

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | March 2024

## Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Christopher Brown '97 is currently serving as Director of Choral Activities at the University of Charleston, is the Choir and General Music teacher at Horace Mann Middle School, is Artistic Director for the Appalachian Children's Chorus, and is the Choirmaster of St. Ambrose Choir at St. John's Episcopal



*Calhoun Banks was one of several local businesses that took part in GSU's annual Day of Giving. After presenting the University with a check for \$1,500, these Calhoun Banks employees (who are also Glenville State alumni) paused for a photo; (l-r) Chris Arden '95, Dalton Law '21, Richard Welch '95, Martha Haymaker '85, Bruce Fitzwater '87, Rick Fitzwater '83, Samantha (Smith) Hickman '09, Chris Yerkey '06, and Kara (Crites) Conley '99.*

## Seventh Annual Day of Giving a Success

With 1,283 gifts from 1,052 donors, Glenville State University has raised over \$1,000,000 during the seventh annual Founders

## Church.

A Charleston, West Virginia native, Christopher graduated from Glenville State College in 1997 with a degree in Music Education (K-12). During his time on campus he was a member of Kappa Delta Pi and was president of GSC's chapter of the Music Educators National Conference (now known as the National Association for Music Education). He also performed with the Brass Ensemble, Trumpet Ensemble, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz Group, and Jazz Band and appeared in several campus musical productions. He went on to graduate with a master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University, is a National Board Certified instructor, and completed the three-year Chorister's Guild Institute certification.

His teaching career has included stops in North Carolina and West Virginia at the elementary, middle school, high school, and collegiate level. He has also directed or assisted with music and choir programs at several churches.

Christopher is especially proud of the Appalachian Children's Choir and their accomplishments. Recently the students went on a choir tour to New Orleans and performed in the famous Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church, they opened for the "An Evening with Dolly Parton" event hosted by West Virginia Public Broadcasting, collaborated with up-and-coming Broadway actor, singer, and dancer, Hannah Jane Peterson, performed at the WV State Capitol inside the Senate Chambers, collaborated with River City Youth Ballet and University of Charleston singers for an "Evening on Broadway" event, and performed with the

## Day of Giving fundraising campaign.

The fundraising event took place throughout the week of February 12, culminating on February 19 – the anniversary of Glenville State's founding.

Donations supported 52 projects across campus, including each academic department and athletic team, scholarship funds, alumni and student projects, the Pioneer Fund, and the President's Circle. Specific projects included Alumni Center renovations, the Pioneer Pantry, an education abroad trip for Land Resources students, and many more.

"Our Founders Day of Giving celebration shows exactly what makes Glenville State University so special. Our alumni and friends, faculty, staff, and students all came together to celebrate our great institution while helping to meet our fundraising goals. We recognize that prices have gone up, from groceries and gas and beyond, so for everyone to still step up and make our annual fundraising day so successful...we truly appreciate every gift. I want to especially thank the Morris Family Foundation for their generous \$500,000 match that was in place for Founders Day," said Vice President of Advancement, David Hutchison.

As part of the celebration, students, faculty, and staff also came together on Monday, February 19 to write thank you notes to donors, enjoy special blue and white Founders Day cupcakes, and view a Glenville State historical display that was set up inside the RFK Library.

"I join Vice President Hutchison in sending our most sincere thanks to the Pioneer Family," said Glenville State President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin. "This was a successful fundraising campaign, but it was also our Founders Day celebrating 152 years! Our campus community is better because of each of our supporters... and that includes every employee, student, alumnus, business partner, parent, and friend who participated. Again, thank you all for stepping up to the challenge and ensuring the brightest future for our students and our institution."



*Glenville State University students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are recognized by the West Virginia House of Delegates as part of GSU Day at the Capitol. | Photo by Perry Bennett*

Huntington Symphony Orchestra.

In 2015 and 2016 he was a quarterfinalist for the GRAMMY Foundation Music Educator award. He has also been recognized by Kiwanis International with their Spiritual Recognition Award (2015) and was the Harris Teeter Teacher of Excellence Award recipient (2010). He was a finalist for the NCMEA Elementary Music Teacher of the Year award in 2013 and was a CATO Teacher Award finalist in 2011.

Christopher and his wife Amanda reside in Charleston, West Virginia; they have four children. Their daughter Akasha is currently attending Glenville State.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, Christopher said, "Glenville State University was the place where I was able to explore all forms of music, and develop my skills as a reflective educator. I was very fortunate to have some of the most incredible teachers who truly cared for development as an educator, musician and person."

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

## GSU Day Celebrated at the West Virginia State Capitol

Glenville State University students, faculty, staff, alumni, and administrators traveled to the statehouse in Charleston, West Virginia on Tuesday, February 13 for Glenville State University Day at the Legislature.

The Glenville State delegation was on hand at the capitol that morning to meet with lawmakers and share information about academic programs, new initiatives, student, and faculty successes, and more. Admissions and Alumni Relations staff joined representatives from various academic departments outside the Senate chamber for the event.

"We always enjoy sharing news about the good things happening at Glenville State University," said Glenville State President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin. "Each year I look forward to seeing our lawmakers and capitol staffers in Charleston during Glenville State University Day. This is also a wonderful opportunity for our students to see the legislative process in action and to visit our seat of government."

A reception for alumni, friends, and lawmakers was also held the evening before GSU Day. The reception provided an opportunity for several Pioneers to come together for a nice evening of food and fellowship. Special thanks to Professor Emerita Janet James Bailey '79 and the Woman's Club of Charleston for hosting the event.

Glenville State University is celebrating its 152nd anniversary in 2024.

Click here to see more photos from the [alumni and friends reception](#) and [GSU Day](#).



## 2024 Alumni Award Recipients Announced

The 2024 Glenville State University Alumni Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 27. Attendees will gather in the third floor pre-function area of the Mollohan Campus Community Center from 5:00-6:00 PM for a social hour prior to dinner in the Ballroom.

The evening's banquet spotlight will be on the Alumni Association's guests of honor: Alumnus of the Year William "Bill" Pitzer '81; Alumni Achievement Award recipient Tracy Samples '92; 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 '09; 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.

Tickets for the banquet and social hour are \$25.00 each and, for planning purposes, reservations are required. Call (304) 462-6116 or e-mail at [Dustin.Crutchfield@glennville.edu](mailto:Dustin.Crutchfield@glennville.edu) for more information and to make your banquet reservations. [You may also purchase tickets online here.](#)



*Coach and Professor Emeritus Tim Carney '62 is joined by several of his former Lady Pioneers in addition to Coach Kathy Roten '70 and members of the 1972-73 women's basketball team. The group of women's basketball alumni were recognized during halftime of the women's game during Winter Homecoming on February 10.*

## Winter Homecoming Held at GSU

Glenville State University held its annual Winter Homecoming on Saturday, February 10.

As part of the festivities, several alumni basketball players were recognized throughout the day, including members of the 1972-73 women's basketball team. That team was led by volunteer coach Kathy Roten '70 and included: Leah Ball '74, Hall of Famer Sandy Elmore '73, Barbara (Walker) Wright '73, Hall of Famer Donna Newberry '73, Jane "Chippy" Archer '76, Lynn Osborne, Karen Goodall '78, Vickie (McCracken) Harper '76, Connie Cole, Karen (Froendt) Facemyer '76, Cayla (Hunter) Merica '76, Draunta (Mullins) Nicovich '73, Cathy Perky, Manager Violet Smith, Manager Kim (Roten) Hundley, and Scorekeeper Mary (Whiting) Strickland '70.

This team was the last group of Lady Pioneers to play before Glenville fielded a collegiate women's team following the passage of Title IX. Coach Roten went on to become the first girls' coach at Parkersburg South.

Other former men's and women's basketball players were recognized during halftime of each game as well.

The day also included amusements for kids and "The Deck" where alumni and friends gathered for lunch and an opportunity to talk and reconnect. See photos from Winter Homecoming by clicking

[here.](#)



## Braxton Co. HS Athletic Building to be Named for Beane

The Braxton County (WV) Board of Education recently approved several renovations to the athletic building at Braxton County High School. Once completed, the intention is to have the building named for Coach Sterling Beane '70. Beane started the wrestling program at Braxton County High School during the 1972-73 season. He built a wrestling legacy in his 50 years as the only head wrestling coach in the school's history. Beane also coached football, baseball, and high school and middle school track.

Beane was a 2023 inductee into Glenville State's Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame.



## Glenville State Represented at Tuba Euphonium Workshop

Glenville State University's Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble performed at the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" Tuba and Euphonium Workshop at the beginning of February.

The group included several current students and alumni and was under the direction of Dr. Lloyd Bone. The performers included: Morgan Dolly '19, Wayne Baker, Jocelyn Wass, Jonah Rucker, Tyler Garrett, James McChesney, Tina Lowe '24 and '21, Jake Watkins, Cody Dye, Jon Reid '17, Ryan Deems '11, and Derrick Lowe '19.

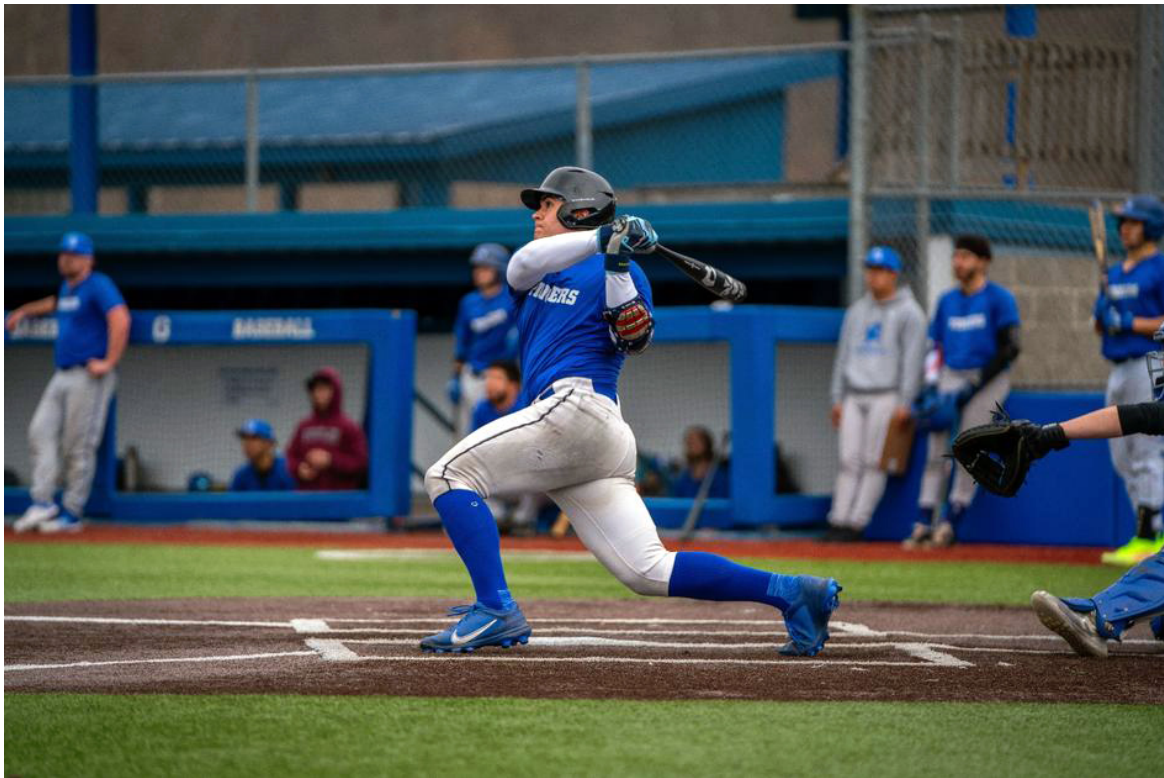


## Alumnus Works with Scouting, Salary Caps for Baltimore Ravens

Terrell Parker '12 is working as a Scouting & Salary Cap Analyst for the Baltimore Ravens.

Parker received a bachelor's degree from Glenville State with a major in management and he holds a Juris Doctor degree from Widener Commonwealth Law School.

Starting as an intern, Terrell has advanced with the Ravens and now plays a pivotal role in scouting college and pro players, understanding the salary cap, and contributing to the team's success in the draft and playoffs.



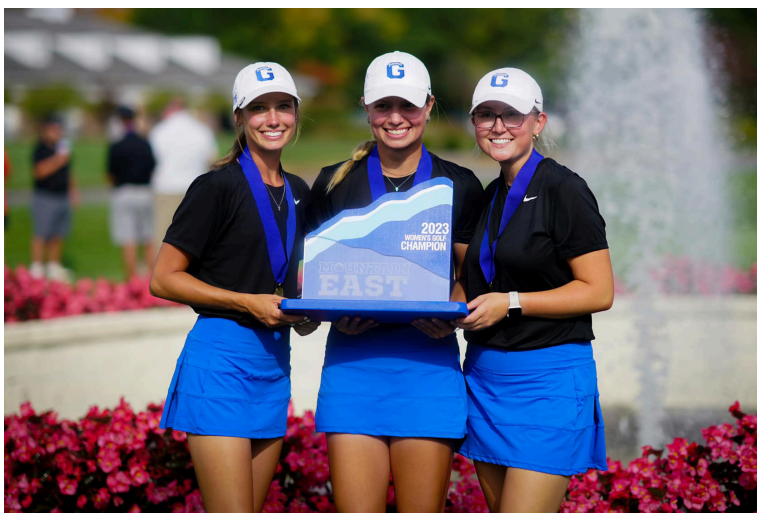
## Baseball Reunion Planned for April 27

All former Pioneer Baseball players and coaches are invited back to Glenville State on Saturday, April 27 for a reunion and an afternoon of baseball!

Join us as the Pioneers take on West Virginia Wesleyan for a double header at the Sue Morris Sports Complex (1294 US-33, Glenville, WV) at 1:00 PM and 3:30 PM.

We hope you will connect with your fellow teammates and make plans to join us. This should be a great opportunity to catch up with friends, meet current players, see the beautiful facilities, and enjoy some spring ball.

If you have questions or would like to RSVP, please contact our Alumni Office via email at [alumni@glenville.edu](mailto:alumni@glenville.edu) or call (304) 462-6116.



**Alumnus  
Named  
Among Top**

## Glenville Masters Tournament Planned for April 12

The Glenville Masters Tournament, benefiting GSU Women's Golf, is scheduled for Friday, April 12 at the Glenville Golf Club (54 Sycamore Road, Glenville, WV).

The Tournament begins at 10:00 AM with a shotgun start; 18 holes. The winning foursome will receive \$1,000. Cost per golfer is \$100 which includes breakfast, lunch, mulligans, gold tee shot, cart, and green fees.

Funds raised will be used for golf scholarships and expenses throughout golf season. To register, contact Kim Morris '96 at (304) 871-4090; Grace Tallhamer '77 at (304) 871-1481, or Nasia Butcher at (304) 266-9469.

## 100 in Real Estate

Nick Long '11 has been named among the top 100 individuals in real estate in America according to The Top 100 People in Real Estate publication.

Long works as a real estate appraiser and owns Proficient Appraisal Services and Property Central LLC, both of which are located in Sutton, WV.



## 86 Years After Her Disappearance, Remembering Amelia Earhart's Visit to Glenville State

Amelia Earhart is not only a famous figure in American history, she is also one of Glenville State's most famous visitors. When Earhart came to the campus of then-Glenville State Teachers College in 1936, her presentation on "Aviation Adventures" captivated audience members.

On January 11, 1936, just a year and a half before her disappearance during an attempted around-the-world flight, Earhart visited campus and gave a lecture in the Administration Building Auditorium; she was welcomed by more than 700 people.

"The question most often asked of me is 'Why do you do such things?'" Earhart said. "My reply

is simply this – my own desire to fly; I believe that each successful flight I make builds faith in aviation. I am interested in seeing air travel a modern means of transportation."

Earhart directed her remarks to the women in the audience and urged them to "get out of your own sphere and do for yourselves what men have done for themselves." She also expressed her belief that women were rapidly changing their views regarding airplanes. "Thirty percent of all passengers on commercial airlines today are women," said Earhart. "Don't worry about flying and don't try flying until you have reasoned with yourself, until you have reckoned with the risks to be taken and have succeeded in overcoming those risks. To worry retards action and makes clear-cut decisions impossible," Earhart advised the audience. She also informed the audience that speed is the most important factor in overseas flights or long over-land voyages. She did, however, caution against speeding in automobiles, saying that "one should get into the air when one wishes to travel safely at more than forty-five miles an hour."

A little over a year after her campus visit on July 2, 1937, Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan would disappear during an attempted around-the-world flight.

After years of speculation about what fate befell Earhart and Noonan, an ocean exploration company based in South Carolina recently announced that it captured sonar images of what may be Earhart's aircraft at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. You can read more about that discovery [here](#).

Although we may never know for certain what happened to Earhart, the so-called "Queen of the Air" will forever be a part of the history of Glenville State.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Wednesday, March 6-Sunday, March 10 - MEC Basketball Tournament**

Various Times - Wesbanco Arena, Wheeling, WV

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### **Monday, March 11 - Jazzmin White's Senior Art Show Reception**

3:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Gallery

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### **Friday, March 15-Saturday, March 16 - Pioneer Debate Tournament**

Various Times and Locations on Campus

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### **Thursday, March 21 - Little Kanawha Reading Series: A Reading by George Dudding '73**

4:00 PM - Robert F. Kidd Library

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### **Thursday, March 21 - Faculty Recital featuring Sarah Nale and Joshua Stubbs**

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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### **Friday, March 22 - Jazz Band Concert**

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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### **Wednesday, March 27 - Megan Drenk's Senior Art Show Reception**

4:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Gallery

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### **Thursday, April 4 - Percussion Ensemble Concert**

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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### **Tuesday, April 9 - Women's Leadership Circle Lunch and Learn**

12:00 PM - Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom

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### **Friday, April 12 - Glenville Masters Tournament Benefitting Women's Golf**

10:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

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### **Wednesday, April 17 - Concert Choir & Chamber Singers Concert**

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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### **Thursday, April 18 - Little Kanawha Reading Series: A Reading by Doug Van Gundy**

4:00 PM - Robert F. Kidd Library



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**Friday, April 26 - Concert Band Concert**  
7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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**Saturday, April 27 - 3 Format Golf Outing Benefitting Men's Golf**  
9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

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**Saturday, April 27 - Alumni Baseball Reunion**  
1:00 PM - Sue Morris Sports Complex

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**Saturday, April 27 - Honor Band Concert with Guest Conductor Greg Richmond '04**  
2:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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**Saturday, April 27 - Alumni Awards Banquet**  
5:00 PM - Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom

## PIONEER ATHLETICS

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



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## Scholarship Corner

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

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*Thelma (Wilson) Samples receiving the Silver Sisterhood award from Tracey Moats in 1992.*

### **Thelma Wilson Samples Delta Zeta Sorority Scholarship**

In recognition of Women's History Month, the March Scholarship Corner features the Thelma Wilson Samples Delta Zeta Sorority Scholarship.

Thelma (Wilson) Samples '64 is one of many notable ladies with ties to Glenville State. She came to campus from Cowan High School (WV) in 1960. With plans of becoming a librarian, Thelma remembers that GSC was "the place to go" for those who were interested in that field. After graduating, she became the Circulation/Reference Librarian at the Robert F. Kidd Library until she and her husband Mack '64 relocated to Wood County, WV. There she worked as the Librarian at Edison Junior High. When she and Mack returned to Glenville State in the early 70s, she became Alumni Director.

In 1992, Thelma was recognized with the Silver Sisterhood Award by the sisters of GSC's DZ chapter. Thelma was a charter member when the chapter at Glenville State was first established in 1963.

After leaving Glenville in 1995, Mack and Thelma traveled all over America and they became active ballroom dancers. They remain mainstays on the square dancing stage at the annual West Virginia State Folk Festival.

Thelma established the scholarship in 1996 to support members of GSC's Theta Xi Chapter of the Delta Zeta Sorority, this scholarship is awarded to a female student who is a "legacy" of a member of this Chapter or a DZ in general.

Donate to this fund by clicking the button below and choosing "Thelma Wilson Samples DZ Scholarship" from the Designation drop-down menu.

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