

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glennville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | February 2025

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Jeffrey Jackson '74 and Roberta (Martin) Jackson '73 are both retired and are currently residing in Middleburg, Virginia.

Upon graduating from GSC, Roberta taught for a year in Braxton County (WV) Schools before she and Jeff relocated to



Glennville State University representatives join lawmakers inside the House of Delegates chamber during last year's GSU Day at the Capitol.

Founders Day Celebrations on the Horizon

Glennville State University will celebrate its 153rd anniversary during the week of February 17.

A reception for alumni and friends living in the Charleston, West Virginia area will take place on Monday, February 17 at 5:00 PM at the Woman's Club of Charleston (1600 Virginia Street East,

Virginia. She then worked in the Loudoun County Public School System from 1974-2007. During her teaching career, Roberta was a freshman cheerleading coach and served as the Loudoun Valley High School assistant track and field coach. Jeff also worked in the Loudoun County Public School System where he taught Physical Education and coached track (at Broad Run High School), freshman girls basketball (at Park View High School and Loudoun Valley High School), and junior varsity and varsity boys basketball (at Loudoun Valley High School) between 1974-2007.

During their time at Glenville State, Roberta and Jeff both participated in BUT (Blacks United Together) and Jeff was a member and letterman on the Pioneer Basketball team from 1970-1974.

These days, Roberta stays busy assisting with after school sports and the Knights of Columbus state Free Throw competition for young people. She also recently completed a 30-mile walkathon for her church. Jeff spends his time providing aid to the elderly in their community and is the Project Manager for the restoration of the Old Grace United Methodist Episcopal Church in Lincoln, Virginia. In fact, he was awarded the 2024 Preservationist of the Year Award for his lifelong dedication to historic preservation and his ongoing work with the Friends of Grace Multicultural Center.

The pair also enjoy sports, traveling, and spending time with family. The Jacksons have one daughter, Jessica (Jackson) Mumford, and two grandkids, Jackson and Margaret.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Roberta said, "Glenville was a place close to home with caring folks who wanted to see you work hard and have the best chance of making a place in the workforce." Jeff added that GSC, "felt like home and was a

Charleston, WV 25311). That event is free to attend and will include hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

On Tuesday, February 18, GSU Day at the Capitol will be observed. All alumni and friends of Glenville State are invited to stop by the West Virginia statehouse and join us outside the Senate Chamber. There will be several Glenville State representatives on hand and Glenville State will be recognized by our state lawmakers.

Wednesday, February 19 is the anniversary of Glenville's founding and is also the date of the annual Founders Day of Giving. That giving campaign focuses on raising money for areas of need on campus such as academics, athletics, scholarships, campus improvements, and more.

"I hope that everyone has a chance to join us for some of these anniversary celebrations," said David Hutchison, Vice President of Advancement. "These past few years have been record-breaking when it comes to our Day of Giving, and that is all thanks to our supporters. I encourage everyone to keep an eye out for our fundraising projects and participate as you are able. Each gift – no matter the size – makes an impact and helps bring us closer to our goals."

Hutchison notes that the Morris Family Foundation has a generous \$500,000 match in place for the Founders Day of Giving again this year. Once \$500,000 has been raised, the match is unlocked.

Fundraising projects have been established for each academic department and athletic team, scholarship funds, and other specific projects.

The Day of Giving website – give.glenville.edu – opens on February 10.



Snow blankets the ground in front of the Heflin Administration Building.

Opening Meeting Held to Mark Beginning of Spring Semester

Glenville State University faculty and staff returned to a snow-covered campus following the holidays thanks to Winter Storm Blair. Several inches of snow were already on the ground on Thursday, January 9 when GSU President Dr. Mark A. Manchin welcomed employees to the annual opening meeting ahead of the start of the spring semester.

"I always enjoy when all of our faculty and staff can gather for this State of the University address," Manchin said. "It is a good

great place to get a quality education.”

We are pleased to feature Jeff and Roberta in this month's Alumni Spotlight and are proud to call them alumni.

opportunity not only for everyone to catch up with one another after the holidays, but also to get a jumpstart on the new term and hear some institutional updates. I know that we are all looking forward to a great spring semester here at Glenville State.”

In addition to general campus updates from Manchin, opening meeting attendees also heard updates from administrators on topics including enrollment, student life, athletics, academics, business and finance, facilities, fundraising, and advancement.

Spring semester classes began on Monday, January 13.



Winter Homecoming Just Around the Corner!

Glenville State University will celebrate Winter Homecoming on Saturday, February 15.

Starting at 12:30 PM, the GSU Alumni and Foundation Offices will open “The Deck” – which is the ultimate fan section where alumni and friends of the University can come together inside the Waco Center for food, beverages, and a great time. Cheer on the Pioneers from this special section while catching up with alumni and old friends. Entry to “The Deck” is \$10.

The women's and men's basketball teams will host the WV Wesleyan College Bobcats at GSU's Waco Center that afternoon; the Lady Pioneer game is at 1:00 PM and the Pioneer game is scheduled to tip at 3:00 PM. Returning basketball alumni and coaches will be recognized during halftime of both games. Prior to halftime, alumni players will be called to gather behind the scorer's table. Each player will then be called onto the court to be recognized and have a group photo taken with their fellow Pioneer alumni.

Pep Band alumni are also welcome to join the GSU Pep Band at either game during Winter Homecoming. Contact Loyd.Bone@glenville.edu for further information.

GSU's Office of Student Life will host a Snowball Tailgate in the Waco Center parking lot for current students. Other activities and giveaways for students will take place as well.

Members of the Pioneer Family are encouraged to contact their friends and invite them to join the fun on February 15. For more information about Winter Homecoming, contact GSU's Athletic Department at (304) 462-4102 or the Alumni Office at (304) 462-6116.



Lewis County Senior Center Activities Director Belinda Lewis (front row, right) holds a drumball class.

Alumnus Brings Fitness Classes to Local Senior Center

For the past three years, the Lewis County Senior Center has transformed into more than just a gathering place for older adults; it has become a vibrant hub of activity, fitness and connection, thanks to its dedicated activities director, Belinda Lewis '19.

She has made a significant impact on seniors and residents she has worked with, staying true to her mission of inspiring seniors to remain active and live healthier lives, officials say.

"I've been a personal trainer and a group exercise instructor for the last 40 years," Lewis said. "I have dedicated my life from the time I was in my 20s until now trying to get people to get active and stay active.

Weston resident Lynn Lynch said her experiences with Lewis have always been excellent.

"She treats everybody the same," she said. "She does not see a stranger, she goes out of her way to personally help people. She has a solid energy, and after going through her exercise classes you feel much better."

But what stands out the most to seniors and local residents about Belinda Lewis is her character, Lynch said.

"She is the best thing that ever happened to Lewis County and the Senior Center," she said. "She has a smile for everybody, she hugs everybody if they want a hug, and she just has a lot of love in her voice. If you meet her once, you will want to go back and see her again."

In recognition of her good work, Lewis was recently recognized by West Virginia Bureau of Social Services Commissioner, Jeffrey Pack.

[Click here](#) to read more about Belinda and the Lewis County Senior Center in a *Weston Democrat* article by Trevor J. Pincavitch.



Business Student Sees Success as Woodworker

Current Glenville State student Charles Copeland III always stays busy. When he's not completing class assignments as a management major with minors in nonprofit leadership and management and political science, the Harrisville, West Virginia native participates in several student organizations and also manages to find time for his own woodworking business: [C. III's Woodworks](#).



Shamblin Releases New Single

After an almost 10-year hiatus from releasing music, Glenville State graduate Luke Shamblin '11 is out with a new single.

He and Corey Hensley duet on the classic song, *The Sweetest Gift (A Mother's Smile)*, which is now available through online streaming services.

In 2023, Copeland was one of the youngest woodworkers accepted into Tamarack Marketplace as a Juried Artisan. Last year, he was spotlighted by one of the largest woodworking chains in the U.S., Woodcraft Supply, and his business was one of only 12 student businesses chosen to exhibit during the Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference in the Student Expo Hall during their annual conference in Florida.

Copeland says that he hopes to continue to grow his business and expand the products he offers.

Shamblin says he is headed back into the studio this winter to complete a new album.

Read more about his music and more in [this article](#) by John Lawless with *Bluegrass Today*.



Graduate Featured in Local Artist Spotlight

Glennville State graduate Michele "Shelly" (Hull) Simms '85 is an art teacher in Lewis County, West Virginia. Simms says that her passion for art started when she was a child.

"My mom created art and could draw, and I can just remember being really young – in fifth grade – and doing well. Then I got to high school and I had an art class that really made a difference," she said.

Simms says most of her artwork is based on Lewis County and areas within West Virginia.

"A lot of my work is rural farms and those types of things. I still take many classes to this day, but I think I am more of a 2D artist," she said. "But I've looked into where I am

from, and the history is very important to me, especially in this area.

Parents and students applaud her work in the classroom and Simms was even recognized in 2017 by the West Virginia Art Education Association as their Secondary Art Teacher of the Year.

Read more of Simms's artist spotlight by [clicking here](#).



GSU Assistant Professor of Land Surveying Jacob Petry with his professional surveyors' licenses for West Virginia and Kentucky.

GSU Land Surveying Professor Completes Certification

Glenville State Assistant Professor of Land Surveying Jacob Petry '21 has successfully completed his Professional Surveyors exam through the West Virginia Board of Professional Surveyors (WVBPS) and is now a licensed professional surveyor in the Mountain State.

Petry is also a licensed surveyor in Kentucky and is working to complete his surveyor's certification for the State of Ohio.

In addition to his work at Glenville State University, Petry and Doyle Hupp '83 operate Pathfinder Land Surveying, a surveying company in Central West Virginia. They specialize in boundary, real estate, oil and gas, construction and infrastructure stake out, aerial mapping, and more.

Petry is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Surveying Engineering Technology from the University of Maine. He holds a master's degree in Surveying Engineering from the University of Maine in addition to his degrees from Glenville State. He and his wife MacKenzie '21, who teaches Accounting in the Department of Business at GSU, reside in Grantsville with their son, Jeremiah.

WVU Extension Recognizes Gilmer County Agent

Jamie Mullins '10, who works for the WVU Extension Gilmer County Office, has been recognized by WVU Extension with one of their 2024 Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards.

Mullins serves as an Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development and received the award during the WVU Extension Annual Conference. The award highlights Extension faculty and staff who did dynamic and engaging work throughout the year.



"It was such an honor to receive this Excellence in Teaching Award at our 2024 WVU Extension Annual Meeting. I pride myself in providing high quality, impactful teaching to my community locally, program participants statewide, and colleagues nationally," Mullins said.

When she's not busy with work, Mullins covers Gilmer County youth sports and GSU athletics for the *Glenville Democrat* and *Pathfinder*. She is also an avid photographer.

Congratulations, Jamie!

Show Your Spirit!



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Dwayne Duffield shares tips on shaping clay with a current student in the Sculptural Ceramics course.

Pottery Practice: GSU Students Learn from Alumni

Duffield Pottery owners Dwayne Duffield '85 and Jo Ann Duffield '85 recently visited students in the Sculptural Ceramics I & II course at Glenville State. The course is being taught this year by Visiting Assistant Professor of Art, Tamara (Stalnaker) Hough '85; she and Duffield were classmates during their time at GSC.

The Duffields shared examples of their pottery and gave students in the class direction on using the kick wheel and how to properly shape clay.

Dwayne and Jo Ann met while attending Glenville State College and pursuing degrees in education. During that time, Dwayne was trained to make wheel-thrown pottery by master potter, Professor Emeritus Charles Scott. They have operated [Duffield Pottery](#) for 36 years.

Little Kanawha Reading Series in Search of Authors

Through the recently announced Little Kanawha Reading Series (LKRS) chapbook contest, writers are invited to submit works that celebrate and explore the rich cultural tapestry of Appalachia.

The contest is open to poetry and prose submissions with a length between 15 to 25 pages. Only one manuscript per genre per author per reading period is permitted. Previously published poems, stories, essays, and excerpts may be included in manuscript submissions. Authors should provide publication acknowledgements (title of work, where and when published). Any submissions must embody at least one of the following Appalachian literary features: strong sense of place and connection to the Appalachian landscape; exploration of Appalachian voice; exploration of Appalachian folklore, myths, or legends; themes of Appalachian family, community, and/or cultural heritage; or exploration of Appalachian rural life and traditions.

The prize for winning includes a \$200 award, publication of the winning chapbook, author copies, a digital e-book file, and an invitation to be a featured reader in the Little Kanawha Reading Series.

The Reading Period is December 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. The winning manuscript will be selected within three to four months after the reading period closes.

[Click here to enter](#) (there is a \$10 entry fee). Manuscripts are accepted electronically, by email only. Email manuscripts to LKRS@glenville.edu. Enter your contact information, a brief biography, and any publication acknowledgements in the body of the email. Submissions should include the author name on all manuscript pages, each poem, story, essay, excerpt should begin on a new page, no images should be included in your manuscript, and manuscripts should be attached to the email as a single Word document (.doc, .docx, or .rtf file format). The Little Kanawha Reading Series reserves the right to refuse any manuscript.

The Little Kanawha Reading Series (LKRS) at Glenville State University aims to provide a showcase for a diversity of literary forms and voices in order to acknowledge and enrich the cultural heritage of Appalachia and the communities around the Little Kanawha River. LKRS is a collaborative project between Glenville State University's Department of Language & Literature, Appalachian Studies Program, and the Robert F. Kidd Library.

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

Saturday, February 8 - Basket Bingo Fundraiser for GSU Cheer

Doors Open at 1:00 PM, Games Begin at 2:00 PM - Gilmer County Recreation Center

Saturday, February 15 - Winter Homecoming

Waco Center

Alumni Basketball Reunion, Alumni Pep Band, "The Deck," and more!

Monday, February 17 - Reception for GSU Alumni, Friends, & Legislators

5:00 PM - Woman's Club of Charleston, Charleston, WV

Tuesday, February 18 - GSU Day at the WV Legislature

WV State Capitol - Charleston, WV

Wednesday, February 19 - Founders Day of Giving
Save the Date!

Thursday, March 6 - Alumni Reception at the WVMEA Conference
Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center - Charleston, WV

Saturday, March 29 - Denim & Diamonds Gala
6:00 PM - GSU Mollohan Campus Community Center
[Click here to purchase tickets!](#)



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