

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | April 2024

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Paul Grier '92 is currently working as a Counselor at River Rock Academy, an alternative school with campuses throughout Pennsylvania. The school aims to provide its students with the power to change, effect, and improve their lives.



The 2024 Alumni Award recipients include: Bill Pitzer, Tracy Samples, Dennis Fitzpatrick, Evelyn Post, Kim Hunt, Nancy McVaney, Dr. Bill Deel, Professor Emeritus Jim Rogers, Professor Emeritus Charles Scott, Emma Cogar, Jesse King, and Johnny King.

Glenville State Gears Up to Honor 2024 Alumni Award Recipients

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;

Originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, Grier majored in Sport Management and was a member and vice president of the United Brothers Association at Glenville State. He also excelled as a member of the Pioneer basketball team. He racked up 1,670 points during his playing time between 1985-1989. As a point guard for the Pioneers under Hall of Fame Coach Gary Nottingham '79, he played in three WVIAC Tournament Final Fours, posting a record of 7-4 in tournament play. Grier drained last second field goals to secure wins in two successive tournament settings, helping the Pioneers advance in postseason play. He was named to the WVIAC Tournament Selection two times and made All-WVIAC Section in 1988 and 1989. Grier played on four straight winning WVIAC season teams, the teams winning 63 overall games. He graduated from GSC in August 1991.

In addition to earning the prestigious Montrose Award in 1991, Paul was also inducted into the Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015.

Right out of college, Paul worked at Bowling Brook Preparatory School for 14 years. He notes that while working at the school, he was instrumental in starting their basketball program; the team ended up winning the conference championship their first year.

In his spare time, Grier is an avid golfer and he serves as an assistant basketball coach for the Delone Catholic High School girls basketball team. He and his family also enjoy vacationing with fellow Glenville State grad, Bernie Rees '91 and his family.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, Paul said,

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.

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@glenville.edu for more information and to make your banquet reservations before Friday, April 19. [You may also purchase tickets online here.](#)



Glenville State University President Dr. Mark A. Manchin (standing) speaks to the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Lewis" group.

Glenville State University Presents at Lewis County Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Glenville State University recently visited a Lewis County (WV) Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Lewis" session that focused on the topic of education. The group heard from GSU President Dr. Mark Manchin, Associate Professor of Business Dr. Mark Sarver, and Director of Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Rachel Clutter '18. President Manchin discussed the need for courageous leadership, not only in the field of education but everywhere in today's society. Sarver shared information about the various [workforce development and lifelong learning initiatives](#) at Glenville State, including the various CompTIA courses offered. Clutter spoke about dual enrollment opportunities available to Lewis County students.

Representatives from Jobs for West Virginia's Graduates, the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative, Lewis County High School's CTE program, the West Virginia National Guard, and Mountaineer Challenge Academy also provided information. At the end of the session, the group toured the International Union of

"GSC made me see people in a different light – growing up in a big city then coming to a small town like Glenville, WV."

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

Painters and Allied Trades District Council 53 Training Center, which is located in Weston, and learned about the work and training that takes place in the facility.

Alumni Oral History Project Kicking Off Soon

We wanted to let you know that 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.

Over the next few weeks, Glenville State alumni will be contacted on our behalf by PCI (also known as Publishing Concepts) via email and postcard. These communications will contain additional information on how to participate.

Stay tuned for additional information that will be shared once the project officially kicks off later this month.

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Did you know that GSU has several tools available related to bequests, establishing charitable gift annuities, IRA rollovers, and more?

Visit glenville.giftlegacy.com to find out more!

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Alumnus is Featured LKRS Speaker

As part of the ongoing Little Kanawha Reading Series hosted at the Robert F. Kidd Library, George Dudding '73 recently held a reading featuring excerpts from some of his books.

One of his most recent books, "[The West Virginia Book of Monsters: Cryptids, Creatures, and Legends of the Mountain State](#)" discusses the strange, legendary creatures famous in West Virginia. Merriam-Webster defines the word cryptid as "an animal that has been claimed to exist but never proven to exist."

Some of West Virginia's most famous cryptids are Mothman, the Flatwoods Monster, Grafton Monster, and even Bigfoot. Dudding's interest in UFOs, aliens, ghosts, and other paranormal events has resulted in more than 60 books on these and other topics. He was featured in the documentary, "Mothman of Point Pleasant."



Glenville State's Adjunct Lecturer of Flute Lindsey Goodman, Department of Fine Arts Chair Dr. Jason Barr, and Artist-in-Residence David Porter before a performance with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Fine Arts Faculty Perform at Clay Center

Last month, Glenville State University's Adjunct Lecturer of Flute Lindsey Goodman, Department of Fine Arts Chair Dr. Jason Barr, and Artist-in-Residence David Porter took to the stage with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) on the Duke Ellington orchestra composition "Black, Brown, & Beige."

Goodman is the WV Symphony Orchestra's Principal flute and Porter is the Principal trumpet. Barr, who joined the performance on saxophone, believes that Glenville State is the only university in the Mountain State to have three music faculty employed with the WVSO.

The performance took place at the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences of West Virginia in Charleston, West Virginia.



Alumnus Leads Team on Historic Run

Luke Samples '08 coached the Spring Mills High School boys basketball team to their first ever West Virginia High School State Basketball Tournament appearance this season. The class AAAA team made it all the way to the final round before being edged out in overtime by Morgantown High School, 35-32.

The Spring Mills Cardinals were ranked number one going into the state tournament and knocked off Woodrow Wilson High School and South Charleston High on their way to the championship round.

In an interview with WV MetroNews, Samples said of his team, "They're special kids. They're warriors and they're selfless."

Community members, fans, and other schools throughout Berkeley County joined forces to cheer on the team as they made their championship run.



Education Student Receives Grant from WVCTM

Current Glenville State University student and Mathematics Education (5-Adult) major Samuel Dudgeon has been awarded a Dr. Walter E. Regula Teacher-in-Training grant from the West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (WVCTM) during their annual conference.

Although Samuel is still completing his student teacher residency, he is serving as a Clinical Teacher of Record in McDowell County.

The Teacher-in-Training grant is given annually to an outstanding West Virginia student enrolled as a senior in a state college or university who is training to become a mathematics teacher with intentions of teaching in West Virginia.

Dudgeon becomes only the second Glenville State student to receive the grant since it was first awarded in 1988.



Young Alumnus is State Park Superintendent

Daniel Conrad '20 has recently been promoted to Superintendent of Cedar Creek State Park. Conrad began working at Cedar Creek State Park in 2022 as the Assistant Superintendent.

He says he wanted a career with the state parks system because he grew up around several park rangers as a kid and he admired their work.

"I'm very honored to be one of the youngest leading Superintendents in the WV State Park system. I have a lot to prove here. Cedar Creek State Park is an amazing park because of our guests/campers and the hardworking staff. Within just one year, I have grown to love this park and the craziness it throws at me! I plan to continue leading Cedar Creek's legacy of being a tiny but mighty park," Conrad said.

He graduated from Glenville State with a degree in Natural Resource Management.

WV Teacher Recognized for Disability Awareness Work

Laurel Smith '11 has been recognized by the Raleigh County (WV) School system for her work in the area of disability awareness and for her help in celebrating Disability Inclusion Week in their schools. She has over ten years of service in Special Education in Raleigh County.



Smith says that her school, Coal City Elementary, initially started recognizing Inclusion Week three years ago – now the event has expanded to schools throughout the county.

“While everyone is different, we’re all still the same with similar interests, wants, and needs - that’s really all this event is about,” Smith said.



Members of the Pioneer Debate Team following last month's debate tournament that was held on campus.

Pioneer Debate Hosts Tournament

Last month, Glenville State University hosted collegiate debate teams from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan for a debate tournament.

Those GSU students placing in the tournament included: Noah Miner (2nd Place Speaker in Division) and Trey Cloutier (3rd Place Speaker in Division) - 1st Place Team Divisional Finish; Jahzeiah Wade (1st Place Speaker in Division) and Beth Nichols - 3rd Place Team Divisional Finish; Rebekah Hypes

(4th Place Speaker in Division) and Sandra Crites - 4th Place Team Divisional Finish; and Alyssa Gibson (4th Place Speaker in Rapidfire Division) - 4th Place Team Rapidfire Divisional Finish.

Following the success of the recent tournament, Glenville State has been asked to host next year's National Educational Debate Association's National Championship Tournament.

Pioneer Debate is a co-curricular activity and competitive debate team housed within the Department of Language and Literature at Glenville State University. Students develop professional skills in critical thinking, civil listening, argumentation, constructive persuasive cases, research, and creative problem-solving through weekly meetings, online and in person debates, and community engagement events. Participation in Pioneer Debate is open to all GSU students.



Janae Scott is among several Pioneer student athletes making recent headlines.

Multiple Student Athletes Earn Top Awards, Set Records

Boxing

Members of the Pioneer Boxing Team traveled to Houston, Texas in March for the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association's 2024 National Championships. Aaron O'Connor is now a two-time national champion following his fight with Isaiah Gash of the University of Michigan. Payton Packer earned a national runner-up medal after coming up just short in his bout with Caleb Brown of Syracuse University; Packer is a two-time National Runner-up. National qualifier Daniel Hinger dropped his bout to VMI's Isaiah Glover due to a referee stoppage in the semifinal round. Pioneer Boxing is coached by Duane Chapman '93.

Wrestling

Glenville State wrestlers Gavin Quiocho and Guy DeLeonardis placed at the NCAA DII National Championship that was recently held in Wichita, Kansas. Both were named All-Americans and Quiocho became the first Pioneer in program history to be a two-time All-American.

Quiocho, the 2023 National Champion in the 133-pound class, took 2nd after falling to Gabe Hixenbaugh of Montevallo in the title match. Quiocho rolled past his first three matches of the bracket, earning All-American status once again after going 2-0.

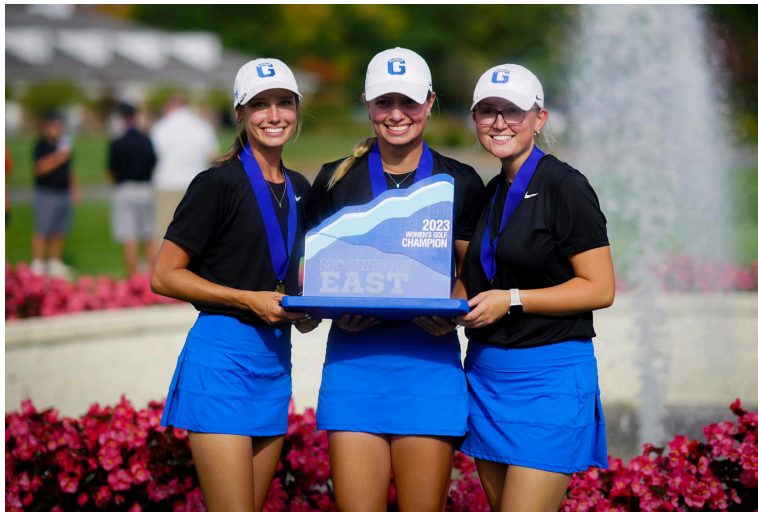
DeLeonardis became the third All-American in program history following a 2-0 day, setting him up for a matchup with the #1 seed from St. Cloud State. DeLeonardis was defeated in that meeting but bounced back in the third-place match against an opponent from Lake Erie College, winning 8-1. In total, he defeated three wrestlers who had beat him at some point earlier in the season.

Track & Field

Glenville State Indoor Track & Field standouts Natalie Barr and Janae Scott have been named to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Region. To earn All-Region, an athlete must be top five in their event in the region.

Barr finished second in the Atlantic Region in the 800 while Scott was third in the region in shot put. To go along with her All-Region honor, Scott finished the indoor season 50th in the country in the shot put.

The Glenville State Track & Field teams also recently kicked off the outdoor season at the 49er Classic in Charlotte, North Carolina with the setting of four new school records. Barr ran a time of 2:17 in the 800m run and a 4:50 in the 1500m run (13 seconds faster than prior record), setting school records in both. In the 800, she also placed 9th, only finishing behind Division I runners. Scott's throw of 13.28m in the shot put set a new school record and placed her 12th out of 61 throwers. Additionally, Kim Halsey posted 3.00m in the pole vault to take the new school record. Days later at the Stan Romanoski Open, Halsey broke her own school record with 3.05m; she placed 5th overall in that event.



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.

Pioneer Baseball Reunion Slated 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.

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



Steve Gandee Featured in WV State Bar Campaign

The West Virginia State Bar's "More Than A Lawyer" campaign aims to highlight all the ways West Virginia's attorneys impact lives both within and outside of their profession. Last month, that spotlight was on Steve Gandee '82.

A 2008 inductee into Glenville State's Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame, Gandee is a Member and Assistant Executive Officer at Robinson & McElwee, PLLC. During his time at Glenville State he played football and baseball. Since graduating, he has also served as a member of GSU's Board of Governors. Additionally, he has spent many years officiating basketball.

Steve started his refereeing career calling high school games in 1985 for the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission and then college games in the West Virginia Conference, the predecessor to the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, beginning in 1993. In that time, Steve has officiated more than 1,700 varsity high school and college basketball games, including ten boys' state championship finals and one girls' state championship final.

Though Steve remains a registered official, he spends his time now on the administrative side of the game. Putting his lawyer-brain to work, Steve now serves as a WVSSAC statewide rules clinician, a position that he shares with another seasoned official and friend, Dave Bowles. As a rules clinician, Steve has responsibility for conducting officiating clinics, addressing disqualification appeals from technical or flagrant foul situations, and assigning officials for regional and state tournament games. It is important to have highly qualified and experienced officials at the regional and state tournament games, and Steve is well-prepared to make those selections. "There are now about 850 registered basketball officials in West Virginia – where in the recent past there were 1,100-1,200 – and about 250 of them apply to work the regional and state tournaments. Of those 250 that apply, there are only about 3-4 that I don't know," Steve notes. He knows most of them well. Steve attends about 40 regular-season high school games a year, observing the assigned officials in order to assess their skill levels and provide constructive feedback (and also because he still enjoys watching the games).

To read the full "More Than a Lawyer" article written by Jami Cooper, click [here](#).

Alumni Reception Held at WVMEA Conference

Glenville State University hosted a reception during the West Virginia Music Educators Association conference for Glenville State alumni music, band, and choir teachers. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with some Pioneer alumni who are teaching throughout the Mountain State. The conference was held at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Featuring Guest Speaker Janet (James) Bailey '79

12:00 PM - Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom

[RSVP Here](#)

Thursday, April 11 - Career Expo

10:00 AM-2:00 PM - Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom

Open to alumni and current students

Thursday, April 11 - Percussion Ensemble Concert

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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

10:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

Friday, April 12 - Percussion Ensemble Concert

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Wednesday, April 17 - Concert Choir & Chamber Singers Concert

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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

4:00 PM - Robert F. Kidd Library

Friday, April 19 - Land Resources Department Golf Tournament

9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

Friday, April 19 - Kristen Wright's Senior Art Show Reception

4:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Gallery

Friday, April 26 - Concert Band Concert

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Saturday, April 27 - 3 Format Golf Outing Benefitting Men's Golf

9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

Saturday, April 27 - Alumni Baseball Reunion

1:00 PM - Sue Morris Sports Complex

Saturday, April 27 - Honor Band Concert with Guest Conductor Greg Richmond '04

2:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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

Friday, May 3-Saturday, May 4 - 50 Year Graduates Weekend
Celebrating the Class of 1974

Saturday, May 4 - Commencement
10:00 AM - Waco Center

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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The Glenville High School building (until 1956), which was located between what is now the Goodwin Hall residence hall and the Mollohan Campus Community Center on campus. The concrete stairs that led from the back door of the school toward Rt. 33/119 are still in place.

Glenville High School Alumni Scholarship

Since 2005, the Glenville High School Alumni Association (GHSAA) Scholarship Fund has helped Gilmer County's high school graduates with financial assistance to attend college with over \$300,000 in scholarship awards.

Although the GHSAA is no longer having an annual reunion, soliciting scholarship contributions, conducting scholarship interviews, or awarding scholarships, members of the association wanted to make sure that Gilmer County High School seniors who wish to attend Glenville State University can still benefit from the Glenville High School Alumni Scholarship.

As such, the most recent GHSAA President, John Gainer, and the most recent Scholarship Chairperson, Julia Murin Lee '71 - after conferring with the GHSAA Scholarship Committee members - decided it would be in the best interest of the scholarship fund to transfer the remaining monies to the Glenville State University Foundation. The GSU Foundation has agreed to accept full care, management, and distribution of the funds in the form of scholarships to GCHS seniors.

Donate to this fund by clicking the button below and choosing "Glenville High School Alumni Scholarship Fund" from the Designation drop-down menu.

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