GSC, Patti went on to work as a home economics teacher at Monongahela High and Belle Vernon Area High Schools for nearly 30 years. She was proud of her school and students and thrived on sharing her passion for teaching with thousands over the years. During her time at Glenville State, Patti was Homecoming Queen (1967-1968) and a sister in the Delta Zeta sorority.



replicas, and detailed timelines placing the events of the Mine Wars era in a global context.

Visit www.wvminewars.org to learn more.

She passed away on April 14 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Click [here](#) to read more or to leave a message for her family.



Record Attendance at Glenville State University Honor Band

The Glenville State University Department of Fine Arts recently hosted its 14th annual Honor Band weekend. The event saw students from all over West Virginia and Ohio converge on the Fine Arts

Center to take part - in fact, the turnout was so large that organizers had to divide the weekend into two bands.

Guest conductors for the Honor Band were Glenville State alumni Greg Richmond '98 & '04, who is the Princeton High School Band Director, and Shaylyn (Kimble) Dabbs '06, who is a music teacher at Lincoln Middle School.

Several Glenville alumni also brought students to GSU's Honor Band. They included, Dan White '98 (Parkersburg High School Band Director), Roger Akers '03 (Nicholas County High School Band Director), James Fletcher '97 (Ritchie County High School Band Director), Michael '12 and Lindsay (Burns) McHenry '11 (Calhoun County Middle-High School Band Director), Bob Myers '10 & '13 (Berkeley Spring High School Band Director), Seth Elmore '18 (James Monroe High School Band Director), Courtney (Cole) Elmore '16 (Peterstown Middle School Band Director), Chris Shew '09 (Fairland (Ohio) High School Band Director), Erin (Bush) Spangenberg '16 (Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School Band Director), Genia Sever '94 (Independence High School), Tabitha (Cochrum) Terry '21 (Webster County High School Band Director), Morgan Dolly '19 (Clay County High School Band Director), Jon Reid '17 (Liberty (Raleigh) High School Band Director), Brittany Koutsunis '22 (Gilmer County High School Band Director), and Sarah (Brunty) French '20 (Wirt County High School Band Director).

Picture This!



Several baseball alumni recently visited Glenville and were recognized during a home double-header against WV Wesleyan College.

They included: Ralph Smith '78, Roy Alltop '79, Eddie Hendricks '80, Hall of Famer Gary Nottingham '79, Mike Wentzel '71, Rick Wallace, Jack Settle '72, Hall of Famer Steve Gandee '82, Hall of Famer Orville Harper '66, Bill Chichester '79, Fred Smith '81, Craig Williams '84, Doug Patterson '83, Kreig Sayre '83, and Timmy Wine '18.

The Pioneers completed their second consecutive four-game sweep and extended their win streak to 10 games against Wesleyan, defeating the Bobcats 9-1 in game one and 9-3 in game two. The team has clinched their spot in the 2024 MEC Tournament, which will take place at GoMart Ballpark in Charleston, WV May 8-12.

It was also Military Appreciation Day at the Sue Morris Sports Complex.

Gary Ray Among WVADA Honorees

Reprinted from The Fayette Tribune

By Cheryl Keenan '84

Longtime sports participant, coach and administrator Gary Ray '71, of Oak Hill, was among the five men inducted into the inaugural class of the West Virginia Athletic Director's Association Hall of Fame in late March.

The WVADA enshrined the quintet on March 23 at Stonewall Resort during the organization's annual conference and banquet.

According to Jamie Tallman, past president of the WVADA, those enshrined were: Don Hetzel, Jefferson HS; Darrell "Dike" Goff '66, Williamstown HS; Gary Ray '71, Oak Hill HS and former WVSSAC executive director; Harold Erwin '65, Buffalo HS; and Donnie Dellinger, Hedgesville HS.

Below is Ray's biography from the event:

“Gary Ray, CAA, helped propel interscholastic athletics in West Virginia for over 45 years as a teacher, coach and an administrator at Oak Hill and Buffalo high schools, and as part of the executive staff at the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission.

“A Winfield High School and Glenville State College graduate, Gary received his master’s degree from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies. At Oak Hill High School, Gary began as a teacher and coach before stepping into the assistant principal/athletic director position, a position he held for 18 years before becoming principal at the school. Later, he accepted a position as assistant executive director at the WVSSAC before becoming the executive director of the organization (for nine years).

“Gary is a charter member of the WVADA and continues as an active member with over 46 years of service. He has served on the board of directors for many years, which included the positions as regional director and president. He currently serves as (the organization’s) conference exhibitor coordinator and on the past president’s council.

“At the national level, he served as a delegate at numerous national conferences and served on the NIAAA credentials committee. Gary served on the National Federation of High Schools Board of Directors and did service on both the NFHS records and annual summer meeting advisory committees.

“Honors and awards include the NFHS Citation Award, NFHS Officials Association Athletic Director of the Year, NFHS Athletic Coaches Association Athletic Director of the Year, National Council of Secondary Schools Athletic Director of the Year, NIAAA State Award of Merit and of the WVADA Athletic Director of the Year. He currently serves as President of the Fayette County Board of Education.

“Gary and his wife of 53 years, Cindy, live in Oak Hill and have two children, Amy Bloomfield and Adam Ray, and three grandchildren, Derek '21, Nathan, and Kendall Bloomfield.”



Save the Date!

HOMECOMING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 3 - Glenville Masters Tournament Benefitting Women's Golf

10:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

(rescheduled from April due to inclement weather)

Friday, May 3-Saturday, May 4 - 50 Year Graduates Weekend

Celebrating the Class of 1974

Saturday, May 4 - Commencement

10:00 AM - Waco Center

Friday, May 10 - Whitey Adolfsen Memorial Golf Tournament

8:00 AM Registration / 9:00 AM Tee-Off - Glenville Golf Club

Honoring Terrell Parker '12 Three-Time All-Conference All-American

Saturday, June 8 - GSU Night at GoMart Park

6:00 PM - GoMart Park (Charleston, WV)

Thursday, June 20-Sunday, June 23 - WV State Folk Festival

Downtown Glenville

PIONEER ATHLETICS

Check out these game schedules and come out to support the Pioneers!



Baseball



Softball



Men's Golf



Women's Golf



Track & Field



Boxing

.....

Scholarship Corner

A monthly spotlight on one of the scholarship funds managed by the GSU Foundation

.....



Ginny Grottendieck Memorial Scholarship

As the current academic year comes to a close, many Glenville State staff members are already looking ahead to the fall 2024 term when GSU will welcome a new class of incoming students ready to begin their higher education pursuits. We are always looking for ways to help those students afford their college education, even when those students are children of our employees.

The Ginny Grottendieck Memorial Scholarship was originally called the "Classified Staff Council Scholarship" before being renamed in 1995 to honor Ginny who represented the college's classified staff for many years through the campus Staff Council and on the West Virginia Advisory Council of Classified Employees at the state level. Ginny worked as the Evaluation Analyst in the Registrar's Office for several years until she passed away in 1994.

This scholarship is awarded to a dependent of a Glenville State University employee. The fall semester award will be given to an incoming freshman each academic year. A second award may be given to a freshman or an upperclassman for the spring semester of each academic year providing there are sufficient funds available.

Donate to this fund by clicking the button below and choosing "Ginny Grottendieck Memorial Scholarship" from the Designation drop-down menu.

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