

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | July 2024

## Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Linda McCallister '68 recently published the third in a series of children's books. The books include: *The Magical Gingerbread House*, *The Astonishing Time Machine*, and *The Wacky Field Day*. Linda's sister, Connie (McCallister)



*John McKinney '73 and President Mark Manchin pause for a photo after McKinney threw out one of the ceremonial pitches at GoMart Park on Saturday, June 8 as part of GSU Night at the ballpark.*

## Glenville State Night at GoMart Park Draws a Crowd

Nearly 100 Glenville State alumni and friends turned out to GoMart Park in Charleston, WV for GSU Night in June.

Jordan '71, illustrated the books.

Originally from Saint Albans, West Virginia, McCallister is a retired gifted teacher in Kanawha and Putnam Counties (WV), a former principal and assistant principal, and county-level special education and federal program coordinator. She has also previously done contract work for the WV Department of Education.

During her time at Glenville State, Linda was a Home Economics major and later went on to earn a master's degree in Home Economics Education from Marshall University and a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Special Education with an emphasis on Gifted from West Virginia University and Marshall.

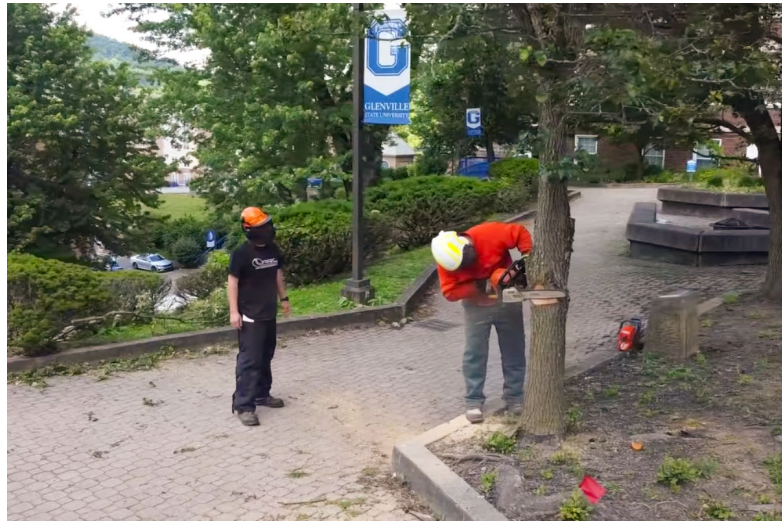
During her years as a teacher, she was selected as an ambassador in gifted education, traveling to Russia and Hungary to do presentations with Dr. Dorothy Sisk, a national leader in gifted education. She was a member of several gifted organizations (at the state, national, and international level) and served as treasurer, vice president (in charge of coordinating the state gifted conference), and president of the state gifted organization – doing many presentations at conferences. Linda helped coordinate several state competitions, such as the Academic Decathlon – where she traveled to California with the winning state team – and state Quiz Bowls. She also judged 'Future Problem Solving' competitions and cheerleading competitions.

In her spare time, Linda says she enjoys writing, renovating houses, sewing, cooking and baking, and dancing. She has also belonged to community service organizations where

Professor Emeritus John McKinney '73 - alongside his wife, Professor Emeritus Cheryl McKinney, and President Manchin - threw out the ceremonial first pitch on behalf of Glenville State before the game between the Charleston Dirty Birds and the Lancaster Stormers got underway.

Special thanks to everyone who joined us on the GoMart Park Party Deck for an evening of baseball and Pioneer camaraderie!

[Click here](#) to see a gallery of photos from GSU Night.



*Tom Snyder '82 (with chainsaw) works to remove an invasive Bradford pear tree from the Luanna Smith Amphitheater.*

## Multiple Construction Projects Underway on Campus

With the summer season upon us, several projects have kicked off at Glenville State. Many of these improvements have been made possible by the nearly \$12 million in deferred maintenance funding that Glenville State University received from the State of West Virginia.

At the Waco Center, work is progressing to build out the previously unfinished space just off the main lobby that will be utilized by the College of Health Sciences. Plans call for the area to include a skills lab, simulation lab, lecture room, and a "flex space" that will be used by students enrolled in a variety of health-related academic programs. A student lounge and faculty office spaces will round out the area.

Several structurally compromised and non-native trees have been removed from the area in and around the Luanna Smith Amphitheater. Electrical wiring is being replaced throughout the Amphitheater along with new fiber optic cabling that is being routed through campus.

Work is underway to relocate several offices and academic departments within Louis Bennett Hall, including the Office of Technology, Marketing and University Relations, Financial Aid, Print Shop, the campus food pantry, the Department of Business, and others in anticipation of the partial demolition of the building.



she volunteered to help cook church dinners and coordinate bible schools.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Linda said, "Glenville was a great start to my educational career and provided the skills I used to work with gifted students."

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

Repairs are also being made to the Health and Physical Education Building. Anyone who has visited campus over the past few weeks may have noticed that parts of the PE Building are closed. This is due to an issue with the limestone trim that is part of two of the entrances to the building. The masonry work unexpectedly failed and some of the stones either fell or were at risk of doing so. For safety purposes, the main entrance to the building has been closed until repairs can take place. The building is still accessible via the entrance closest to the Public Safety Office or the doors nearest Clark Hall.



*Some of the participants of the recent GSU Women's Leadership Circle event show off their graze boxes.*

## Feeling Foodie: WLC Hosts Summer Event

Last month, the GSU Women's Leadership Circle held a fun event where attendees were able to make their own graze box right alongside local "Foodie Mama" Jodi Steadman.

The boxes contained assorted snacks - from fresh fruit and cheeses, to cookies and protein bites. Participants also had the opportunity to try their hand at making a decorative (and edible) pepperoni rose for their boxes. Steadman says the boxes are easily customizable and make great gifts.

Organizer Vada Woodford said she appreciates everyone who took part in the event. "We really enjoy hosting events such as these and it was wonderful to see such a great turnout. I've been very impressed by the members and supporters of our Women's Leadership Circle and what we've been able to accomplish together - including providing scholarships to current students," she said.

For more information about the Women's Leadership Circle at Glenville State - or to become a member - [click here](#).

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*Glennville State University President Dr. Mark Manchin waves to those gathered for the annual West Virginia State Folk Festival parade on Saturday, June 22.*

## **President Manchin Honored as 2024 WVSFF Parade Marshal**

The [West Virginia State Folk Festival](#) took place in Glennville last month and this year's Folk Festival parade marshal was Glennville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin.

"I was beyond honored to have been selected as the marshal for this year's West Virginia State Folk Festival parade," Manchin said. "As many of our alumni already know, Glennville State has been connected with the Folk Festival since its inception back in 1950. Over the years that connection has continued and we love to see familiar faces and newcomers in town and on campus for the Festival."

Manchin says one of his favorite parts of the Folk Festival is visiting with the Festival Belles, the charming county ambassadors from throughout the Mountain State who must be at least 70 years old, reside in West Virginia, and possess the pioneering spirit that characterizes mountain heritage.

"The Belles spend the weekend residing on our campus and meeting them is always a highlight of the Festival for me. These lovely ladies and their companions exemplify what is truly great about West Virginia – our people and traditions," he added.

Despite the heat, this year's Folk Festival included all the usual fun that has come to be expected, along with a few new events. Events included square dancing, folk music and singing, storytelling, a spelling bee and trivia contest, lumberjack competition, pet show, quilt show, antique car show, fiddle and banjo contests, horse drawn wagon rides, and much more. Craft and food vendors were also set up all around Downtown Glennville during the Festival.

The WV State Folk Festival officers include President Dr. David O'Dell (Professor of Chemistry at GSU), Brenda (Barton) McCartney '76 (retired GSC Registrar), Secretary Lynn Welch, Treasurer Sandy (Moyers) Pettit '85, and Historian Jason Gum '05 (RFK Library Director). WVSFF board members include Ginny Hawker '91, Carol (Reed) Wolfe '78, Doug Cottrill, Ted Yurkiewicz, and Tony Minney '08.





*(l-r) GSU Director of Student Life Conner Ferguson '17 and Student Government Association members Robert Pomeroy, Devan Gauldin, Jahzeiah Wade, Trinity Kanz, and Graylin Floyd at the annual WV Student Leadership Conference.*

## **GSU Delegation Attends Annual Student Leadership Conference**

Several Glenville State University Student Government Association members recently joined their peers from two- and four-year public colleges and universities across West Virginia for the 18th annual West Virginia Student Leadership Conference (WVSLC). GSU Director of Student Life Conner Ferguson '17 accompanied Student Government Association members Robert Pomeroy, Devan Gauldin, Jahzeiah Wade, Trinity Kanz, and Graylin Floyd during the event.

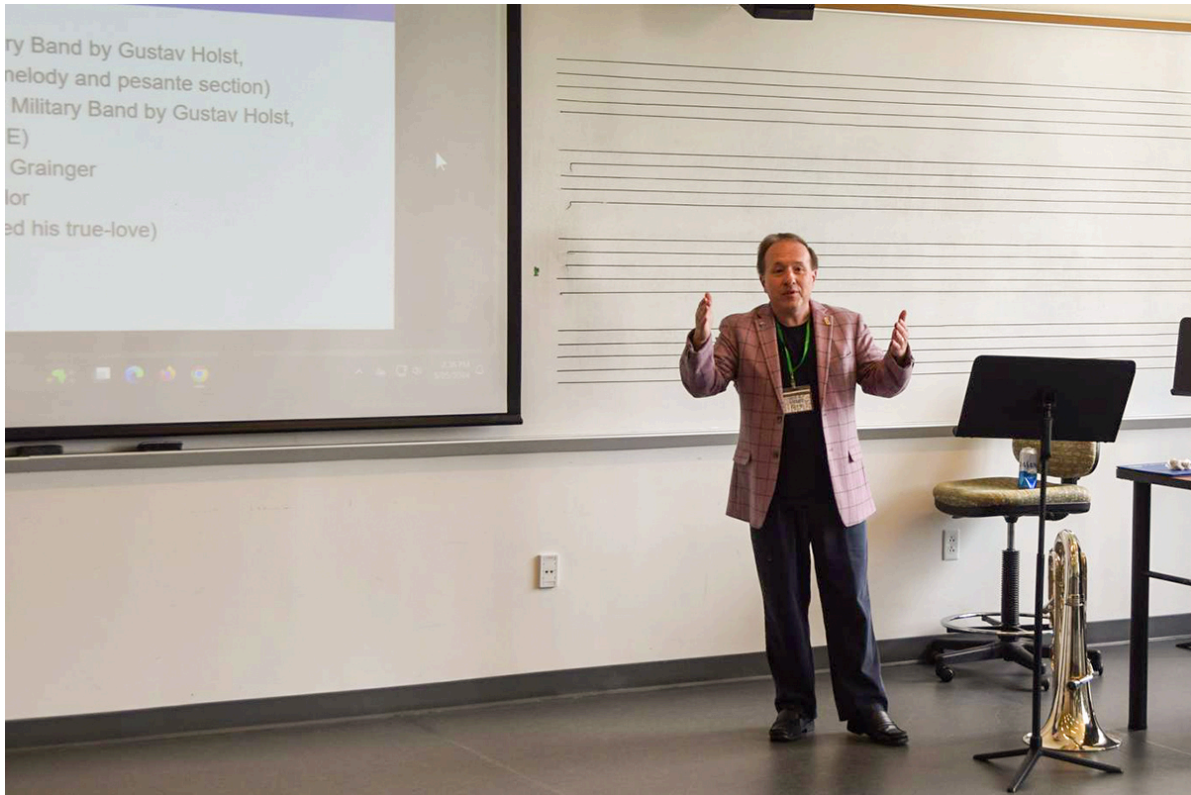
The WVSLC serves as a training event for student government representatives, many of whom are newly elected to their roles. During the conference, students learned leadership skills, networked with other student body leaders and higher education administrators, and shared ideas for engaging their campus communities. The event was held at Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center.

The three-day conference was filled with sessions, workshops, and round table discussions. Students discussed a variety of topics, including the role of student government, how to engage with local, state and federal officials, increasing community involvement, and providing student support systems. Students were also able to socialize and trade ideas with peers from other colleges, as well as engage with state and college officials. One of the educational sessions was a panel, facilitated by Ferguson, that featured student government alumni from various institutions. That panel included former Glenville State SGA President, Nic McVaney '23.

During the conference, sessions were led by both college faculty, student government advisors, and students. Sessions tackled common campus issues and provided students with solutions on how to increase campus involvement and enrollment. Additionally, participants learned from other students, faculty, and state higher education leaders.

The WVSLC is cosponsored by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the West Virginia Community and Technical College System, with Shepherd University assisting with coordination of the event.

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*Glenville State University's Associate Professor of Music and Marching Band Director Dr. Lloyd Bone at the 2024 Northeast Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference.*

## **Music Professor is Guest Performer at Tuba and Euphonium Conference**

Dr. Lloyd Bone, Associate Professor of Music at Glenville State University, recently showcased his talent as a lecture recitalist at the 2024 Northeast Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference that was held at George Mason University. The event is a major conference in the low brass field and Dr. Bone was invited to participate as part of a large group of clinicians and artists from around the country.

"I have been invited as a guest performer or conductor many times to other regional, national, and international conferences, but never as a lecture recitalist. My presentation was well-received and afterwards sparked a lot of great conversation concerning the subject matter with attendees. I was very happy with the presentation which was a combination of performing and lecture – this was a fun and different conference presentation experience," he said.

Bone joined the Department of Fine Arts faculty in 2004. He also serves as the director of the Brass Ensemble and the Pioneer Marching Band.

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## **Nominate a Glenville State Grad for an Alumni Award**

Alumni Council is accepting nominations for alumni awards to be presented in April 2025. Nominations received by December 31, 2024 will be considered for the upcoming year's awards. Those received



after that date will be saved for the following year's consideration.

Award categories include Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award, Alumnus/Alumna Achievement Award, Community Achievement Award, Outstanding Teacher Award (Public Schools), Alumni Chapter Award, Posthumous Award, and Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna Award.

Read more about the award categories, consideration criteria for each, and download a nomination form by [clicking here](#).

Alumni Council will review the nominees and decide the award recipients by majority vote. Awardees will be announced next spring.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, July 11 - Roane County Alumni & Friends Gathering**  
5:00 PM - Steele Hollow Estates (130 Steele Hollow Road | Spencer, WV)  
\$20 for single; \$35 for couples

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

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

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**Monday, August 19 - First Day of Fall Semester Classes**



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