

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Pioneer Update

*The monthly newsletter for alumni and friends of Glenville State University.*

## Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Alex Joseph '15 is currently serving as the Athletic Director at Salem University.

The Fairmont, West Virginia native was a Sport Management major at Glenville State, graduating in May 2015. During his time at Glenville State, he was a member of the Pioneer Football Team and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. After leaving Glenville State, he went on to earn a Master of Business Administration degree in Sports and Recreation Management from Salem University.

During his time at the helm of Salem's Athletic Department, he led the charge for the institution to join the United States Collegiate Athletic Association, a mission that succeeded when the University was accepted in August of 2022. He oversaw Salem winning the USCAA Championships in Men's Basketball, Men's Tennis, and Women's Tennis in 2023. Overall win percentages for the Athletic Department also increased by 18% from the prior year.

Alex was a critical part in the development of a scheduling alliance between Salem University and the Mountain East Conference. He is also proud to note that Salem student athletes held a 3.20 cumulative GPA during the 2022-23 academic year and



Members of the Glenville State University Jazz Band perform a medley of tunes from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" as part of their Christmas concert.

## Holiday Season Underway at GSU

On the evening of Thursday, November 30, Glenville State University held the annual tree lighting ceremony to kick off the Christmas season. Several students, staff, and community members came to the Robert F. Kidd Library for the tree lighting and enjoyed a fully-stocked hot cocoa bar.

Following the tree lighting, the GSU Jazz Band Holiday Concert took place. The band performed a set of jazz standards followed by several holiday favorites in the jazz style. Earlier in the week, the Jazz Band performed a mini concert for local elementary school students at the Fine Arts Center.

Students will complete final exams for the fall semester December 4-7. Fall commencement is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 at 10 AM in the Waco Center. Campus offices will be closed Monday, December 25, 2023 through Monday, January 1, 2024 for the winter break.

The first day of spring 2024 semester classes is Monday, January 8.



Team USA: (l-r) Jason Lentz, Matthew Slingerland, Mark Bouquin, Matt Cogar

that the overall student athlete community took part in a service initiative that increased by 50% from the prior year.

In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, coaching his daughter's T-Ball Team, and rooting on the Cleveland Browns every Sunday.

Alex is married to Nancy (Mulhare) Joseph '13 who is a teacher at West Fairmont Middle School. They have one daughter.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, Alex said, "Glenville State provided me with a great education, was where I met my wife, and many lifelong friends that I am still in contact with today. I loved playing football and had great coaches and teammates. Glenville State College was the perfect fit for me academically. The staff always put students first. I greatly enjoyed my time in Glenville."

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

## Glenville Grad and Lumberjack Athlete Represents USA at STIHL Timbersports Championship

Matt Cogar '10 was among the members of Team USA who took part in the STIHL Timbersports Team World Championships last month in Stuttgart, Germany. The team earned a second-place silver medal, finishing just seconds behind Team Australia in the finals.

Matt is a four-time Silver Medalist in the Individual World Championship, World Trophy winner in 2019, a seven-time National Pro Champion, a Silver Medalist in the Team World Championship in 2022, and a National Trophy Winner in 2018.

## New Tools Available for WV Job Seekers

The State of West Virginia has recently partnered with [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) to offer various tutoring, test preparation, and job support services for residents of the Mountain State.

In addition to other services, the program offers live interview preparation, help with job searches and applications, and drop-off resume and cover letter review.

The free services are available daily from 10 AM to 10 PM for West Virginians. [Click here to visit the website and learn more.](#)



## Alumnus Performs with Band Directors Marching Band at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Glenville State graduate and current Lincoln Middle School (WV) band director Shaylyn (Kimble) Dabbs '06 recently traveled to New York City to perform with the 400-member Band Directors Marching Band. The Band Directors Marching Band is a project of the Saluting America's Band Directors organization, which was conceived as a way to recognize and salute the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors everywhere. The Band Directors Marching Band consists of band directors and music educators from across North America.

As part of the experience, Dabbs was among the full band that performed *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *Amazing Grace* near the 9/11 Memorial in New York City on November 20. Three days later, the band marched in the

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The group was among 11 bands that performed at the parade.

See video of the Band Directors Marching Band at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade [here](#).

## Glenville State Graduate Named Fulbright Scholar

Toni Doman '16 has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship and will be in Nova Scotia, Canada beginning next year. She will be documenting the traditional musical communities of Cape Breton and recording oral histories of musicians and those involved in musical traditions in the Maritimes, while observing the role and impact technology has on learning, sharing, and innovating music.

The Fulbright Program is an international educational and cultural exchange program that is available to students and scholars in more than 160 countries and provides the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to mutual understanding.

Toni says she has been actively applying to the Fulbright program over the last four application cycles and was actually selected as an alternate this round before being moved to a finalist.

Congratulations, Toni!



## **Glenville State University Student Researcher Presents at Conference**

Glenville State University Natural Resource Management student Corey Foster recently attended and presented at the Forest Carbon Management in Central Appalachia Conference. The conference, which was sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and West Virginia University, brought together researchers, academics, students, extension agents, foresters, entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, wood products industry representatives, landowners, and other stakeholders.

Sixteen students were selected to take part in a poster session at the conference. Foster was included in a group of just four other students who were chosen out of those 16 to give a brief presentation of their research. Foster's presentation centered on his research relating to 'Ecosystem Analysis of Glenville State University's Campus Trees.'

"I am greatly appreciative for the privilege to attend this conference, and I am immensely honored to have been selected to present a 'lightning talk' to a room filled with the leading experts on the subject of forest carbon management. I learned a great deal about the subject from highly intelligent individuals who were also inquisitive about my research. I am beyond grateful for all of the advantageous opportunities that Glenville State University has afforded me as a Natural Resource Management student," Foster said.

Foster's research included a comprehensive assessment of the structure, function, and value of Glenville State University's urban campus forest. The research evaluated individual tree benefits, including pollution removal in pounds per year, carbon storage in tons, oxygen production in tons per year, avoided water runoff in cubic feet per year, building energy savings in dollars per year, carbon avoided in tons per year, potential impacts from pests, and the overall replacement cost of the trees in dollars, attaching monetary values to these invaluable contributions.

The Forest Carbon Management in Central Appalachia Conference agenda also included panel discussions, breakout sessions, and a field trip. Attendees shared their insights and evaluations regarding the current state of forest carbon management while emphasizing priorities for improving forest management practices in the region.

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## **Workforce WV to Host Virtual Job Fairs**

Through several upcoming Workforce WV Virtual Statewide Job Fairs, job seekers can chat with multiple organizations that are hiring all across West Virginia.



As an attendee, you can apply, live chat, video chat, and interview virtually with employers participating in the event. West Virginia employers with open positions are also encouraged to register.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



## 2023 Glenville State Christmas Ornament Available

This year's GSU Christmas ornament, which features a snowy Heflin Administration Building scene, 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.

Interested in being featured in the Alumni Spotlight?

• [Click Here](#) •



*Student athletes volunteer their time to wrap gifts for local children.*

## It's a Wrap: Student Athletes Help Provide a Merry Christmas to Local Children

Over 120 Glenville State University student athletes came together again this year to help wrap gifts that will be provided to 50 Gilmer County children in the Santa's Angels program. The holiday assistance program is managed by the Gilmer County Family Resource Network.

Sue (Bartlett) Morris '66 and Shelly (Morris) Smith '85 gathered with over 30 community members and GSU staffers to shop for the children, something the Morris family has done for over three decades. The assorted gifts were then gathered to be bagged and wrapped by GSU students and community volunteers.

"This is our way of giving back to the community and we are very grateful for the help we get from the community and the Athletic Department, and for everyone's commitment to seeing these kids taken care of," Sue Morris said. "It is truly the best day in my life. When we're done, I have a permanent smile on my face."

"This is a very special day on our calendar here in Athletics, and we are so very grateful to the Morris family for this wonderful tradition," said GSU Athletic Director Jesse Skiles '87. "Sue and her family, the community, and the Waco Oil and Gas employees put so much into this project. But in the end, it is all about the kids...and this day is providing a special Christmas for them."



Berry A. Crutchfield, Ph.D.  
WVDA Plant & Pest Biologist

## WV Department of Agriculture Biologist Talks Bugs

Did you know that West Virginia Department of Agriculture Plant and Pest Biologist Berry Crutchfield, Ph.D. '87 occasionally shares knowledge about various insects, invasive species, and more?

Through the "Berry's Bugs" video series, Crutchfield helps educate the public about different bugs, from the [Asian Longhorned Beetle](#) to [mole crickets](#) and even [ticks](#).

Crutchfield has also previously visited campus to share information and answer questions with current GSU biology and environmental science students.



## Stoller Siblings Featured in NCAA.com Article

Head Women's Basketball Coach Emily Stoller '21 and Assistant Coach Abby Stoller '22 were recently featured in an in-depth interview for

James Higginbotham, husband of the late Jeanie (Moran) Higginbotham '71, is joined by GSU student Madison Shepherd at the recent Scholarship Donor Reception. Madison is the recipient of the scholarship named in Jeanie's honor and is holding her photo.

## 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 both 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.

David Hutchison, Glenville State's Vice President of Advancement, notes that donors have established nearly 70 new scholarships over the past five years.

"This reception provided a wonderful opportunity for interaction between the students and scholarship donors. I think everyone enjoyed the fellowship and I'm very appreciative of all those who attended," Hutchison said.

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

NCAA.com that was written by Wayne Cavadi.

"Having each other through the journey and through the process, through the little bumps that we experience here and there and the growth that we get to experience, we get to do it together and we get to rely on each other, and that's really special — we definitely don't take that for granted," Emily said. "We know that this is not normal. We just cannot believe that we have the opportunity to not only play together and to be alumni of the same university and college, but to be able to coach for Glenville State University and do it together. It's very special."

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

## Huntington, Teays Valley Area Alumni Meet



The Huntington/Teays Valley (WV) alumni chapter hosted a gathering on Sunday, November 12 at the FireSide Grille in Hurricane. Several alumni and friends met to reconnect, hear campus updates, and enjoy dinner.

Kudos to Professor Emeritus Dr. Gary Gillespie '59 for organizing the gathering and a special thanks to everyone who attended.



## Lazenby Appointed Athletic Director at Saint Leo University

Marcal Lazenby '08 has been appointed as the Director of Athletics, Recreation, & Wellness at Saint Leo University.

Lazenby was most recently acting as Interim Director of Athletics, Recreation, & Wellness following the retirement of Saint Leo's Vice President and Director of Athletics, Fran Reidy. Lazenby had already been an integral part of the Saint Leo athletic department prior to his interim appointment, serving as the associate athletic director with responsibilities encompassing compliance, athletic communications, facilities management, ticketing and concessions, merchandising, and sponsorships.



## Generation WV Accepting Fellowship Program Applications

Generation West Virginia (GWW) is a statewide organization dedicated to attracting, retaining, and advancing young people in the Mountain State. They are currently accepting applications for the GWW Fellowship program. This program is focused on equipping young professionals with the skills needed to advance their careers and grow as future leaders in West Virginia.

The GWW Fellowship utilizes a four-pronged approach to create pathways for young professionals in West Virginia: development, connection, exploration, and advancement. Throughout the program, Fellows participate in five in-person and four virtual



## Glenville State Grad Selected as WV Farm Bureau VP

John Pitsenbarger '92 is the newly-elected Vice President of the West Virginia Farm Bureau.

Pitsenbarger is the current Owner/Operator of his family's 160-year-old cattle farm. He and his wife Tanya (Spencer) Pitsenbarger '95 have been married nearly 30 years and together, along with his family, run the daily operations of the farm.

He has been involved in many aspects of the agriculture community, such as previously serving on the local FSA Committee and as Chairman of the Nicholas County Farmland Protection Board, and even produced and hosted his own weekly radio program of agriculture information. Pitsenbarger was one of West Virginia's 11th District Senators

"I am honored and look forward to the challenge of building upon the proud athletic and academic traditions at Saint Leo. I look forward to leading the great staff we have in place and aligning athletics, wellness, and recreation with the university's strategic plan as we create a vision of excellence for the future," Lazenby said.

[Click here to read more.](#)

sessions held at various locations throughout the Mountain State. These sessions allow Fellows to hone their skills, learn from industry leaders, build lasting relationships with their peers, and deepen their appreciation for the history and beauty of West Virginia.

Applications for the upcoming class will close in April 2024.

To learn more and apply, [click here.](#)

from November 2019 until the end of 2020. While there, he was Vice Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Pitsenbarger is also the Chairman of the WVU Extension Board of Governors in Nicholas County, on the board of the West Virginia Cattlemen's Association, and on the WV Livestock Care Standards Board. John is a multi-award-winning DJ and has an Honorary West Virginia FFA Degree.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, December 5 - Mid-Ohio Valley Alumni Christmas Dinner**  
5:00 PM - Parkersburg Country Club

**Saturday, December 9 - Fall Commencement**  
10:00 AM - Waco Center

**Saturday, February 10 - Winter Homecoming**  
Waco Center

**Tuesday, February 13 - GSU Day at the State Capitol**  
Senate Chamber - Charleston, WV

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

**Saturday, February 24 - Founders Day Gala**  
Mollohan Campus Community Center  
*Save the Date - [Tickets on Sale Now!](#)*

## PIONEER ATHLETICS

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



**Men's  
Basketball**



**Women's  
Basketball**



**Wrestling**



**Acrobatics &  
Tumbling**



**Track & Field**



**Boxing**

## Scholarship Corner

*A monthly spotlight on one of the scholarship funds managed by the GSU Foundation*



### Bertha E. Olsen Scholarship

It seems that during this time of the year there is always a little extra music in the air. For this month's Scholarship Spotlight, we want to recognize those behind the music at Glenville State.

Miss Bertha E. Olsen served Glenville State from 1930 to 1972 as a Professor of Music. She studied organ and conducting at the New England Conservatory School of Music and immediately came to Glenville in the fall of 1930 after a position was offered to her by President E.G. Rohrbough when she completed her undergraduate studies. In 1949, she returned to the New England Conservatory School of Music to obtain her master's degree in music.

Olsen was instrumental in founding the West Virginia Music Educators Association and served as President for a period of time. Her 42-year teaching career exemplified the word dedication. She was also known throughout the community for her organ playing at the Trinity United Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church in Glenville, while also providing individualized organ lessons to several youth throughout the years. In 1980, approximately 200 of Olsen's friends came together to establish the Bertha E. Olsen Scholarship which benefits incoming freshmen students majoring in music. She was also given the Service Above Self Award by the Glenville Rotary Club in 1985 and was honored by the Gilmer County Farm Bureau for her service to the community in 1986. Much of her retirement years were spent helping patients at the Glenville Health Care Center.

Olsen was born in Reading, England; her family moved to the United States in April of 1915, and she routinely shared the story of her family's nine-day voyage from Liverpool to New York City where they docked on her eighth birthday, April 30, 1915. She passed away on October 29, 1991 at the age of 84.

Donate to this fund by clicking the button below and choosing "Bertha Olsen Scholarship" from the Designation drop-down menu.

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