

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | August 2024

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Breanna Bennett '19 is currently working for Raleigh County (WV) Schools where she teaches music to elementary school students, something she's been doing for the past five years.



(l-r) Jacob Petry, Corey Mounts, Ethan Blust, Sara Lowe, Sam Turley, Chloe Richardson, Noah Miner, Ethan McIntyre, Elijah McIntyre, and Dr. Rico Gazal

Department of Land Resources Students Travel to The Philippines

Glenville State University Department of Land Resources faculty members Professor of Forestry Dr. Rico Gazal and Assistant Professor of Land Surveying Mr. Jacob Petry '22 recently traveled

During her time at Glenville State, she took part in several musical ensembles and student organizations, including Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Concert Band, Brass Ensemble, Trumpet Ensemble, GSC's chapter of the National Association for Music Education, and Kappa Delta Pi.

Since graduating from Glenville State with degrees in Music Education (PreK-Adult) and Music Performance, she has earned a Master of Arts degree in Reading for Elementary Education from Grand Canyon University.

Breanna says that her passion is to share the joys of music to her students and give them an outlet to express themselves freely – noting that without music and other fine arts, students don't have a chance to do that in a way that is healthy and productive. She is particularly proud of the concerts that her students have performed, adding that the students have even learned songs in different languages.

At the conclusion of this past school year, Breanna visited her old school to see the fifth graders – her former students – graduate. She says this was something she had promised them, calling it a heartwarming and tearful moment as the students lined up to share hugs and memories.

In her spare time, Breanna enjoys singing, playing various instruments, and drawing. She also occasionally volunteers at the Humane Society of Raleigh County during the summer, working to get cats more acquainted with humans. She notes that it is a very rewarding experience and that she found her own fuzzy feline friend there as well.

with natural resource management students Ethan Blust, Elijah McIntyre '24, Ethan McIntyre, Sara Lowe, Noah Miner, Corey Mounts, Chloe Richardson, and Sam Turley to visit two universities in the Philippines.

The students presented about invasive species in West Virginia at Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) and the University of the Philippines Los Baños, College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB CFNR). The presentation at UPLB was part of a joint seminar between Glenville State's Department of Land Resources with Gazal and the Department of Forest Biological Sciences at UPLB CFNR with Dr. Alona Linatoc.

The trip allowed Glenville State students to promote GSU and West Virginia to students and faculty abroad, while also strengthening their international experiences. GSU and UPLB have been partners for several years.

Additionally, Petry presented a seminar entitled, "Legal Aspects: Metes and Bounds versus Public Land Survey System in the United States." The Department of Land Resources also donated a total station to UPLB CFNR, with Petry and the GSU students assisting in the demonstration for Dr. Jun Tiburan's Forest Surveying class. Total stations are high-precision instruments used by land surveyors to record locations and boundaries.

"The trip to the Philippines this year was a great success," said Petry. "Each time I meet our friends at UPLB, I leave with a better understanding of what it means to be an educator. It is important to strengthen current relationships and foster new ones with institutions such as UPLB and University of the Philippines Diliman. In the future, Dr. Gazal and I plan to have a Memorandum of Understanding in place with a school that teaches land surveying and geomatics," Petry added.

During this year's trip, the group also attended the Pahiyas Festival in Lucban, Quezon hosted by SLSU's Dr. Ellaga. The Pahiyas Festival is a harvest festival in the Philippines that celebrates San Isidro Labrador, the patron saint of farmers, laborers, and peasants.

Glenville State FBLA Student Earns Top 10 Finish at National Conference

Glenville State University's FBLA-Collegiate team performed well during the 2024 Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference that took place in Orlando, Florida in late June.



When asked what Glenville State means to her, Breanna said, "Glenville State treated me like a person instead of a number. The professors already knew my name, where I was from, and were very friendly and welcoming during my time there. The sense of community and belonging was a big deal for someone coming from a small town."

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

In April, GSU's FBLA chapter President Charles Copeland III and Vice President Haylen Book advanced past the State Leadership Conference to earn a spot at the National Leadership Conference competitions. During the national-level competition, Book (pictured above with her award) placed ninth in the Foundations of Management event. She was one of only three West Virginia students to place across all of the competition categories. The Foundations of Management event consists of a timed, objective test that covers topics such as policies and strategies, organization structure, employee motivation theories, communication techniques, planning, and more.

In addition to participating in the competitions, GSU's FBLA team also had the opportunity to network with student entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and other FBLA members.

Community Invited to Help Welcome New Students

With the new academic year only weeks away, Glenville State University is preparing to greet new students as they participate in Welcome Week, which is designed to help them acclimate to college life and the community before classes begin on Monday, August 19.



To help the new students learn about the Glenville community - including local businesses, churches, and other groups that might interest them - GSU is hosting a Community and Campus Organization Fair.

The event will take place on Friday, August 16 beginning at 10:00 a.m. on GSU's Clark Hall Lawn on the main campus. Representatives from community businesses, churches, and organizations are invited to set up displays to introduce themselves to the new students through the use of coupons, gift certificates, free samples, and informative handouts. The annual event is an opportunity to show new GSU Pioneers what the community has to offer them. Incoming students will also learn more about the campus student organizations that are available to them, as these groups will be on hand at the event as well.

For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact Vada.Woodford@glenville.edu or call (304) 462-6382.

Thanks for the Memories: Two Longtime Instructors Retire from GSU

Tom E. Snyder



Tom Snyder '82 grew up in Clarksburg, but spent many of his summer days on the family farm near Roanoke where he developed an enduring interest in the outdoors.

He graduated from Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg in 1977 and later attended Glenville State College, where he earned degrees in Forest Technology, Land Surveying Technology, and Business Administration.

He worked for a time for a land surveying firm in Lewis County in the early-1980s. In 1984, he returned to Glenville State as an Academic Laboratory Technician in the Department of Land Resources.

At Glenville, he quickly warmed to his role assisting faculty and students. He made it his mission to become an expert in using all the tools and equipment so he could teach those skills to students. He mastered the school's bulldozer, skidder, and chainsaws, as well as surveying instruments such as transits and GPS units. He even earned a CDL so he could take students on field trips to see forest management practices, sawmills, and papermills on the school-owned bus.

During his time at Glenville State, Tom has trained countless forestry technicians and land surveyors, many of whom still work in the Mountain State.

He was instrumental in establishing and managing an American Chestnut orchard on the Glenville farm that was sponsored by the West Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. He was the primary force in erecting the top section of the historic Sand Springs fire tower, originally from Coopers Rock State Forest, on the highest knoll of the college forest.

Snyder also helped establish a nature trail at the Gilmer County 4-H Center, selecting trail

Cheryl F. McKinney



Cheryl Fleming McKinney has taught accounting courses at Glenville State since 1983. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Global Management Accountant. She holds an undergraduate business degree and a Master of Professional Accounting degree, both from West Virginia University.

McKinney has previously served as Chair of the Department of Business, President of Glenville's Faculty Senate, and on a myriad of campus committees. In 1996 she received Glenville State's prestigious Outstanding Faculty Award and served as a Faculty Marshal and on the University Leadership Council until her retirement.

She was elected President of the West Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants (WVSCPA) for the 2017-2018 year and, at the time, was the first sitting educator or professor in almost forty years to be president of the Society. In 2009, the WVSCPA honored McKinney with its Outstanding Educator Award, an annual recognition that is presented to a full-time or recently retired accounting educator who is distinguished for excellence in classroom teaching. The award also recognizes active involvement in the accounting profession. In 2022, McKinney represented Glenville State as a finalist for the prestigious Faculty Merit Foundation's West Virginia Professor of the Year.

McKinney also coordinated the participation of Glenville State's accounting program in the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, in which accounting students assist the campus and community with income tax preparation, for well over 20 years.

From 1999-2006, McKinney served as Glenville State's Vice President of Student Affairs. During that time, she worked to usher in a new era for student life on campus, overseeing the full renovation and modernization of the student

highlights and preparing trail signs and a detailed booklet for the attraction. He is a longtime supporter of the West Virginia hunter education program and the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program in Lewis County. He is a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

In 2001, he received the National Graduate Forest Technician Achievement Award from the Council of Eastern Forest Technology Schools and, in 2019, he was inducted into the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame, a recognition that he says left him speechless.

Snyder is an active member of Saint Boniface Catholic Church, where he served as President of the Holy Name Society. He and his wife Patty (who retired from Glenville State in 2021 with over 42 years of service) reside in Camden, West Virginia and have a son, Thomas '16.

His last day at Glenville State was July 8, 2024.

center while leading professional staff members in student activities, residence life, public safety, dining services, the student health center, campus mail room, and fitness center to better serve the student body.

In addition to teaching, she previously operated an independent CPA firm, preparing taxes and providing accounting consultancy. For a time, she also worked for the accounting services firm Ernst & Whinney (now EY).

McKinney also performed alongside the student and alumni members of Glenville's Percussion Ensemble for almost forty years when it was under the direction of her husband, Professor Emeritus John McKinney '73. She and John reside in Glenville, West Virginia.

Her last day at Glenville State was May 10, 2024.

Show Your Spirit!





(l-r) Assistant Director for Educational Pathways for International Centers and Students at Fairmont State University Sarah Sakaguchi, Director of International Student Services at Glenville State University Bridget Carr, Director of International Programs with the WV Higher Education Policy Commission Clark Egnor, Director of International Affairs at Shepherd University Emily Liu, and Director of International Admissions at Concord University Marcus Murrell at the 2024 NAFSA Conference.

Carr Receives Barr Professional Development Award

Glenville State University's Director of International Student Services, Bridget Carr '18, received the 2024 Pete and Betsy Barr Professional Development Award. The award, which was first established in 2010 by former GSU President and First Lady Drs. Peter and Betsy Barr, is rotated annually between Glenville State faculty and staff. The award is designed to be used by the recipient to further their professional growth; however, the awardee can use the money to further their particular area of interest in lieu of traditional professional development activities.

As recipient of the award, Carr had the opportunity to attend the 76th annual NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference and Expo in New Orleans, Louisiana at the end of May. NAFSA is the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange, with more than 11,000 members across 4,300 institutions.

Carr says that she attended several sessions at the conference and learned new ways to increase campus and community support for the international student population at Glenville State University. She also heard updates on best practices and rules for admissions, immigration laws, and international student recruiting initiatives.

"It was wonderful to connect with so many educators from around the world who support international education. I am grateful to the Glenville State University Foundation for supporting this amazing opportunity that allowed me to learn, grow, and connect with the international community," Carr added.



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.

Save the Date!

HOMECOMING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

Roane County Alumni Chapter Event Held

The GSU Roane County Alumni Chapter recently held an event at Steele Hollow Estates in Spencer, WV. The event was organized by chapter leader Kate (Williams) Gainer '14.

Attendees received a campus and Athletic Department update from GSU Athletic Director Jesse Skiles '87, and they heard about the scholarship that the Chapter has established for students from Roane County who are attending Glenville State University. Everyone also enjoyed a meal of wood-fired pizzas, snacks, and drinks.

The Roane County Alumni Chapter is now planning a golf tournament to benefit GSU Wrestling; that event is scheduled for Saturday, September 14 and will take place at the Roane County Golf Club.



Time to Renew PAC, President's Circle, WLC Memberships

It is that time of year when Pioneer Athletic Club, President's Circle, and Women's Leadership Circle memberships are set to be renewed. This year, there are new PAC membership levels to explore in addition to several familiar tiers of giving. WLC and President's Circle membership fees remain unchanged.

Click the buttons below to renew or sign up to be a PAC, President's Circle, or WLC member.

*Pioneer
Athletic
Club*

*President's
Circle*

*Women's
Leadership
Circle*

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, September 14 - Roane County One-Club Golf Challenge Tournament
9:00 AM - Roane County Golf Club
Cost is \$50 per golfer (includes cart and lunch); proceeds benefit Roane County Alumni Chapter and GSU Wrestling



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200 High St., Glennville, WV 26351