

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Pioneer Update

Glennville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | December 2024

## Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Helen (Davis) Berard '83 is currently working as a Senior Corporate Communications



*Glennville State University President Mark Manchin and his daughter Tara with Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship recipient Madelynn Ojanpera-Lynch (center) at the Scholarship Donors Reception.*

Professional with Siemens Energy in Orlando, Florida. She has been with Siemens for 20 years. Helen previously worked for Intersil/Harris Semiconductor in Melbourne, Florida.

The Spencer, West Virginia native graduated from Glenville State College with Associate Degrees in Business Administration and Secretarial Science in 1983. Helen went on to graduate from Rollins College in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree and earned an Electric Engineering Certificate from Eastern Florida State College in 2011. She is also Scrum Product Owner Certified (SPOC).

During her time at Glenville State, she was a member of Future Business Leaders of America, the Delta Zeta sorority, and the Marching Band and Concert Band.

Helen earned a first-place award for a Global Creative Campaign related to a Customer Message Management Platform. She was also the project lead on an international communications team that planned large industry events including strategy development, content creation, campaign management, and digital communications.

In her spare time Helen enjoys spending time with family, travel, and her pets. In fact, she has volunteered with the Space Coast Therapy Dog group and trained her own dog to visit hospitals and nursing homes.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Helen said, "Glenville State gave me a great start for my education plan and career aspirations. I remember the teachers were very invested and spent time with us to shape and guide our

## Scholarship Donor Reception Held

Current Glenville State University student scholarship recipients recently had the opportunity to say thank you to several special donors during a Scholarship Donor Reception on campus.

The event recognized the academic pursuits of students and the generosity of benefactors. Several donors and their scholarship recipients were able to gather at the event, some meeting for the first time.

"This is always a great event and I think the reception provided a wonderful opportunity for interaction between the students and scholarship donors. I'm very appreciative of all those who attended," said David Hutchison, Glenville State's Vice President of Advancement.

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



*Artist's rendition of the new Glenville State University amphitheater area.*

## Work Continues on Campus Amphitheater Revamp

Crews have spent the past several months working around the center of campus as upgrades to the Luanna Smith Amphitheater have been taking place. Once completed, plans call for the area to provide more space and expanded pedestrian access.

Glenville State's original amphitheater was constructed in the early 1960s. That space, which spanned most of the hillside behind the Robert F. Kidd Library, had seating for 1,000 and frequently hosted large events and performances in addition to being a popular campus hangout. The area was downsized in the 90s due to drainage issues that had caused portions of the amphitheater to fall into disrepair.

"We expect that this renovation to the center of our campus will be truly transformative and will allow ADA access to the expanded

study. I'm still friends with many of my classmates that I met at GSC. I definitely have fond memories of my days on campus."

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

space. I look forward to seeing all the ways that our campus community is able to use this new area," said Glenville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin. "We also extend our thanks to everyone for their patience as this construction and renovation has progressed. I know it has been an inconvenience to our daily routines, but the end result should truly be worth it."

VanNostrand Architects are assisting with design plans for the project.

## GSU Alumni Awards Nomination Deadline Nearing

The Glenville State University Alumni Council is [accepting nominations](#) for alumni awards to be presented in April 2025 through the end of this month. 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 recipients will be announced in the spring.

[Download a Nomination Form](#)



## New VP of Enrollment and Student Affairs Looks to the Future

Earlier this semester, Duane Chapman '93 was selected as the Vice President of Enrollment and Student Affairs at Glenville State University.

In the role of Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Chapman will be working with Admissions, Student Life, and the newly rebranded Pioneer Support Center (formerly the Academic Success Center).

"It is an exciting time at Glenville State University and working with the President and his cabinet moving the University forward in growth and sustainability is an honor and privilege. I am truly excited for the future of GSU," Chapman said.

As Vice President, Chapman says that he feels communication is key and that he hopes to create an environment of buy-in to try things outside of the box and acknowledge when adjustments may be needed.

Chapman also hopes to reinforce a student-centered operational model.

"We cannot say we're student-centered unless we are being student-centered. The student body is the lifeblood of the University and our future. Working with students as a professor or as an administrator is the most rewarding experience when they are successful because of your mentoring or guidance,"



Chapman said. "To achieve this experience, you first have to listen to students and even ask them what support or needs are required for them to be successful."

Chapman has served in various roles at the University throughout the years including Gallery Assistant for Glenville State's Art Gallery, Assistant Professor of Art, Chair for the Department of Fine Arts, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Dean of Student Life, Associate Professor of Art, and Head Boxing Coach. He has also served on various committees and was appointed to the Board of Governors as Faculty Representative in 2023.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Glenville State and an MFA from Ohio University.



## Alumnus Named CIO of Coplin Health Systems

Coplin Health Systems has announced the promotion of Informatics Director Jason Poling '09 to Chief Information Officer.

"I am excited about the opportunity," Poling said. "The Chief Information Officer's role is pivotal in ensuring that technological initiatives align seamlessly with Coplin's mission."

As Chief Information Officer, Poling will oversee the organization's information technology operations, ensuring the integration of technology solutions to enhance patient care, optimize efficiency and drive strategic initiatives forward.

With over 15 years of health care experience, Poling has served as the organization's director of informatics since



## Erwin Inducted into Buffalo HS Inaugural Hall of Fame Class

Harold Erwin '65 was inducted into the inaugural class of the Buffalo High School All-Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony held in October.

Upon graduating from Glenville State College in 1965, Erwin served a stint on GSC's staff as an instructor and as an assistant football and baseball coach during the 1965-1966 academic year. He then went on to receive a master's degree in Physical Education from Marshall University in 1968. Erwin then taught at Buffalo High School for 31 years. He served as Head Football Coach at Buffalo High School from 1972-1976, as Head Track Coach from 1972-1979 and again from 1984-2001, and also was the school's Head Golf Coach for seven years. Coach Erwin ably handled these coaching positions while also serving as Buffalo High School's Athletic Director from 1972-2001 (29 years) and was named to the WVIAC 50th Anniversary All Conference Team.

Hailing from Eleanor, West Virginia, Erwin lettered in football during all four years of his playing career at Glenville State. He was named All-WVIAC First Team in both 1963 and 1964. Additionally, in 1964 he was named All-WVIAC Second Team, and received Honorable Mention NAIA All American. Erwin was Co-Captain of his 1964 Football team. He was inducted into Glenville State's Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011 and was enshrined into the first

2019, and as a health informatics specialist before that since 2018. Poling holds bachelor's degrees in chemistry and biology from Glensville State University, and earned his MBA from University of the People. He also holds a medical laboratory scientist license.

"We are thrilled to have Jason step into the role of Chief Information Officer," said Rob Dudley, CEO of Coplin Health Systems. "He brings a deep understanding of Coplin Health Systems and recognizes how rapidly technology and AI are reshaping the healthcare landscape.

class of the West Virginia Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in March 2024.

Congratulations, Coach Erwin!

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## New GSU Christmas Ornament Now Available



The holiday season is just around the corner and this year's GSU Christmas ornament, which features a wintery scene with the Alumni Center (aka Arbuckle House), is now available for only \$10.

The ornament is designed by Blair Fisher '04 and proceeds from its sales support GSU's Women's Leadership Circle.

Contact [Vada Woodford via email](#) or by calling (304) 462-6382 to purchase or for more information.



*Cody Dye, the 2024 Pioneer Marching Band Field Commander, pictured during the band's performance at the Jim Kessell Invitational.*

## Successful Marching Band Season Comes to a Close

The Glenville State University Pioneer Marching Band recently closed out a successful season as they were the featured exhibition band at not one, but two West Virginia Governor's Cup Marching Band Series Competitions. They performed for over 30 high school bands at the Jim Kessell Invitational at Parkersburg High School and the Horseshoe Classic at Philip Barbour High School.

Dr. Lloyd Bone, Marching Band Director and Associate Professor of Music, says that he and the band are very appreciative of the support from GSU's alumni and their marching band friends around the state.

"As the season ends, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to our alumni and friends of the marching band throughout the state. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in our achievements this season. Whether through attending performances, volunteering, or simply cheering us on from afar, your encouragement has fueled our passion and commitment to excellence in music and performance," Bone said. "We look forward to building on this success in the future and continuing to grow as a band, creating unforgettable experiences for both our members and our audience. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey!"

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## **New Bachelor's Degree in Health Sciences Coming to Glenville State**

During a meeting in late October, Glenville State University's Board of Governors approved a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences program. The new program is a reformulation of existing degree programs within the College of Health Sciences to more transparently prepare students for professional degrees. Concentrations within the program include Pre-Medical, Pre-Dental, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Physician Assistant, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Occupational Therapy, Pre-Chiropractic, and Pre-Athletic Training.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity to improve healthcare in central West Virginia," said Glenville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin. "The ultimate goal is to prepare students to continue their healthcare education so that, one day, they will return to their rural communities and serve their friends and neighbors."

The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences program will be available to students beginning in fall 2025 and is designed to provide a smooth transition into the respective degrees in medicine and allied health. It will provide 44 credit hours of core foundational knowledge in healthcare, 32 credit hours of coursework to meet the typical prerequisite requirements for the specific professional health-related program, and 14 credit hours of electives (general and/or restricted) for any unique requirements and to strengthen their academic preparation.

"Developing this essential pipeline of prepared, driven students into strong graduate-level programs throughout the east coast could change the trajectory of medicine in these rural areas," said Dean of Health Sciences, Dr. Kevin Evans '87.

Glenville State has several memorandums of understanding in place with professional schools in each concentration to ensure that, upon graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, GSU students will have guaranteed spots waiting for them. "This fantastic opportunity will not only equip our students and grow the University, it will also make great strides in improving rural healthcare – making quality healthcare available to all West Virginians," Glenville State Provost Dr. Mari Clements added.

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## Pioneer Football Takes Second Place Finish in MEC

The Glenville State Football team captured their highest finish in the Mountain East Conference after closing out the season with a [win over West Virginia Wesleyan College](#) last month. The victory at WVWC brought their season tally to 7-4 overall and 7-2 in the MEC and is the best mark for Pioneer Football in MEC history.

Additionally, Glenville State edge rusher [Jamair Diaz](#) was crowned Mountain East Conference Defensive Player of the Year and defensive back [Jaiden McLendon Parker](#) was voted Mountain East Conference Defensive Freshman of the Year.

Several Pioneers were also represented on the 2024 All-MEC First Team including Payton Hawkins, Jamair Diaz, and Mark Shepherd, Jr.; the 2024 All-MEC Second Team included Tariq Miller, Isaiah Macklin, Hayden Moore, and Shaun Sterling, Jr.; and the 2024 All-MEC Honorable Mention included Jahzeiah Wade, Justin Collier, Josh Carr, and Brogan Brown.



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Alumni**

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## PIONEER ATHLETICS

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



**Men's  
Basketball**



**Women's  
Basketball**



**Wrestling**



**Acrobatics &  
Tumbling**



**Track & Field**



**Boxing**

## Interested in Joining the Pioneer Athletic Club?

As a member, you directly support Pioneer student-athletes through scholarship. Annual Pioneer Athletic Club membership gives you exclusive access to premium areas at Morris Stadium and the Waco Center, where you will have a bird's eye view of the football field and McPherson Court.

Click [here](#) or call (304) 462-6382 to learn more about membership benefits and how to enroll.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Monday, December 2 - Campus Christmas Tree Lighting & Hot Cocoa Bar**  
6:00 PM - Robert F. Kidd Library

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**Tuesday, December 3 - [Mid-Ohio Valley Alumni Christmas Dinner](#)**  
6:00 PM - Parkersburg Country Club  
Tickets: \$35

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**Wednesday, December 4 - Pioneer Basketball Kids Day**  
10:00 AM (Lady Pioneers) & 12:00 PM (Pioneers) - Waco Center

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**Thursday, December 5-Saturday, December 7 - Theater Presents: A Christmas Carol**  
7:00 PM - Heflin Administration Building President's Auditorium

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**Friday, December 6 - Jazz Band Concert**  
7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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**Saturday, December 14 - Commencement**  
10:00 AM - Waco Center



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