

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | May 2025

## Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Carrie J. Kirkpatrick-Summers '98 is currently serving as the Director of Regulatory Environmental and



(l-r) Janet (Griffin) Given '77 (representing the family of Buddy Griffin '71), Rebecha Frashure Catlett '98, Valeri (Sprouse) Jones '16, Doretta (Pugh) Osburn '85, Brenda (Barton) McCartney '76, Dr. Andrew Minigh '09, Martha (Weaver) Haymaker '86, Rachel (Kelvington) Reynolds '04, Kevin Gray '14, Buzz Goodwin (representing the family of Margaret (Miller) Goodwin '51), and Bob Bumgarner (representing the family of Dora Jean (Brannon) Bumgarner '59).

Affairs Programs with West Virginia Department of Agriculture, a position she has held for the past two years. Prior to that, she worked as a Forensic Scientist for West Virginia State Police for 23 years assigned to the drug section. She was the supervisor for her last 13 years with the WVSP.

The Glenville, West Virginia native attended GSC to study chemistry and biology and was a member of the Lady Pioneer Volleyball team from 1994-1998. Carrie also ran track and earned the prestigious Clarissa Williams Award in 1998.

After graduating from Glenville State, Carrie went on to earn a master's degree in Leadership Studies from Marshall University (2020) and a Doctorate of Executive Leadership from the University of Charleston (2024). The research for her dissertation focused on trauma in first responders, specifically leaders in the law enforcement community. This is something Carrie tells us she is passionate about and will continue working on as it is a much-needed area of research.

Dr. Kirkpatrick-Summers received a Law Enforcement and Victims Assistance Award in 2016 for the United States Attorney Southern District of West Virginia Outstanding Drug and Violent Crime Investigations for United States v. Christopher Ayash and, in 2022, was an ACBSP Student Showcase Winner for Region 2 for her presentation, "Polarity Management: A Lesson from Science about mapping Collaborative Problem Solving." She is also a Black Belt in the Lean Six Sigma process-improvement program.

In her spare time, Carrie enjoys exercising, watching sporting events, and spending time with

## Distinguished Alumni Recognized at Awards Banquet

The 2025 Glenville State University Alumni Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, April 26 and several outstanding alumni were honored.

The evening began with a reception and dinner before the alumni awards were presented. Those recognized included: Alumnus of the Year Martha (Weaver) Haymaker '86; Alumni Achievement Award recipient Doretta (Pugh) Osburn '85; Community Achievement Award honorees Brenda (Barton) McCartney '76 and Dr. Andrew Minigh '09; Outstanding Teacher Award recipients Rebecha Frashure Catlett '98 and Rachel (Kelvington) Reynolds '04; Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipients Valeri (Sprouse) Jones '16 and Kevin Gray '14; and Posthumous Award recipients Margaret (Miller) Goodwin '51, Dora Jean (Brannon) Bumgarner '59, and Buddy Griffin '71.

[Click here](#) to view a gallery of photos from the Awards Banquet.



*Miss GSU 2025 Kamryn Armstrong and Mr. GSU 2025 Elijah Armes*

## GSU Week Brings Traditions, Fun to Campus

The Office of Student Life sponsored several activities during GSU Week, which took place throughout the week of April 21. GSU Week is an opportunity to celebrate the history of Glenville State, while acknowledging the hard work and commitment of the campus community. It is also a good opportunity for students to have some fun as the semester winds down and final exams near.

GSU Week kicked off with a campus-wide Easter Egg Hunt followed by a food fair and tie-dye t-shirt making. Robert F. Kidd Library Director Jason Gum '05 shared a Glenville State history presentation before leading a walking tour of campus. Glenville

family, particularly her son Wyatt Kirkpatrick, nephew Kegan Kirkpatrick, and niece Ava Kirkpatrick.

Carrie also enjoys giving back and helping others. She has had the opportunity to volunteer at Comfort Zone Camp, which is a camp for children who have lost a parent/guardian or caregiver. Despite going through tremendous loss, these amazingly resilient children gain a lot of tools to help themselves heal and grow by attending the camp.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Carrie said, "I am heavily rooted in Glenville and having worked across the state of WV, it is amazing to me to see the connections complete strangers have to Glenville. The foundation that I built while playing volleyball and majoring in a science field set the stage for my success as an adult. I am thankful to have grown up in a community where everyone knows everyone and it taught me the importance of 'family'."

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

State also crowned its newest Mr. and Miss GSU: Elijah Armes and Kamryn Armstrong. Armes is a Natural Resource Management student studying Environmental Science; he is a member of the Pioneer Track & Field and Cross Country teams. Armstrong is studying Exercise Science and is also a member of GSU's Track & Field and Cross Country teams.

The week continued with a historical scavenger hunt, Earth Day activity, history bowl tournament, color run, game show, an old-fashioned sock hop, and more. The GSU Week schedule also included the annual Pioneer Showcase, which allows student participants from all academic disciplines to present on their research, experiential learning, and creative projects in a formal setting, and the always popular Choir and Chamber Singers Concert.

The week culminated with the Alumni Awards Banquet that took place on Saturday, April 26.

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## Printing Delayed for Alumni Oral History Book

As many of you remember, last year Glenville State University embarked on a project that aimed to collect as many alumni stories as possible and store them in a commemorative book. The response was excellent and several hundred alumni shared a story with us. We appreciate everyone who participated and say thank you for your patience as we have worked through the different phases of the project.

The storytelling phase closed in October 2024 and GSU staff worked for several weeks to proofread and organize all of the outstanding stories. Layout of the book is complete and we were hoping that the books would have been printed and shipped sometime last month, which was on track with our original timeline. However, as with many large-scale projects, we have hit a delay. There is a backlog at the printer that produces these books, so we are anticipating a shipment date of June 2025.

We sincerely thank everyone for their participation and patience throughout this project!

Visit the project [FAQs page](#) for more information or email [alumni@glenville.edu](mailto:alumni@glenville.edu).





*Dr. Monica Beane speaking at the WLC Lunch & Learn.*

## **WLC Hosts Lunch & Learn, Awards Scholarships to Three**

Glenville State alumna Dr. Monica (Null) Beane '96 was the guest speaker at the GSU Women's Leadership Circle Lunch and Learn held last month. Beane shared her story with those in attendance, from her days on campus as a student athlete to her current role as the Head of Educational Partnerships at ETS. She reminded those in attendance that even though we are often busy with "all the things," to make time to follow your heart, appreciate those who help you along your path, and to never stop learning and growing. Because, as Monica said, you never know where your journey in life might take you!

Attendees were treated to lunch sponsored in part by United Bank, Glenville Mayor Dr. Mark Sarver, and Leslie Mason, Staff Representative to the GSU Board of Governors. The event also provided an opportunity to announce the 2025 WLC scholarship recipients: Victoria Osborne of Nicholas County who received a \$500 scholarship, Rebekah Hypes from Nicholas County who received a \$1,000 scholarship, and Emilee Teter of Pendleton County who received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Women's Leadership Circle was founded on the basis of fellowship, opportunity, and philanthropy and envisions a community of female givers who provide opportunities and support to female students at Glenville State University. In addition to aiding projects on campus, members will help create a culture of female empowerment on the GSU campus and surrounding community, helping women to prepare for and grow in their careers and leadership positions.

To learn more about the WLC or to become a member, contact [Vada Woodford](#).

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## **Pressley Ridge Honors Two Alumni as Employees of the Year**



Glenville State graduates Aimee Asbury '20 and Allen Gregory '14 were among the 23 employees of Pressley Ridge and Texas Family Care Network staff who were honored as 2024 Employees of the Year at a reception held last month at The Renaissance Hotel Pittsburgh.

Following her graduation from Glenville State, Asbury went on to receive a masters in counseling from Marshall University. Since graduation, she has been a therapist and clinical liaison in the Pressley Ridge residential program. She has been a therapist for almost three years and works with youth and their families. Asbury facilitates individual, group, and family therapy focusing on building skills that help youth reach success in the home, at school, and in community settings. She is also working toward licensure to become an LPC. Asbury says that she owes a lot

of her knowledge to the education she received at Glenville State.

Gregory also works with youth and families to help them build their relationships and to improve their home life. He mostly works to teach coping skills or life skills to the youth to help them manage their emotions and to help prevent them from going into residential placement.

Pressley Ridge works to empower families, youth, and individuals with hope, healing, and happiness. Their aim is to help give others the right tools, skills, and support to thrive. Pressley Ridge integrates a trauma-informed perspective into their services, providing the foundation for a basic understanding of the psychological, neurological, biological, and social impact that trauma has on individuals.

Congratulations, Aimee and Allen!



*Students and teachers from Bridgeport High School (WV) and Carmen Southeast High School (WI) during their musical cultural exchange.*

## Music Across the Miles: From W.Va. to Wisc., Alumni Bring Two Schools Together

Two schools, 637.5 miles apart. One rural, one inner city. One a public school, the other a public charter school. One with a majority of white students, the other primarily made up of Hispanic students.

Students and teachers from these two schools, Bridgeport High School in West Virginia and Carmen Southeast High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have been collaborating for what their instructors - Dr.



Jeremiah Smallridge '07 and Seth Gillis '15 - are calling a musical cultural exchange.

"This exchange focuses on Appalachian and Hispanic music, examining not only the roots of each, but their common themes and elements as well," Smallridge said. Last month, the students met for the first time at Carmen Southeast, starting their day with ice breaker games before performing for one another and rehearsing together. Next, they visited an art museum and had lunch before returning to Carmen for rehearsals and dinner. The day culminated with a joint concert.

This month, the students from Wisconsin will visit West Virginia. The next concert will be at Bridgeport High School on Friday, May 16 at 7:00 PM. While in West Virginia, the Carmen students will do some sightseeing and will play at the WV State Strawberry Festival.



Amanda (Roberts) Lamb, Stephany (Harper) Amos, Karen (Bush) Lay, Sheri (Connell) Goff, and Lora (Gordon) Stump

## Former Financial Aid Director Named Lifetime Member of WVASFAA

Karen (Bush) Lay '79, Glenville State's former Financial Aid Director, was named a Lifetime Member of the West Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (WVASFAA) during their spring conference.

Lay worked in several positions in the Financial Aid Office at Glenville State during her 30-year tenure, working her way up to and retiring as Financial Aid Director. She was also an active member of WVASFAA for many years. During her time spent with WVASFAA, she held the role of President in 2004-2005, earned the MASFAA State Leadership Award in 2006, and the WVASFAA President's Award in 2008-2009. She was also the MASFAA Secretary in 2006-2007, was a member of the Higher Education



Justin Oney

## Graduate Continues Work with Mountaineer Baseball Program

Justin Oney '17 joined the coaching staff for the West Virginia University baseball team as their Director of Player Development in the summer of 2022. He is currently serving as an Assistant Coach/Pitching Coach. Oney assists the team with daily activities, implementation of technology and data, and camp functions.

He arrived in Morgantown following a four-year stint as the pitching coach at Eastern Oklahoma State College. While at the junior college, he was part of a staff that compiled a record of 142-39 in the four seasons, all while helping 55

Student Financial Aid Advisory Board for three years, was a member of the NASFAA Peer Review Team, and was a conference presenter and moderator.

GSU's current Financial Aid Director, Stephany (Harper) Amos '13, nominated Lay for the honor. "It was my honor to nominate Karen for Lifetime Membership into WVASFAA. Personally, without her dedication to Glenville and financial aid, her guidance and knowledge, her confidence in me, and her push for me to achieve more, I would definitely not be in the position I am in today. I cannot thank Karen enough for providing me an opportunity to make a difference in our students' lives and to instill my commitment into my staff members to be able to do the same," Amos said.

Several current members of Glenville State's Financial Aid Office, including Amos, Amanda (Roberts) Lamb '10, Sheri (Connell) Goff '04, and Lora (Gordon) Stump '13, were on hand at the conference to help congratulate Lay on the recognition.

players move onto a four-year school - 21 of which were at the Division I level. Eastern Oklahoma State won two NJCAA Region II Tournament Championships as well as two Regular Season Championships, both coming in 2021 and 2022.

Prior to Eastern Oklahoma, Oney served as the Graduate Assistant for Oklahoma Wesleyan where he primarily assisted with the pitching staff. He is a native of Logan, West Virginia.

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## Professor Emeritus Serves as Adjudicator at Southeastern Theatre Conference

Glenville State Professor Emeritus Dennis Wemm recently attended the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Baltimore, Maryland to serve as one of three people adjudicating eight shows at the Community Theatre Festival.

Community theatres bring a short play to the conference as a part of the competitive festival, and the adjudicator panel gives feedback to each group, a process that Wemm describes as being like *Chopped* without the eliminations.

"It's a busy two days in the regionals, and the two winners go on to the national American Association of Community Theatres festival in Des Moines, Iowa," Wemm said. He added that West Virginia was represented by two theatres when most states sent only one or none.

Professor Wemm is a past president of SETC and received their prestigious Suzanne M. Davis Award in 2010. The award recognizes extraordinary service by an SETC member over a number of years. It is not given out annually, rather only when an SETC member has earned such recognition. He served in Glenville State's Department of Language and Literature for 34 years until his retirement in 2020.

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## Alumni Win Turkey Hunting World Slam

Justin Patterson '02 and Kristen (LaFon) Patterson '02 grew up in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. They were high school sweethearts who started hunting together in 1997, and they've been together ever since.

Now, they've achieved a significant milestone in turkey hunting together. They've become the first couple from West Virginia and Virginia (where they now live) to ever complete the World Slam—harvesting turkeys from specific geographic locations across the globe within a set time period. In addition, Kristen became the first woman from West Virginia to achieve the feat.

[Click here](#) to read an interview between Kristen and Stephen Baldwin, a writer for *Real/WV*.





*Some of the volunteers who assembled on April 12 to help cleanup around campus and downtown.*

## **Students, Faculty, & Staff Gather for Campus Cleanup**

Several students, faculty, and staff joined together on Saturday, April 12 to help beautify campus and Glenville in general. Part of the group walked all around campus and into parts of downtown Glenville to pick up trash. Others split off and helped construct a gate and fencing for the newly established



Glenville Community Garden, which is located beside the Foodland Plaza parking lot near Glenville Health and Rehabilitation.

The group included Caden Davis, Larissa Howe, Leslie Mason, Dustin Crutchfield '09, Samantha Tanner, Chyna Nguyen, Kyla Lovejoy, Rita Kelley, Bri Myers, Holly Peterson, Marcelle Stoller, Alex Rogerson, Alfred Menjor, Trinity Kanz, Elizabeth Adkins, Kaylee Byrd, Kaylie Hunter, Kathy Gilbert, Dr. Kevin Evans '87, Lisa Kephart, and Dr. Wesley Kephart.

## *Show Your Spirit!*



**Shop Now:** [glenville.spirit.bncollege.com](http://glenville.spirit.bncollege.com)

## **PIONEER ATHLETICS**

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

**Baseball**

**Softball**

**Men's Golf**



Women's Golf



Track & Field



Boxing

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## 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

**Friday, May 2 - Glenville Masters Tournament Benefitting Women's Golf**

10:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

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**Friday, May 2 - Baseball Alumni Reunion**

1:00 PM - Sue Morris Sports Complex

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**Friday, May 2 - Concert Band Concert**

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

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**Friday, May 9-Saturday, May 10 - 50 Year Graduates Weekend**

*Celebrating the Class of 1975*

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**Saturday, May 10 - Commencement**

10:00 AM - Waco Center

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**Tuesday, May 13 - WLC "April Showers Bring May Flowers" Graze Box Making**

5:30-7:00 PM - Waco Center Atrium

Tickets \$30 (\$20 for WLC members); [RSVP required](#) - space is limited!

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**Saturday, June 14 - GSU Night at GoMart Ballpark**

6:30 PM - GoMart Ballpark (Charleston, WV)

Tickets \$30 - [Click here to purchase](#)

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**Thursday, June 19-Sunday, June 22 - WV State Folk Festival**

City of Glenville





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