

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | August 2025

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Jeremy Kirk '04 is returning to his alma mater this academic year to work in Glenville State's Department of Fine Arts as an



The Glenville State University contingency that traveled to the Philippines included (l-r) Dr. Rico Gazal, Caleb Conrad, Jessica Armstrong, Ethan McIntyre, Chloe Richardson, Noah Miner, and Jacob Petry.

Land Resources Students Experience Education Abroad

Associate Professor of Music. This new role comes after he served several years as Chair of the Division of Performing Arts and an Associate Professor of Music at Southwestern College in Kansas.

During his time studying music education at Glenville State, Jeremy was a member of the Alpha Xi Omega fraternity and served on the Student Government Association. GSC was also where he met his wife, Nikki (Nida) Kirk '08 (December 2007). After graduating from Glenville, Jeremy went on to earn a master's degree in Percussion Performance and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Higher Education Leadership.

Earlier this year Jeremy performed the Rosauo Marimba Concerto with the South Kansas Symphony, he presented at the 2024 Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and has been invited to perform at the 2025 Percussive Arts Society International Convention.

Jeremy has performed and presented at numerous international, national, and state conferences/conventions, served as a guest artist at colleges, universities, and festivals across the globe, and has partnership/endorsements with leading percussion industry companies including Majestic Percussion, Mapex Drums, Remo Drumheads & World Percussion, Vic Firth Sticks & Mallets, Sabian Cymbals, and Black Swamp Percussion. He was also named Exemplary Professor of the Year while at Southwestern College and he received numerous faculty grants for Ethnomusicology Field Study.

Additionally, Jeremy has had several articles published in

Trip

Students in Glenville State University's Research and Field Ecological Exploration class recently returned from an enriching two-week trip to the Philippines. Led by Professor of Forestry Dr. Rico Gazal and Assistant Professor of Land Surveying Jacob Petry '22 from the Department of Land Resources, the expedition aimed to blend cultural immersion, adventure, and academic learning.

Last month, students from the Department of Land Resources, including Jessica Armstrong, Caleb Conrad, Chloe Richardson '25, Ethan McIntyre, and Noah Miner '25, immersed themselves in the rich heritage of the Philippines. They explored diverse forest and marine ecosystems and closely engaged with local communities and academic institutions, gaining invaluable insights into Filipino culture.

The adventure included a visit to Palawan, renowned for its pristine beaches and biodiverse marine ecosystems. Students participated in island-hopping tours, hiked, and discovered hidden lagoons. They also learned about local conservation efforts and the environmental challenges facing this ecologically sensitive region.

"This year marks our fourth visit to the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB CFNR) and Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) for research and field exploration of tropical forests in the Philippines. This visit is part of the ongoing partnership outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and Memorandum of Agreement between GSU with UPLB-CFNR and SLSU. The purpose of the visit is to foster academic exchange and to plan initiatives such as faculty and student exchanges, short-term visits, the development of new course offerings, and the expansion of Collaborative Online International Learning modules," said Gazal.

The delegation from Glenville State visited UPLB CFNR, conducting ecological research at the Makiling Botanic Gardens. They engaged with various teaching, research, and extension programs across academic departments of CFNR. The class also traveled to SLSU in Lucban, Quezon, where they visited the clonal nursery, participated in tree planting activities, and presented at a research seminar, sharing their own research projects and deepening their understanding of regional environmental issues.

Gazal added that this expedition underscores Glenville State University's dedication to global education and collaboration with UPLB CFNR and SLSU. It provides students with unique opportunities to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings and contribute to international environmental conservation efforts.

Alumni Award Nominations Being Accepted

Alumni Council is accepting nominations for Glenville State alumni awards that will be presented in April 2026. Nominations received by December 31, 2025 will be considered for the upcoming year's awards. Those received after that date will be saved for the following year's consideration.

academic journals, including *Sharing Aloha In Drum Circles* (*Percussive Notes Journal*, Vol. 62 No. 3: June 2024), *Polynesian Percussion* (*Teaching Music Journal* (*National Association for Music Education*): January 2019), *Creating a Paperless Studio* (*Percussive Notes Journal*, Vol. 55 No. 4: September 2017), and *Timpani Maintenance and Repair* (*Teaching Music Journal* (*National Association for Music Education*): August 2016: Vol. 24, No.1). He also has over 150 compositions and arrangements in his catalog, including the multiple percussion solo *Upacara* that is available through Per-Mus Publications. Jeremy has numerous self-published percussion solo and ensemble works available through his website, www.jkpercussion.com.

In his spare time, Jeremy enjoys weightlifting, Hula Kahiko, mixed martial arts, and fishing. He also serves on the Interactive Drumming Committee for the Percussive Arts Society and he is the Treasurer for the West Virginia Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society.

Nikki and Jeremy have two children, Clark and Chloe.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, Jeremy said, "Returning to GSU is both a huge blessing and major responsibility. Glenville provided the guidance and environment I needed to develop as an artist and teacher, and I am excited about giving back to the university that gave so much to me. It is where I was mentored by outstanding professors who offered unconditional support. It is where I met the love of my life and many lifelong friends. It is where we get to raise our family and strengthen our roots. It is home."

Award categories include Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award, Alumnus/Alumna Achievement Award, Community Achievement Award, Outstanding Teacher Award (Public Schools), Posthumous Award, and Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna Award.

Read more about the award categories, consideration criteria for each, and download a nomination form by [clicking here](#).

Alumni Council will review the nominees and decide the award recipients by majority vote. Awardees will be announced next spring.

Call (304) 462-6116 or email alumni@glenville.edu with any questions.



Annual Tim Carney Golf Tribute Planned for October

Glenville State Men's Golf will host its 8th Annual Tim Carney Tribute Golf Outing on Friday, October 17 at the Glenville Golf Club. This event was established to honor Coach, Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, and Professor Emeritus Tim Carney '62 and all the former golfers who helped lay the foundation of Glenville State's success over the two-decade period when the program was under Carney's guidance.

This year's event will begin at 9:00 AM with a shotgun start and will be played under the four-man Captain's Choice format. As always, it will run in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend.

The entry fee to participate is \$80, which will cover the participants' golf, cart, lunch, and a small gift. There will also be a skin game and casino hole along with awards for the top teams in the field. Due to a shortage of golf carts, the field has been limited to 20 teams for this year.

Funds raised through this tournament benefit Glenville State University men's golf student athletes. For more information or to sign up, call (304) 462-6052.

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



(l-r) Rebekah (Long) Speer, Eileen (Marsh) Metheney, and Rachel (Singleton) Burge on stage at Glenville State University's Fine Arts Center as part of the Mountain Fury reunion concert.

Mountain Fury Brings Old-Time and Gospel Bluegrass to GSU

Members of Mountain Fury – the first professional band to come out of the Glenville State College Bluegrass Program – reunited recently for a series of concerts, including one on their “home stage” at the Fine Arts Center Auditorium on July 19.

The group included Rebekah (Long) Speer '08, Rachel (Singleton) Burge '08, and Eileen (Marsh) Metheney '08, with special guests Richie Jones '16 on banjo and Robert Russell on fiddle. Between songs, the trio reminisced about their time at Glenville State and joked with one another.

Mountain Fury formed in the early 2000s while Speer, Burge, and Metheney were students at Glenville State and the Bluegrass Program was under the direction of West Virginia Music Hall of Fame inductee, Buddy Griffin '71. The group has appeared at the Wheeling Jamboree, several central West Virginia churches, and numerous fairs and festivals not only in the Mountain State but in surrounding states as well. Mountain Fury plays a lot of bluegrass gospel, old time bluegrass, and a touch of classic country.

As part of their recent reunion, Mountain Fury also performed at the Jerry Run Theatre in Cleveland, WV and at the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church in Jane Lew, WV.



Glenville State University's Staff Rising Star award recipient for 2025 is Grace Wellings.

Wellings Receives Staff Rising Star Award

Grace Wellings '24 was named the 2025 Glenville State University Staff Rising Star recipient. The Staff Rising Star Award recognizes a full-time staff employee who exhibits exceptional potential and, in a period of two years or less, has made a significant impact within their department and on the overall campus community.

Wellings works as an Information Technology Consultant within Glenville State's Office of Technology. She says her favorite part about working at Glenville State is being part of an office that interacts with everyone on campus. "I like being able to help make both the academic and administrative sides of campus work as technologically smooth as possible. Not only to better the workplace experience for employees, but to ultimately contribute to our students' overall educational experience," Wellings said.

She worked in the Office of Technology as a student worker and as a part-time employee before she graduated in December 2023. She stepped into a full-time position shortly after graduating.

Wellings says that receiving the Staff Rising Star award is very meaningful. "Being recognized with this award makes me feel seen. GSU is not a huge campus, but when every person, classroom, and computer lab has anywhere from one to 21 computers, it becomes a lot to handle. There are days where it feels like I barely get one fire put out before another takes its place, and that can make it seem like I haven't truly accomplished anything in the day other than just reacting to whatever problem arises next," she said. "But by being recognized with this award, it makes me feel better about those kinds of days. It's nice to know that there are others on campus who believe things are getting done and that they felt that I needed rewarded for what I do. It lets me know that I am actually making a difference where it counts and I hope to continue to do so for as long as I'm employed by GSU."

In the future, Wellings says she hopes to take part in upcoming network training for the newly-installed network system on campus. "It is a multi-day training that takes place in Charleston. By attending this training, I hope to expand my knowledge beyond computer systems and more into the network side of technology so I can provide network support for campus as well," she added.

Rising Star award nominations may be submitted by staff, faculty, or students. The award is presented by Glenville State's Staff Council. Wellings becomes only the third person to receive the award since it

was first presented in 2023.



GSU Night at Lambert's Winery is August 13

You still have time to make plans to join us at Lambert's Winery in Weston, WV for GSU Night!

The event takes place on Wednesday, August 13 beginning at 5:00 PM. This year's GSU Night coincides with the final "pizza night" of the summer at Lambert's, so don't miss this opportunity to attend and reconnect with your fellow Pioneers. GSU Night is free to attend; food and drinks are Dutch treat.

For more information about the event, email alumni@glennville.edu or call (304) 462-6116.

Oral History Project Update

As previously noted in this newsletter, the Glenville State University Alumni Oral History Project has been delayed.

We have been in contact with the publisher, PCI, regarding updates to this process. Those who purchased items (a copy of the oral history book, apparel, etc.) should have also been contacted by PCI with an update. The project is experiencing a delay with both the apparel production and with the printing of the book.

PCI has assured us that they will ship the publication and apparel items that have been ordered as soon as they have an estimated ship date. However, at this time they do not have an estimated date of when that will occur.

We understand that this process is taking an inordinate amount of time and we appreciate everyone's patience. However, if you wish to cancel your order, please call 1-800-982-1590 or email PCIservice@publishingconcepts.com.



If you or your company are interested in supporting the *Pioneer Progress* with a monetary donation or advertising in the next issue, contact Vada.Woodford@glenville.edu for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 1 - Whitey Adolfson Memorial Golf Tournament
8:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 - GSU Night at Lambert's Winery
5:00 PM - Lambert's Winery (Weston, WV)

Saturday, August 23 - Pioneer Athletics Elimination Dinner
5:00-8:00 PM - Fatboy's BBQ Restaurant (27 Development Drive, Glenville, WV)
Tickets \$30 - Call (304) 462-6220 to purchase

Saturday, August 30 - Pioneer Football vs Emory & Henry University Pregame Gathering
11:00 AM -12:30 PM - TK's Pizza and Sports Bar (109 Crides Landing, Elkview, WV)
Alumni and friends are invited to join us for drinks and appetizers (Dutch treat) at TK's before traveling to Herbert Hoover High School to cheer on the Pioneers; game time is 1:00 PM.

Sunday, September 14 - Cody Mullens Memorial Golf Scramble
9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club
\$75 per person - Call (304) 377-7460 to sign up

Friday, October 17 - Tim Carney Tribute Golf Outing
9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club
\$80 Entry Fee - Call (304) 462-6052 to sign up



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