

**GLENVILLE STATE COLLEGE**  
*Pioneer Update*  
**YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GLENVILLE STATE COLLEGE**  
**A COMMUNICATION TO ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ABOUT EVENTS AND PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**



## **Alumni Spotlight**

Professor Emeritus James W. "Jim" Rogers '63 continues to paint from time to time at his Summersville, West Virginia home where he and his wife, Dr. Marilyn "Susie" (Strickling) Rogers '68 have resided for the past twenty years.

A renowned artist, Jim's sketches and paintings have been used through the years on several of GSC's brochures and college catalogues. His paintings have hung in probably more offices on campus than any other artist affiliated with the College and one of his large paintings continues to hang in the Alumni House.



*President Pellett, flanked by students, announces new initiatives to save students money at a Thursday press conference*

## **GSC Lowers Tuition for the 2018-19 Academic Year**

Glenville State College has taken another step to make college more affordable for students and families in the Mountain State and beyond. For the second consecutive academic year, GSC has lowered its cost of tuition. On Thursday, April 19 GSC President Dr. Tracy Pellett announced that the institution would lower tuition by 0.5% in addition to a number of other measures designed to help students save money.

In addition to the tuition savings, Pellett also announced that GSC will hold the line on both room and board rates, assuring that students do not pay anything more than this past academic year. The school has also examined all institutional course fees and plans to lower or eliminate around 50% of them. To save students money in book costs, they are moving forward with a plan to convert the campus

Rogers, who holds a master's degree in Art from West Virginia and his M.F.A. in Painting and Printmaking from Wichita State University, taught at GSC from 1966-1970 and again from 1976-1999. He has biographies in several publications including the International Who's Who in Arts and Antiques, the Dictionary of International Biographies, and Personalities of the South.

He counts among his many exhibitions the Centennial Exhibition, 1963; West Virginia Juried Exhibition; Allied Artist of West Virginia (Award); Exhibition 280 (Award); Three Rivers Exhibition; Rhododendron Festival (Award); Award of Excellence – Cedar Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair; Cedar Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair (8 years); Southern West Virginia Juried Exhibition (Award); Strawberry Festival Exhibition (Award); Forest Festival Exhibition (Award); Arts 74 Exhibition (Award); Appalachian Arts and Crafts Festival (Award); and the Artists and Poets Traveling Exhibition.

Additionally he has judged many exhibitions through the years, illustrated two books, and been an Instructor of workshops at Cedar Lakes and for Elderhostel groups.

A former Pioneer mascot himself (1962), Jim has sketched three versions of the College's Pioneer

bookstore to an online operation. This reorganization should allow students to realize about 30% in savings on textbook costs.

Making these bold steps is unorthodox in higher education, Pellett admits. He says that Glenville State knows how vitally important it is as an institution of higher education in central West Virginia and, because of that, GSC owes it to students to be mindful of their bottom line. "First, you have to have the will to do it – that you're going to take savings and reinvest it back into students," he said. "Secondly, becoming more efficient and becoming smarter in how we are operating as an entity saves the institution hundreds of thousands of dollars. Our goal is to become the best higher education value in the state of West Virginia."

In addition to the initiatives for fall 2018, GSC is also offering a 25% reduction in the summer 2018 tuition rate. Along with tuition, students who plan to live in the residence halls over the summer will see a 25% reduction in their housing fees. Registration is now open for those summer courses.

[Click here to watch an interview with Dr. Pellett on WDVM.](#)



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## **GSC Hosts Spring Career and Graduate School Expo**

On Thursday, GSC's Academic Success Center (ASC) hosted their annual Career and Graduate School

Expo in the Waco Center. The expo provided businesses and organizations the opportunity to connect with talented students who will be graduating in May and other recent graduates who are ready to begin their careers. In addition to connecting students with potential employers, the ASC was also able to promote awareness of professional experiences and opportunities available through graduate school. More than 65 employers and graduate schools participated in the expo.

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through the years. Originally, in the early 80s, he drew the pioneer head for his friend and former GSC Athletic Director Joseph Now. In the mid-90's, he drew a second version of the Pioneer. This version, a bust of the Pioneer, is still used in athletic, alumni, and marketing publications. It also can be found as a bronze replica on GSC's Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame Wall at the Waco Center and carved in the President's Mace, which is used for all formal college ceremonies. Finally in the fall of 2007, Rogers took to his sketch pad once again to draw a full figure version of the Pioneer which is used in campus publications, recruiting brochures, campus signs, mementos, and more. The drawings were all done at no cost to Glenville State College.

Continuing gratitude is extended to Jim for his contribution to the history of the Glenville Pioneer. We are proud to feature him in this week's Alumni Spotlight and proud that he and his wife are both graduates of Glenville State College.



*(l-r) President Pellett, Jonathan Garner, Justin Caldwell, and Rusty Vineyard*

## **GSC Welcomes New Coaches**

Justin Caldwell '11 has been selected as the new Head Men's Basketball Coach. Caldwell, who was a standout player for the Pioneers, spent three seasons as an assistant coach for GSC and has spent the last two seasons as an assistant coach at California University of Pennsylvania. [Click here to see an interview Caldwell did with WDTV Sports Reporter Joe Brocato.](#)

Jonathan Garner comes to GSC after serving as the Head Women's Volleyball Coach at Louisburg College. Garner has also worked at Triangle Volleyball where he was in charge of training athletes throughout the year, as well as conducting practices, camps, and clinics.

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John '73 & Cheryl McKinney - \$5,000 for Percussion Ensemble

Maryann (Kazer) Vedder '68 - \$2,770 for the Student Teacher Scholarship

Glenville Presbyterian Church - \$2,200 for the Glenville Presbyterian Church Choral Scholars Program

Dr. Paul G. Caltrider '56 - \$1,000 for the Dr. Paul G. and Virginia Caltrider Scholarship

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital - \$500 for Spring Sports Sponsorship

Jack Rossi - \$250 for PAC Baseball

John P. White - \$250 for PAC Baseball *in memory of Catherine (White) Snuffer '86*

Susan Holme - \$200 for Archives



*New Pioneer Mascot Ronisha Lawson (left) with outgoing Pioneer Matt Roush*

## **Ronisha Lawson Named Next Pioneer Mascot**

Ronisha Lawson, a freshman from Beckley, West Virginia, has been named the GSC Pioneer Mascot for the 2018-19 academic year.

“I hope to bring my unique style to being the mascot. Being a Pioneer isn’t just about the costume, it’s about supporting school spirit and being the best influence that you can be,” Lawson said. As a Music Education (PreK-adult) major, she says she plans to work closely with the Marching Band. “Every game will be a great game. Together with the band, we can really get the fans involved on gameday,” she added.

The official uniform of the GSC Pioneer mascot is a set of buckskins, a coonskin hat, and a musket. An ongoing tradition for over 80 years,



## **Biology Student Receives Award at WV Academy of Science Meeting**

Senior biology major Scott Wentz was recently recognized as the Outstanding Science Poster Presenter at the

93rd Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Academy of Science. The meeting was held on April 7 at WV Wesleyan College.

“Being recognized in a discipline that I truly enjoy makes me even more motivated to work toward more data in our



research and shows the potential of Glenville's science program," said Wentz. His research poster focused on a systematic approach to elucidate the evolutionary relationships of Diastema.

Diastema is a genus of a flowering plant found in Central and South America. This particular genus has not been the focus of adequate research. Currently, there are only twenty described species. Wentz used molecular and morphological techniques to delineate species and separate Diastema from Pseudodiastema.

Wentz says that he has always had an interest in science and, particularly, in biology. "After learning new laboratory techniques and basic principles of biology, I have been able to apply a wide array of techniques to my research from computer imaging software for leaf morphology to amplifying DNA," he said.

After graduation Wentz plans to attend graduate school and obtain a Master's Degree in biomedical science.

Lawson becomes the 78th student to portray the Pioneer Mascot. She will be the fifth woman to serve as the Pioneer.



Bluegrass Music at GSC - earn your degree in bluegrass music at any age! Online classes also allow you to learn at your own pace.



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