

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | June 2024

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Taylor Corey '20 is currently working as a Latent Print Examiner with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Originally from Kearneysville, West Virginia, Taylor was a member of the Acrobatics and



Members of the Class of 1974 who attended the 50 year reunion during Commencement Weekend. Standing (l-r): Celia McCoy, Phil Reale, Terry (Smith) Reale, Deborah (Davis) Frederick, Beth (Boggs) Simmons, Vicki (Smith) Hammel, Maggie (Ball) Bennett, Jeff Jackson, Dan Taylor, Dennis Carpenter, Patty (Canterbury) Stoltz, Bobbi Shomo; Seated (l-r): Leah Ball, Robin (White) Chaney, Joann (DeRico) Huffman, Rebecca (Cutlip) Taylor, Mary (Chattin) Cline-Greer, Catherine (Reveal) Connor, Larry Lemasters; Not Pictured: Pam (Sumpter) Cain, Mike Kelley.

Class of 1974 Celebrates 50 Years

Several members of the Class of 1974 were recently honored at Glenville State University during their 50th reunion weekend.

Tumbling Team, the Pioneer Shooting Club, GSU Honors Program, Glenville State's chapter of criminal justice honor society Alpha Phi Sigma, and Sigma Pi Xi. She graduated in 2020 with a degree in criminal justice.

Now residing in Indianapolis, Indiana, she started her career with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department as a property room technician. Since moving into her new position in February 2023, Taylor has helped identify over 300 people. The identifications she has made are based solely on fingerprints that were left at scenes of a crime. Taylor says that the identifications are from suspects and victims of homicides, robberies, burglaries, vehicle thefts, and other crimes.

In addition to her new career, Taylor also purchased her first home in May of last year.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Taylor said, "Glenville State means so much to me. It was a place that welcomed me with open arms. This small town was my second home, and still is. With the close partnership with my professors, I truly believe this is what enhanced my education and experience. Glenville State provided many opportunities to expand your education and to grow within the community. Even after graduation, I still felt supported from my peers and professors. I couldn't be any more grateful for the time I have spent at Glenville."

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

The reunion weekend took place on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4. On Friday, the returning grads visited with President Manchin at the President's House, toured campus, took time to get reacquainted, and enjoyed dinner together. During the dinner, each alumnus was recognized and received a gift. The graduates also received a special commemorative medallion signifying their status as a 50 Year Graduate.

Many of the alumni returned to campus on Saturday morning to participate in the commencement exercises. As members of the 50-year reunion class, alumni are included in the graduation processional and are included in the ceremony. Wearing gold regalia, the Class of 1974 was seated in the dignitary section of the commencement hall and walked across the stage to be recognized.

Members of the Class of 1974 who participated in the weekend included, Leah Ball, Maggie (Ball) Bennett, Pam (Sumpter) Cain, Dennis Carpenter, Robin (White) Chaney, Mary (Chattin) Cline-Greer, Catherine (Reveal) Connor, Deborah (Davis) Frederick, Vicki (Smith) Hammel, Joann (DeRico) Huffman, Jeff Jackson, Mike Kelley, Larry Lemasters, Celia McCoy, Phil Reale, Terry (Smith) Reale, Bobbi Shomo, Beth (Boggs) Simmons, Patty (Canterbury) Stoltz, Dan Taylor, and Rebecca (Cutlip) Taylor.



GSU Night at GoMart Park is June 8

Join your fellow Pioneers at GoMart Ballpark in Charleston, West Virginia for an evening of baseball, food, and fun - Saturday, June 8 will be Glenville State Night! The gates will open at 5:30 PM, and game time is set for 6:35 PM. Wear your royal blue and root for the home team, Charleston Dirty Birds, while connecting with GSU alumni and friends.

Party Patio tickets (which include admission and access to the Bud Light Party Deck and its all-inclusive food and soft drinks) are available for \$30 through the Glenville State University Foundation Office by [clicking here](#). General admission tickets for the game can be purchased through the Charleston Dirty Birds Box Office [online](#), by phone at (304) 344-2287, or the day of the game at the gate.

For more information or questions about the event, contact [Vada Woodford](#) or call (304) 462-6382.



Clark Hall Rededicated as Home of GSU's Department of Education

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 1 to officially rededicate Clark Hall as the home of Glenville State University's Department of Education. Work has taken place over the past several months to renovate the building and relocate faculty offices to the main floor. The building also contains classrooms on the second floor and lower level, in addition to a resource room for student educators.

Special guests at the ribbon cutting were Barbara (Clark) Simmons '59 and Beverly (Clark) Haywood '59 – daughters of Clark Hall namesake, Professor Emeritus H.Y. Clark. Additionally, several former Education Department Deans were on hand help reopen the building. The former deans in attendance included Dr. Steven Creasey '76, Dr. Linda (Bissette) Dunlap '84, Professor Emeritus Dr. Joe Evans '63, Professor Emerita Dr. Kathy Butler '76, Dr. Debra Harrison '75, and Dr. Kevin Cain '87. A wall featuring past Department of Education Deans is on display just inside the main entrance of Clark Hall.

As part of the renovations, a new chandelier - donated by Skip '70 and Shirley (McIntyre) Hackworth '68 - was installed in the foyer and a copper-topped cupola was added, replacing the old cupola that was in disrepair. See video of the building [here](#).



Retired Glenville State employees (l-r): Brenda McCartney, Professor Emeritus Dr. H. Gary Gillespie, Professor Emerita Cinda Echard, Carla Conley, Professor Emerita Dr. Kathy Butler, Susie Persinger, Karen Lay, Ron Golden, Patty Snyder, Professor Emerita Yvonne King, Debbie Spence, Dewell Spence, Arleta Davis, Garry Kight, David Moss, Elbon James, Sherry deRosset, GSU President Dr. Mark Manchin, Professor Emeritus Wayne deRosset, Mandy Frymier, Linda Graff, Denise Ellyson, Professor Emeritus Rick Sypolt, and Professor Emeritus Ralph Bame.

Luncheon Held to Recognize Glenville State Retirees

Glenville State University recently welcomed several retired faculty, staff, and administrators back to campus for lunch and an opportunity to reconnect.

Collectively the group has contributed countless years of service to the institution and worked in areas including Business and Finance, Financial Aid, Registrar's Office, Print Shop, Physical Plant, Dining Services, Academic Affairs, Robert F. Kidd Library, Athletics, Department of Science and Math, Department of Fine Arts, Department of Land Resources, Department of Language and Literature, and the Department of Business.

Those in attendance included: Professor Emeritus Ralph Bame, Professor Emerita Dr. Kathy Butler '76, Carla (Mick) Conley '80, Arleta Davis, Sherry deRosset, Professor Emeritus Wayne deRosset, Professor Emerita Cinda (Ramsey) Echard '75, Denise Ellyson '97, Mandy Frymier '06, Professor Emeritus Dr. H. Gary Gillespie '59, Ron Golden, Linda Graff, Elbon James, Garry Kight, Professor Emerita Yvonne King '57, Karen (Bush) Lay '79, Brenda (Barton) McCartney '76, David Moss, Susie Persinger, Patty Snyder, Debbie Spence, Dewell Spence, and Professor Emeritus Rick Sypolt '75.



Sheri Goff Honored as 2024 Staff Employee of the Year

Glennville State University Financial Aid Counselor Sheri (Connell) Goff '04 has been named the 2024 GSU Staff Employee of the Year award recipient.

She originally came to Glennville State in 2007 as the Administrative Secretary for the Department of Fine Arts, then moved to Financial Aid in 2017. Goff became the third person in West Virginia and, as of last month, one of only 649 individuals across the country to be awarded the Certified Financial Aid Administrator (FAAC®) national certification.

“My favorite part of working at GSU is watching the students grow and seeing them go out to have successful careers, knowing that I had some small part of helping them along the way,” Goff said. “I have also been blessed with amazing work families in my time at Glennville State. The staff, faculty, students, and alumni are what make this the best place to work.”

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Glennville Alumni Help Plant First of its Kind Chestnut Orchard at Burnsville Lake

Thanks to the West Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the first 100-tree germplasm conservation orchard (GCO) has been established in the state of West Virginia at Burnsville Lake. The trees will be used to assist with research in creating an American Chestnut that will be blight resistant. A GCO is an orchard collection of diverse wild American chestnut sources. GCO's generally contain 10 seedlings from 10 different mother trees (100 trees) per acre.

Several of those who assisted with the planting are Glennville State graduates, including two Army Corps of Engineers employees - Brian Carson '21 and Hunter Simmons '19 - and local Weyerhaeuser employee Jimmy Jenkins '95, '96, & '09. WV Division of Natural Resources employees (including current GSU student and WVDNR student intern, Zach Holstion) and West Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation also helped with the planting.

According to the American Chestnut Foundation, the American chestnut once dominated portions of the eastern United States forests. The tree was among the largest, tallest, and fastest-growing in these forests. Unfortunately, that began to change in the late 1800's with the introduction of a deadly blight from Asia. In about 50 years, the pathogen, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, reduced the American chestnut from its invaluable role to a tree that now grows mostly as an early-successional-stage shrub. There has been no new chestnut lumber sold in the U.S. for decades.

Come Work With Us!

Goff becomes the 35th recipient of the staff recognition award that has been presented at Glenville State since 1986. Names of the honorees are displayed on a permanent plaque in the Heflin Administration Building.



Glenville State University currently has several staff and faculty positions open. [Browse the available positions here](#) – feel free to apply or share with someone you know who might be qualified.



Briar Stehman, Glenville State University's 85th Pioneer Mascot.

Stehman Named 85th Pioneer

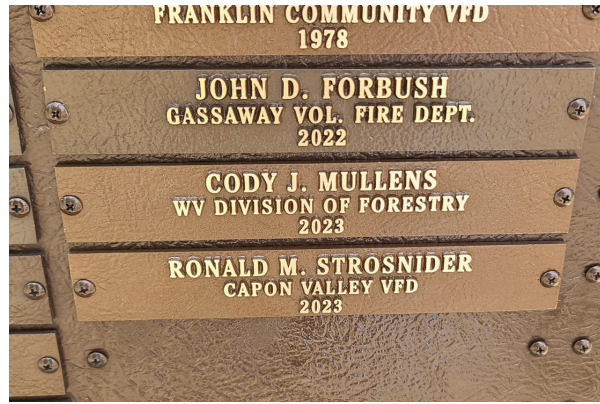
Briar Stehman has been named the Glenville State University Pioneer Mascot for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The senior is pursuing a degree in Natural Resource Management with a concentration in Environmental Science. Hailing from Chloe, West Virginia, Stehman has been named to the academic honor roll several times and is a member of the GSU Boxing Team, the Student Government Association, and is a brother in the Sigma Omega Beta social fraternity.

As the GSU Pioneer, Stehman will attend football and basketball games, tournaments, and other school events. The Pioneer is charged with working with students, faculty, and staff to positively promote and support the university. The official uniform of the Glenville State Pioneer is a set of buckskins, a coonskin hat, and a musket. An ongoing tradition for nearly 90 years, Stehman becomes the 85th student to portray the Pioneer Mascot.

Alumnus Added to National, WV Fallen Firefighter Memorials

The late Cody Mullens '19 was honored last month when his name was added to both the [National Fallen Firefighters Memorial](#) in Emmitsburg, Maryland and the West Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial located at the State Capitol Complex Cultural Center in Charleston.



Members of Cody's family were on hand at both ceremonies and many of his WV Division of Forestry colleagues joined for the event at the State Cultural Center. The WVDOF Honor Guard was also on hand to pay tribute.

Mullens, a West Virginia Division of Forestry employee, was working as a Forester and Wildland Firefighter when he died in the line of duty in April 2023.



Next Pioneer Progress in the Works

Our editorial team is hard at work on the next issue of the *Pioneer Progress* magazine for Glenville State alumni and friends!

If you or your company are interested in supporting the *Pioneer Progress* with a monetary donation or advertising in the next issue, contact Vada.Woodford@glenville.edu for more information.



GSU senior Fabian Escalante was one of several Pioneers honored this semester. Escalante earned NCBWA All-Region First Team honors.

Finishing Strong: End of Academic Year Sees High Marks, Accolades for Pioneer Athletics

Baseball

Glennville State Baseball had a strong season and made another appearance at the Mountain East Conference Tournament before being knocked out by the University of Charleston during a 7-6 heartbreaker on May 10. Standout senior Fabian Escalante earned National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association All-Region First Team honors, this is his second consecutive season to earn the honor.

Softball

The Lady Pioneers faced a strong Notre Dame College team during the opening round of the Mountain East Conference Tournament early last month. After being edged out by the NDC Falcons, the Pioneers went on to beat Concord 1-0 in an elimination game, staying alive in the Tournament before being eliminated by Davis & Elkins in their second game, 9-6. The Pioneers entered the day #7 in the Atlantic Regional rankings. Glennville State stars Holly Brehm '24 and Kylee Goodman earned All-MEC honors; Brehm was selected to the First Team while Goodman was a Second Team honoree.

Wrestling

Glennville State's Wrestling Coach Dylan Cottrell was named 2024 Mountain East Conference Coach of the Year, repeating the honor for the second consecutive year. He and the Pioneers turned in a record of 13-10 in dual meets this season and won the program's first-ever MEC Championship. At the MEC Championship, GSU won individual championships at five of the weight classes and finished runner-up in four others. The Pioneers also sent five wrestlers to nationals, with two earning All-American honors as Gavin Quiocho placed 2nd and Gaetano DeLeonardis nabbed 3rd.

Track & Field

The Glennville State Track & Field teams completed the MEC Outdoor Championship, bringing home an individual championship and five podium finishes. The women placed 6th while the men finished 9th as a team. Janae Scott won the shot put championship with a throw of 13.17m; she also won the shot put title at the MEC Indoor Championship. Other podium finishes included Aaron Kupfner who finished 3rd in the 400m hurdles with a time of 54.56, Christian Hanna '24 who had a 3rd place finish in the hammer throw with a throw of 47.01m, Natalie Barr placed 3rd in the 800m run with a time of 2:19, Kimberly Halsey '24 who threw 33.55m in the javelin to take 3rd place, and Scott who earned a 3rd place finish in discus with a throw of 41.18m. Late last month, Natalie Barr earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Outdoor Track & Field All-Region - becoming the first person in program history to earn All-Region in Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, and Outdoor Track & Field.

Acrobatics & Tumbling

The Glennville State Acrobatics & Tumbling team captured three Mountain East Conference Event Championships this season, winning the Inversion Pyramid, Open Pyramid, and the 450 Salto Toss. The team had two events qualify for the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association Nationals, 6 Element Acro and 450 Salto Toss. GSU's 450 Salto Toss team has qualified for Nationals two years in a row. Baylor University would go on to best Glennville State in both event finals.

Save the Date!

HOMECOMING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

Alumni Oral History Project Continues

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](#).

Special thanks to the hundreds of you who have already shared your story!

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 8 - GSU Night at GoMart Park

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

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#)

Wednesday, June 12 - Let's Taco 'Bout Summer

5:00-7:00 PM - Waco Center

GSU WLC Event - Contact [Vada Woodford](#) to RSVP

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

Friday, July 12 - PAC Golf Outing
Nicholas Memorial Golf Course (Summersville, WV)
Contact [Stephen Dye](#) for more information

Friday, August 9 - PAC Golf Outing
Woodridge Golf Club (Mineral Wells, WV)
Contact [Stephen Dye](#) for more information

Wednesday, August 14 - GSU Night at Lambert's Winery
5:00 PM - Lambert's Winery (Weston, WV)

Monday, August 19 - First Day of Fall Semester Classes

Scholarship Corner

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



Claude R. and Ethel Foster Kemper Scholarship

With the WV State Folk Festival just around the corner, all of the artisans and activities showcased during the Festival quickly come to mind. One need only visit the first floor of the Robert F. Kidd Library to see one such exhibit – “The Birds of my Hollow” display featuring carved birds by Claude '33 and Ethel (Foster) Kemper '32.

The Kemper carved bird collection was given to Glenville State as a gift in 2000. It remains an exquisite showpiece of the Kidd Library.

Claude and his wife Ethel met at Glenville State (then Glenville State Teachers College) while both were earning normal school teaching certificates in the 1930s. Later in life, the pair worked together crafting wooden birds until Ethel's death in 1998. Claude passed away in 2004.

Kemper received the inspiration for his bird carvings from the 150-acre farm of his childhood located on Tanner Creek Road in Glenville, West Virginia. He decided to create a collection entitled “The Birds of My Hollow” that contained only the species of birds that could be found in the hollow in which the

Kemper farm was located. The end result included 45 different bird species. Kemper eventually created ten complete sets. In 2000, he gifted one of those sets to his alma mater. To make his collection unique, he created a centerpiece entitled "Feathers of Yellow." This one-of-a-kind centerpiece includes ten separate birds perched on a base made of basswood, a species of tree that grows readily in West Virginia. The RFK Library also has another unique Kemper piece entitled "Joy of Spring" that was donated by the family.

The carvings are mounted to driftwood bases that were collected from lakes throughout the state. The birds are protected by display cases made of wild cherry wood donated by Kemper's friend John Cooper. Retired Glenville State Physical Plant employee Tom Wellings built the cases, which are works of art in their own right.

Established 1998, the Claude R. and Ethel Foster Kemper Scholarship benefits up to two students each year. One student is to be a graduate from Gilmer County High School and the other a graduate of Webster County High School. Kemper Scholarship awards are based upon academic promise and financial need.

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

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