

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | June 2025

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



David Grapes II '73 has been named the 26th Dean of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. Founded in



Members of the Class of 1975 who attended the 50 year reunion during Commencement Weekend. (l-r): Terry McCartney, Deborah (Hashman) Moody-Douglas, Pamela (Cottrill) Landsettle, Phyllis (Barnhart) Harbert, Dr. Debra (McCartney) Harrison, Karen (Wyatt) Kuhl, Bob Hardman, Linda (Prine Snyder) Jarvis, Paul Ayers, Rick Simon, Professor Emerita Cinda (Ramsey) Echard, and Mark E. Dunaway.

Not Pictured: Dr. Billie (Sullivan) Bonnett and Joyce (Fisher) White

1965, the College recognizes significant lifelong contributions made nationally to the field. The College invests new members once a year during its annual Fellows Weekend. David is pictured here receiving the College Gavel from the previous Dean, Dr. Sandra Shannon.

Originally from Parkersburg, West Virginia, Grapes studied speech and theatre at Glenville State. He was very active during his years at GSC and was a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the Onimgahow Players, GSC's bowling team, and GSC Radio. He also served as the Voice of Pioneer Football and Basketball and participated in *The Mercury*. After graduating from Glenville State, he went on to earn an MFA degree in Acting and Directing from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Before retiring in 2019, Grapes was a Professor and School Director Emeritus at the University of Northern Colorado. He also served as the Producing Artistic Director at the Nashville Repertory Theatre.

Throughout his career, David has written 18 plays and musicals, directed 240 theatre productions, and produced at least 1,000. He is a Trustee of the UK Shaw Society and was named a College of Fellows of the American Theatre in 2022. Grapes is also a member of the Actors' Equity Association, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and the Directors Guild of America. In 2010, he was named Alumnus of the Year by Glenville State's Alumni Association.

These days, David resides in Windsor, Colorado and enjoys traveling, golf, community service, and theatre and arts consulting.

Class of 1975 Celebrates 50 Years

Several members of the Class of 1975 were recently honored at Glenville State University during their 50th reunion weekend.

The reunion weekend took place on Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10. On Friday, the returning grads visited with President Manchin at the President's House, toured campus, took time to get reacquainted, and enjoyed dinner together. During the dinner, each alumnus was recognized and received a gift. The graduates also received a special commemorative medallion signifying their status as a 50 Year Graduate.

Many of the alumni returned to campus on Saturday morning to participate in the commencement exercises. As members of the 50-year reunion class, alumni take part in the graduation processional and are honored during the ceremony. Wearing gold regalia, the Class of 1975 was seated in the dignitary section of the commencement hall and walked across the stage to be recognized.

Members of the Class of 1975 who participated in the weekend included, Paul V. Ayers, Dr. Billie (Sullivan) Bonnett, Mark E. Dunaway, Professor Emerita Cinda (Ramsey) Echard, Phyllis (Barnhart) Harbert, Bob Hardman, Dr. Debra (McCartney) Harrison, Linda (Prine Snyder) Jarvis, Karen (Wyatt) Kuhl, Pamela (Cottrill) Landsettle, Terry McCartney, Deborah (Hashman) Moody-Douglas, Rick Simon, and Joyce (Fisher) White.



Alumni and friends enjoying the party deck at last year's GSU Night at GoMart Park.

GSU Night at GoMart Park is June 14

Join your fellow Pioneers at GoMart Ballpark in Charleston, West Virginia for an evening of baseball, food, and fun – Saturday, June 14 will be Glenville State Night! The gates will open at 5:30 PM, and game time is set for 6:35 PM. Wear your royal blue and root for the home team, Charleston Dirty Birds, while connecting with GSU alumni and friends.

He is a member of numerous professional and civic organizations and, in 2025, established the Glenville State University Theatre Endowment Fund.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, David said simply, "Glenville is where I found my lifelong passion for the theatre!"

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

Party Patio tickets (which include admission and access to the Bud Light Party Deck and its all-inclusive food and soft drinks) are available for \$30 through the Glenville State University Foundation Office by

[clicking here](#). General admission tickets for the game can be purchased through the Charleston Dirty Birds Box Office [online](#), by phone at (304) 344-2287, or the day of the game at the gate.

For more information or questions about the event, contact [Vada Woodford](#) or call (304) 462-6382.



Rachel Clutter, Glenville State's Director of Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit, with her Staff Employee of the Year Award.

Clutter Receives 2025 Staff Employee of the Year Award

Glenville State University's Director of Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit, Rachel Clutter '18, has been named the 2025 GSU Staff Employee of the Year award recipient.

As the Director of Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit at Glenville State University, Clutter supports motivated high school juniors and seniors in getting a head start on their college education by enrolling in GSU courses while still in high school. Each semester, she visits Glenville State's partner schools to promote the program, advise students, and assist with registration. Then, when she isn't on the road, she focuses on expanding the GSU network by establishing new partnerships with both public and private schools and works closely with the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission's Level

Up Pathway Program to develop new memorandums of understanding. Clutter also oversees the review process for dual credit adjunct faculty at partnering high schools, she develops the annual course offerings for dual credit, and ensures that all current and prospective students are enrolled smoothly and have a meaningful, enriching experience at Glenville State University.

“When my name was announced as the Staff Employee of the Year, I was genuinely overwhelmed with emotion – shocked, honored, excited, and deeply moved. It was a moment I’ll never forget,” Clutter said. “I am incredibly grateful that God led me to Glenville State all those years ago as a student. It was here that I developed a profound love for GSU, a love that eventually blossomed into a dream of working here after graduation.”

Clutter says that, because of being able to work at Glenville State, she is committed to giving her very best every day and never taking for granted the blessing of being part of this incredible community. She says what she enjoys most about working at Glenville State is the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students from across the state.

Clutter becomes the 36th recipient of the staff recognition award that has been presented at Glenville State since 1986. Names of the honorees are displayed on a permanent plaque in the Heflin Administration Building.



Graduating student Andre Jefferson (center) with his twin, USMC Sgt. Aaron Jefferson (right) and President Manchin. Sgt. Jefferson surprised his brother by attending the commencement ceremony after being stationed overseas for several years.

Celebrating Our Graduates: Class of 2025 takes part in Commencement Ceremony

Glenville State University's 151st Commencement Ceremony took place on Saturday, May 10.

The Glenville State University Class of 2025 includes graduates who completed requirements for an associate degree, bachelor's degree, or master's degree in a variety of academic areas including business, criminal justice, teacher education, and natural resource management, among others. The Class of 2025 is made up of students from throughout West Virginia and California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio,

Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia – and Australia, Belgium, Paraguay, and South Korea.

A particularly poignant moment came during the ceremony when Exercise Science student Andre Jefferson was crossing the stage to receive his diploma. As he was approaching the stage, Andre was surprised by his twin brother, United States Marine Corps Sgt. Aaron Jefferson. Sgt. Jefferson had been stationed in Japan and the two hadn't seen one another for over two years.

Additionally, graduating student Jessica Green was recognized as the Student Pioneer of the Year and Dr. Rico Gazal was honored with the Outstanding Faculty Award.

Click [here](#) to see photos from the ceremony or [watch a livestream](#) of the event.

GSU Staff Completes Campus Beautification

Kudos to the Glenville State University staff members who took time to create approximately 40 planters that were spread throughout different areas of campus. The work was completed in time for many end-of-semester events, including spring Commencement.

Pictured here are some of the volunteers who took part in the beautification efforts; (l-r) Robin (Cottrill) Meadows '01, Adrian McKeown, and Jodie Fisher.



Sowards Performs Well at PGA Professional Championship

Bob Sowards '90, former Glenville State golfer and member of the Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame (2004), completed play in the PGA Professional Championship in Port St. Lucie, Florida early last month. His T-15 finish in that competition qualified him to play in the PGA Golf Championship that was held May 15-18 at Quail Hollow Country Club in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Sowards, who is a former Pioneer All-American, posted rounds of 70-74-74-68 (-1) 286 to earn a spot in over a dozen major championships since his graduation from Glenville State in 1990.



Alumnae Receive Helping Hands Award

Melissa (Jones) Jedamski '90 and Carol (Reed) Wolfe '78 have both been selected by the Martha and Marys group to receive their Helping Hands Award for 2025.

Jedamski grew up in Gilmer County and currently serves as Assessor for Gilmer County, a job she has held for the past six years. In her spare time, she is involved in the Glenville Lions Club, 4-H, and FFA.

Wolfe, another Gilmer County native, currently serves the county as Magistrate. She has been elected to the position 11 times and she serves on the West Virginia Magistrates Association. Wolfe is a member of the Folk Festival Committee, CEOS club, and others.

Print Delays Continue 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.



Zuzi Kulik Wood (left) receives the Professor Emeritus proclamation for her late husband, Dr. C.E. "Ed" Wood, from President Manchin at the spring commencement ceremony held on May 10, 2025.

Dr. Ed Wood Honored with Posthumous Emeritus Status

During the spring commencement ceremony held last month, Glenville State University conferred posthumous Emeritus status upon Professor of History Dr. Ed Wood who passed away in August 2024.

Dr. Wood's wife, Zuzi Kulik Wood, was on hand at the ceremony to accept the recognition in his honor.

Emeritus status is presented to highly esteemed faculty members in recognition of their distinguished service and lasting contributions to the institution. Emeritus standing also aims to acknowledge the

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 this spring, 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, and they are now expecting shipment sometime this coming fall. We realize this is not what you were hoping to hear but we do sincerely thank everyone for their participation and patience throughout this project!

Those who purchased a book can also expect to receive (or may have already received) an email from PCI, the company that is handling the production of the books, further explaining this delay.

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

value of an accumulated record of teaching, scholarship, community service, and leadership within the university.

Wood's name and photograph will now be added to the Emeriti Professors Wall located in the Fine Arts Center.



Alumnus Named to 2025 GWV Fellowship Class

Kristen Cosner '17 is among the 29 members of this year's class of the [Generation West Virginia Fellowship](#). She currently serves as Director of Communications for Academic Support and Services through the Office of the Provost at West Virginia University.

Cosner previously worked as the Director of Social Media and Community Affairs at Pierpont Community and Technical College in Fairmont, West Virginia and also served as the social media manager and creative director at Glennville State for several years.

The Generation West Virginia Fellowship is designed for young professionals living in the Mountain State. Over the course of a year, Fellows will attend five in-person and four virtual sessions.

Through the program, the Fellows gain exposure to various industries and experts across the state, enhance their skills through small group training, and learn more about the history and culture of West Virginia.



Several Pioneer Athletic Teams See Strong Finishes as Academic Year Ends

Softball

Fifth-year head coach Sara Scoone was named the Mountain East Conference Coach of the Year. Scoone led the Pioneers to a program-record 34 wins during the regular season, also securing the program's first-ever MEC South Division Championship and MEC Regular Season Championship. She became the program's winningest head coach in school history with her 105th win at Frostburg State, beating a record that had stood since the mid-2000s. The Pioneers completed the 2025 regular season at (34-15) overall and (22-8) in league play, marking the most conference wins ever as well. Softball made a strong run during the MEC Tournament before eventually falling to the University of Charleston during day three of the championship.

Track & Field

The Glenville State Track & Field teams wrapped up the 2025 season at the Mountain East Conference Outdoor Championships last month, crowning one champion and placing four other Pioneers on the podium. Janae Scott won the shot-put championship for the fourth-straight time (two indoor, two outdoor) and broke the school record with a throw of 13.47m! Scott was also a podium finisher in the discus throw, finishing second with a throw of 41.90m. Jordyn Taylor earned a silver medal with a second-place finish in the pole vault at 3.20m. Natalie Barr placed third in the 800m run and broke the school record, crossing the finish line at 2:15.85. Aaron Kupfner was a podium finisher in the 110m hurdles, notching third place at 14.78. Charlie Bauman set a personal best and finished second in the shot put with a throw of 15.91m. Several other Pioneers set new personal records and had high finishes. Overall, the men placed ninth and the women placed sixth in the Championship.

Baseball

Pioneer Baseball ended their season just shy of the MEC Tournament, despite a valiant effort in the last part of the season where they won 12 of their last 14 games. Glenville State senior Zac Baylor was named to the NCBWA All-Region Second Team as a designated hitter. Baylor, a 2025 All-MEC First Team selection out of Lakewood Ranch, Florida, led the Pioneers with a .356 average and 1.077 OPS with nine home runs, 31 RBIs, eight doubles, 47 hits, 24 walks, and four stolen bases. He had 15 multi-hit performances, including three games of three hits. In addition, he notched nine games of two or more RBIs with four contests of three RBIs. Baylor had his best performance in the final game of the series against Mansfield when he went 3-for-3 with a home run and four RBIs.

Wrestling

For the third consecutive season, Glenville State Wrestling Head Coach Dylan Cottrell has been named the Mountain East Conference Coach of the Year. Cottrell was awarded MEC Coach of the Year

after leading GSU to their second-consecutive MEC Championship and first-ever NCAA DII Super Region 3 Championship. Additionally, Pioneer Wrestling has six individual MEC Champions, two individual Super Region 3 Champions, seven National Qualifiers, four All-Americans, and reached as high as No. 2 in the NWCA National Team Rankings. Glenville State Wrestling also had nine student athletes land on the National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-American list; they included: Caleb Brooks, Isaiha Casto, Giovanni Diaz, Devan Gauldin, Kyle Homet, Gabe Onorato, Hayden Pummel, Gavin Quiocho, and Loranzo Rajaonarivelo. These students were among the only 408 total Division II Scholar All-Americans.

Acrobatics & Tumbling

Glenville State's Acrobatics & Tumbling team competed in the NCATA Event Finals in late April; the team competed in Five-Element Acro and the Inversion Pyramid. The Pioneers finished fifth in Five-Element Acro with a score of 9.450; the team from Baylor was crowned champion in the event with a score of 9.925. GSU placed fourth in the Inversion Pyramid with a score of 9.700; just behind Baylor which won the event with a score of 9.825. The A&T team had a historic season as they defeated two nationally ranked teams and earned a national ranking as high as 13. The Pioneers finished with a record of (8-3, 5-1 MEC) while also finishing second place in the Mountain East Conference Tournament and bringing home four MEC Event Championships. The team included standouts Aubrey Ward, who was named the NCATA DII Freshman of the Year, and Savannah Duckworth, who landed on the NCATA All-American team for the first time in her career.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, June 6 - Men's Basketball Golf Scramble

10:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

\$100 per person - [Click here to sign up](#)

Saturday, June 14 - GSU Night at GoMart Ballpark

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

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

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

City of Glenville

Sunday, September 14 - Cody Mullens Memorial Golf Scramble

9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

\$75 per person - Call (304) 377-7460 to sign up



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