

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS | JANUARY 2024

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Dalton Law '21 is currently working as the Controller, Audit/Compliance Coordinator, and Credit Analyst for Calhoun Banks.

Hailing from Tanner, West Virginia, Law was an Accounting major and member of the Glenville State Honors Program and Hidden Promise



*Wishing you joy and
prosperity in 2024!*

Scholars Program. Dalton was also honored as a Distinguished Business Student by the Department of Business several times. He graduated in 2021 and immediately went to work for Suttle & Stalnaker, PLLC, working as a Staff Accountant.

His latest move to Calhoun Banks took place in October 2023. At Calhoun Banks he works among several other Glenville State graduates.

Dalton is a member of the West Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants and, in his spare time, enjoys watching football, hunting, fishing, and golfing.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, Dalton said, "I'm proud to be a GSU alumni. I can proudly say that I have several lasting friendships along with the knowledge gained while attending Glenville State that have benefited me after graduation."

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



Bernie Rees '91 delivers comments to the graduating students at the Winter Commencement Ceremony on December 9.

Winter Commencement Held

Glenville State University's Winter Commencement Ceremony took place on Saturday, December 9.

The prospective graduates walked across the stage to receive their degrees in a variety of programs including business, education, land resources, criminal justice, science, music, and more. The students hail from various counties throughout West Virginia, as well as Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and South Africa.

Glenville State grad Bernie Rees '91 delivered the keynote address. Rees and Marjorie (Hardman) Burke '53 both received honorary doctorates during the ceremony in recognition of their service to the institution.

The December ceremony also marked the first time Glenville State University bestowed graduate degrees. Three former students – Tina Lowe '21, Taylor (McClain) Scott '22, and Jessica Smarr '22 – returned to their alma mater to complete master's degrees in education. Read more about these three students later in the newsletter.

Click [here](#) to watch the ceremony.



Students from Smithville Elementary School cheer on the Pioneers at "Kids Day."

"Kids Day" Draws Hundreds to Waco Center

Glenville State University welcomed several hundred elementary and middle school students to the Waco Center in December to cheer on the Pioneers and Lady Pioneers in two separate non-conference games as part of the "Kids Day" tradition.

The students from Smithville Elementary School, Burnsville Elementary School, Flatwoods Elementary School, Northview Elementary School, Gilmer County Elementary School, Gilmer County Middle School, and St. Patrick's Catholic School visited Glenville State to root for the blue and white.

Both "Kids Day" games were a success on the court as well – the Lady Pioneers bested Washington Adventist University 110-86 and the Pioneers held off Penn State Mont Alto, 70-65.



Heather Shifflett, Ashley Nicholas '12, Nicholas Thompson, Abby McDermott, Sydney Beckett, Larissa Howe, Deron Haught, and Dr. Mark Sarver.

Glenville State University Students Attend ARCI Symposium

Several Glenville State University students were among 130 students from 13 Appalachian colleges and universities who recently attended the 23rd annual Appalachian Collegiate Research Initiative (ACRI) symposium. The symposium is hosted by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Supported by the ARC and organized by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at East Tennessee State University, participating schools offer a for-credit seminar during the fall semester to help students develop and execute field-based research projects that address the unique economic development needs of their communities and align with ARC's investment priorities.

As a capstone, students present their work to other student delegations from participating institutions, ARC leadership, and community leaders in a formal peer-to-peer conference setting at the ACRI event.

The Glenville State group focused their research on the availability of affordable housing in Gilmer and Calhoun Counties. In addition to their presentation at the symposium, the students also met with Senator Joe Manchin who encouraged the group to continue their work and to incorporate community input into their future research and discussions.

Since 2001, nearly 3,000 college and graduate students from 31 colleges and universities across Appalachia have participated in the Appalachian Collegiate Research Initiative. Many have gone on to careers in economic and community development across the region, applying what they learned in ACRI to strengthen the region.



Tina Lowe '21, Jessica Smarr '22, and Taylor (McClain) Scott '22 at the Hooding Ceremony.

Hooding Ceremony Held for First Graduate Students

On Friday, December 8 Glenville State University administrators, faculty, Board of Governors members, and proud families gathered to recognize the first three master's degree program graduates at a special hooding ceremony. In higher education, the hooding ceremony serves as a recognition of individual achievement and provides an opportunity for students to receive their full academic regalia.

The event was convened by GSU Provost Dr. Mari Clements and Dean of Education Connie Stout O'Dell '90. President Dr. Mark A. Manchin provided remarks.

Each of the three graduates – Tina Lowe '21, Taylor (McClain) Scott '22, and Jessica Smarr '22 – were called forward individually to receive their master's hoods while a recording played in which each of the students thanked their friends, families, and professors.

Scott and Smarr both earned a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction and Lowe completed a Master of Arts in Teaching.

As with all academic regalia, the hoods the students received were custom to their discipline and awarding institution; the outer velvet of the hood was light blue (representing the education field) with a royal blue lining (representing Glenville State University).

Glenville State University was first authorized to offer graduate programs in education in fall 2022.



GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

WAR IN THE WACO VIII JANUARY 20TH



FREE ADMISSION
GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY WACO CENTER
WEIGH - INS: 2:30 PM DOCTOR: 4:30 PM
GATES OPEN AT 5:00 PM
EVENT STARTS AT 6:00 PM

PRIOR EVENT WILL BE GSU WRESTLING VS GARRETT CC



**Make plans to attend War In The Waco on Saturday,
January 20 and support Pioneer Wrestling and Boxing!**



Grad Named Principal of the Year by WV State Student Council

Amy Perkins '05 was recently named the 2022-2023 Principal of the Year by the WV State Student Council. Perkins is currently serving as Principal at Braxton County (WV) Middle School.

She was recognized alongside state student council Advisor of the Year, Alicia McPherson, who is a STEAM teacher at BCMS. Both say they are proud of the accomplishments of their students over the past year, which have included volunteering at a local food bank, a day of service at their school, student events, and more.

Osborne Inducted into Concord University Athletic Hall of Fame

Kenny Osborne '85 has been inducted into the Concord University Athletic Hall of Fame as part of the 2023 class. Coach Osborne spent 22 seasons on the sidelines in Athens, amassing 306 wins with six 20-win seasons mixed in. His first 20-win season came in 2006-07 and he culminated his career with a 20-11 mark during the 2021-22 season. The longtime head of the Concord women's basketball program instantly turned around a team that was starved for success.

After a six-win season during his first year in 2000-01, Osborne and the Mountain Lions made the WVIAC Tournament Semifinals just two years later. He was a two-time conference coach of the year



(2003 and 2012) and earned Atlantic Region Coach of the Year after the 2018-19 season when CU won a program-record 23 games. Osborne coached 17 all-conference players and had two players earn All-American. Six of Osborne's former players have already been inducted into the CU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Click [here](#) to listen to Osborne's remarks from the induction ceremony.

Natural Resource Management Students Visit Weyerhaeuser Property

Last semester, several Glenville State University students were able to visit a Weyerhaeuser-owned property in Greenbrier County. The trip, organized by Weyerhaeuser foresters Dan Abston '86, Adam Osborne '21, and Michael Moran, showcased various forestry practices and harvesting systems.



The class observed sustainable forest management practices on the quarter-million acre Weyerhaeuser property, viewed stands of different ages, and saw a demonstration of a tethered logging system – a new approach improving safety and productivity on steep terrain. Additionally, Osborne, who is a recent Glenville State graduate, shared insights into his own career path with the current students.

"I appreciate our alumni at Weyerhaeuser for providing a field trip for our students. Several of our alumni work as foresters for Weyerhaeuser, and they have hosted several field trips over the years. Weyerhaeuser has also provided internship opportunities for students and made donations to the program. Students learned a lot about silviculture, forest management, and timber harvesting during the trip. It is always nice to visit other areas of the state to see diverse types of forests," said Dr. Brian Perkins '97. Perkins is an Associate Professor of Forestry in the Department of Land Resources at GSU.

Drennen Set to Launch New Exhibitions

Anthony Craig Drennen '88, a notable artist and Guggenheim Fellow, is set to debut several new exhibitions in the new year and beyond. He will be part of the group exhibition *8 Artists* at the Marietta-Cobb Museum of Art in Marietta, Georgia in April and he is set to launch *Painter &* at the Johnson Lowe Gallery in Atlanta, Georgia in June. Looking further, Craig also has plans to curate his (*Darlin' Super Freak*) exhibit at The Suburban in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in early 2025.



Craig was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in 2018 – it is believed that he is the only native West Virginian in the history of the program to win a Guggenheim Fellowship in fine art.

Drennen continues to teach at Georgia State University; he is currently serving as Professor and Drawing/Painting/Printmaking Area Coordinator with the Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design.



Get Exclusive GSU Athletic Department Content

Did you know that you can access exclusive Athletic Department content via YouTube?

Learn about team insights, general updates, and more by tuning into the *Pioneer Coaches Show* and *Inside Pioneer Athletics* - both hosted by Athletic Director Jesse Skiles '87. Visit the GSU Athletics YouTube page and [subscribe today!](#)

We Need a Little Christmas: Music Ed. Alumni Share Holiday Tunes

Glenville State alumni Seth Elmore '18 and Courtney (Cole) Elmore '16 are both teachers with a passion for what they do. Seth is a music teacher and band director at James Monroe High School and Courtney is the music and band teacher at Peterstown Middle School; while they love teaching, both have missed the chance to make music themselves.

They had the idea to sing Christmas carols and share them online. That idea turned into a “Song Every Day Until Christmas” series that was recently highlighted in *The Real WV* publication.



“We love teaching, but at the same time, we went from being professional, collegiate musicians to teachers, often teaching beginners. I hear lots of ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star’ and the like, every day. As much as you love it, you miss what you had: polished performance, the joy of music for music’s sake. Sharing like we are doing right now with the Christmas songs online gives us an opportunity to perform as musicians,” Courtney said in an interview with *The Real WV*.

Their social media series included holiday classics and some newer Christmas tunes as well.

If you’d like to extend the Christmas season a bit longer and see all of the “Song Every Day Until Christmas” videos by the Elmore, simply

search for either Seth or Courtney’s Facebook pages, or search for “Seth Elmore” on TikTok.

Read the full article featuring Seth and Courtney on *The Real WV* website [here](#).



Pioneer Mascot Among "Best Live Human" College Mascot Nominees

The [Mascot Hall of Fame](#) has handed out its 2023 awards and the Glenville State University Pioneer earned a mention as part of their yearly recognition in the “Best College Live Human Program” category.

Kyla Lovejoy is the current Pioneer, upholding a tradition



Ned Sawyers (center) with members of his family.

Never Too Late: West Virginia Man Completes Degree at 86

At age 86, Ned Sawyers has attained a long-deferred dream of graduating from college. He may have been the last person to cross the stage at the Winter Commencement Ceremony on December 9, but that certainly doesn’t diminish his accomplishment. The Albright, West Virginia resident had been working to obtain an associate degree from Glenville State University.

Sawyers says he hopes that anyone doubting themselves about pursuing a degree will “prove everyone wrong” and go for it.

dating back to 1933.

[Click here to see past Pioneers.](#)

View the interview between WBOY's Jalyn Lamp and Mr. Sawyers [here](#).



Mid-Ohio Valley Area Alumni Meet

Glennville State alumni and friends in the Mid-Ohio Valley area gathered at the Parkersburg Country Club in early December for their annual Christmas Dinner. Attendees enjoyed a nice dinner together and had the opportunity to hear campus updates.

A special thanks to everyone who joined us. Click

[here](#) to see photos from the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 20 - War in the Waco
6:00 PM - Waco Center

Saturday, February 10 - Winter Homecoming
Waco Center

Monday, February 12 - Reception for GSU Alumni, Friends, & Legislators
5:00 PM - Charleston Women's Club, Charleston, WV

Tuesday, February 13 - GSU Day at the State Capitol
Senate Chamber - Charleston, WV

Monday, February 19 - Founders Day of Giving
Save the Date!

Saturday, February 24 - Founders Day Gala
Mollohan Campus Community Center
Save the Date - [Tickets on Sale Now!](#)

PIONEER ATHLETICS

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



Scholarship Corner

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



Jesse R. Lilly, Jr. Scholarship

It is impossible to recount the history of Glenville State College athletics without thinking of Jesse Lilly Jr. '48.

Lilly, a Beckley, West Virginia native, played basketball, football, and baseball during his years at Glenville State. He was an All-Conference basketball player in 1947 and 1948, scoring over 1,000 points in his college career. He would go on to earn a master's degree from West Virginia University after graduating from Glenville State.

Lilly coached for several years at Elkview High School before returning to his alma mater in the 1960s where he served as a beloved but skilled physical education teacher. He was GSC's basketball coach for the 1961-1962 season and then became the permanent head basketball coach

in 1966, a position he held until 1988. His teams won the WVIAC tournament championship in 1970 and 1972 and he was named Coach of the Year in 1972. Lilly coached his Pioneer Basketball teams to 272 wins during his career.

Lilly was also GSC's Athletic Director and served as football coach from 1962-1966. He was known for his competitive, but sportsmanlike teams.

He was named one of the WVIAC's All Time Coaches during the golden anniversary celebration for the Conference. The Jesse R. Lilly, Jr. Gymnasium inside the Health and Physical Education Building on Glenville State's campus was named in his honor in 2000. He was also posthumously inducted into the Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 2001 inaugural class.

Established 1999, the Jesse R. Lilly, Jr. Scholarship is awarded to a student athlete of academic merit.

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

[Donate Now](#)



[Transcript Request](#) | [Update Your Information](#) | [Give](#) | [Admissions](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Glenville State University](#)
200 High St., Glenville, WV 26351