

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | December 2025

## Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Mary Grace (Hanson)  
Tallhamer '77 has been retired  
from public education since  
December 2017, having served



Star GSU runner Natalie Barr (center) is flanked by GSU Head Track & Field and Cross Country Coach Dan Meyers and Athletic Director Jesse Skiles '87 after the 2025 NCAA DII Cross Country Championships that were held in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

## GSU's Natalie Barr Finishes in Top Half of NCAA DII Cross

in a variety of roles over the years.

Grace was a teacher for 18 years, a principal for 16 years, and a curriculum director for eight years. She worked at Sand Fork Elementary (teacher), Arnoldsburg and Normantown Elementary Schools (principal), Robert L. Bland Middle School (principal), and Lewis County Schools Board Office (curriculum director).

The Clay, West Virginia native came to GSC to major in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and Social Studies Education. During her time at Glenville State, she was also a member of the Ladies of the White Rose, the auxiliary group to the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

After GSC, Grace earned a master's degree from West Virginia University in Leadership Studies in Education.

During her teaching days, she was named Teacher of the Year for Gilmer County and she assisted the WV Department of Education with student assessments.

Grace is married to Russell Tallhamer. Their son, Frankie "Andy" Tomblin, Jr., was a dual-enrollment student at GSC while he attended Gilmer County High School. He then went on to WV Wesleyan College and WVU to complete his Pharmacy Ph.D. Their daughter, Misty L. Tomblin '02, attended Glenville State for four years, obtaining a business and marketing degree.

These days her hobbies include quilting, golf, helping others, community service, and fundraising for GSU Women's Golf Team. She also conducts LEI (Love, Educate, Inspire) Educational Consulting.

## Country Championships

Late last month, Glenville State Women's Cross Country star Natalie Barr finished in the top half of the 2025 NCAA DII Cross Country Championships that were held in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

She placed 109th out of 263 runners in the 6K championship race, crossing the finish line at 21:56. Barr was one of the top five finishing Mountain East Conference runners. Adams State's Tristian Spence won the national title with a time of 20:11.

Barr completed her historic 2025 season with an Atlantic Regional championship, third-consecutive All-Region honor, third-straight All-Conference finish (second All-MEC First Team in a row), and was named USTFCCCA Atlantic Region Runner of the Year.

The Canvas, West Virginia native and GSU junior is an education student majoring in Elementary Education (K-6) and General Math-Algebra I (5-9).

"I have to thank Natalie for extending our Cross Country season for a few weeks," said GSU Track & Field and Cross Country Head Coach, Dan Meyers. "Between coach and athlete, we never even discussed nationals or Wisconsin until a week before she became regional champion, punching her bid to the national meet. It was amazing to see her confidence grow throughout this season. She battled hard at nationals and landed at 109th place with an impressive 21:56 6K on a difficult course. To be close to top 100 in the country, in a sport where thousands participate every year, is a major accomplishment."



Glenville State alumni and friends chat and reminisce at last year's Mid-Ohio Valley Alumni Chapter Christmas Dinner.

## **Reminder: Annual Mid-Ohio Valley Alumni Chapter Christmas Dinner is December 2**



When asked what Glenville State means to her, Grace said, "GSC changed my life dramatically. I feel I owe my success to the four years I spent there."

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

There is still time to join us at the Parkersburg Country Club in Vienna, West Virginia on Tuesday, December 2 for the annual Mid-Ohio Valley Alumni Chapter Christmas Dinner.

There will be a cash bar meet and greet beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. The dinner buffet includes Baked Steak, Boursin Chicken, Roasted Vegetable Medley, Roasted Red Skin Potatoes, House Mixed Greens Salad, Italian Pasta Salad, Dinner Rolls, Dessert, Coffee, and Iced Tea. The cost is \$35.00 per person.

If you have not already done so, please RSVP by [clicking here](#). For questions, email [Dustin Crutchfield](#) or call (304) 462-6116.



*Glenville State University students Samantha Casto (left) and Emma Casto at Green Bank Observatory.*

## GSU Students Certified as WV SPOT Ambassadors

Elementary Education/General Science (5-9) majors, Samantha Casto and Emma Casto, traveled to Green Bank Observatory to attend the WV Science Public Outreach Team (SPOT) Fall Retreat in September with their campus SPOT advisor, Dr. Ashley (Murphy) Kookan '09.

During the weekend event, they learned about innovative science and engineering research happening around the state and began the process to become certified in the interactive presentations, *The Star of Our World* and *The Power of Luminescence*.

Both Samantha and Emma became officially certified in October 20 after several practice sessions with their campus advisor and Professor Emeritus Dr. Joe Evans '63. They were the first ambassadors to become certified in their presentations after the Fall Retreat. Now, they are able to travel around the state to inspire an appreciation of STEM and STEM careers in K-12 students through the delivery of their presentations.

Samantha had the opportunity to lead a hands-on SPOT activity recently at a Boo Bash event held at Gilmer County Elementary



## A Photographic Recap: Fall 2025

Glenville State students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends have been busy this fall! Our campus photographers try to capture as many memorable moments as possible to share with you. In case you've missed any of the fun, here are some highlights from the past few months – check out these photo galleries:

[Home Away From Home Game \(at Herbert Hoover High School - August 30\)](#)

[Home Away From Home Game \(at Roane County High School - September 27\)](#)

[Home Away From Home Game \(at Robert C. Byrd High School - October 4\)](#)

School. There, she was able to reach 50 elementary and middle school aged children through the 'Design an Alien' activity. Children were able to choose a planet or moon in our solar system and design an alien that is able to survive on that location given the information provided.

"I had the pleasure of not only attending the SPOT Fall Retreat, but also supporting Emma and Samantha in becoming certified WV SPOT Ambassadors. They are very well prepared to lead presentations and activities in K-12 classrooms – I strongly encourage my teacher friends to request a visit today," Kookien said.

If you are a K-12 teacher who would like to request a standards-based WV SPOT presentation be conducted at your school, [please click here](#).

[Home Away From Home Game \(at Parkersburg South High School - November 8\)](#)

[Homecoming Activities](#)

[Business Hall of Fame Ceremony](#)

[Dracula: Case of the Silver Scream Performance](#)

## GSU Alumni Awards Nomination Deadline Nearing

The Glenville State University Alumni Council is [accepting nominations](#) for alumni awards to be presented in April 2026 through the end of this month. 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.

Award recipients will be announced in the spring.

[\*\*Click to Download a Nomination Form\*\*](#)

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*Scholarship donor Karen (Bush) Lay '79 and recipient Autumn Moyers at the Scholarship Donors Reception.*

## Scholarship Donor Reception Held

In the spirit of giving thanks, current Glenville State University student scholarship recipients and scholarship donors met last month at a Scholarship Donor Reception. The event provided an opportunity to say thank you to several special donors and to celebrate student accomplishments.

Several donors and their scholarship recipients attended the event, some meeting for the first time. Glenville State students Graylin Floyd and Brady Layman spoke about their academic pursuits and how scholarships have helped them along their journeys.

"This is always a great event and I think the reception provided a wonderful opportunity for interaction between the students and scholarship donors. I'm very appreciative of all those who attended," said David Hutchison, Glenville State's Vice President of Advancement.

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

## 2025 GSU Christmas Ornament Now Available

The holiday season is just around the corner and this year's GSU Christmas ornament, which features a snow-covered President's House, is now available for only \$10. This ornament is fourth in a series designed by Blair Fisher '04. The previous designs include Clark Hall (2022), Heflin Administration Building (2023), and Alumni





Center/Arbuckle House (2024); a limited number of those ornaments are still available for purchase for \$5 each.

Proceeds from the sales of these special ornaments support the Glenville State University Women's Leadership Circle.

[Click here to purchase](#) the 2025 ornament or call (304) 462-6380 to order by phone or inquire about past designs.

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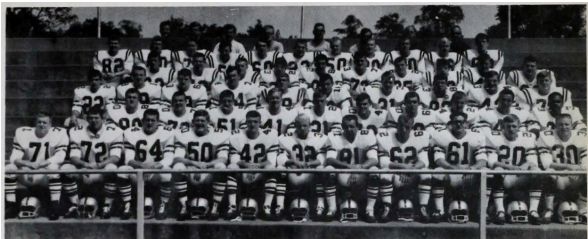
## Did You Know?

The General Meritorious Scholarship, which is managed by the Glenville State University Foundation, is an unrestricted scholarship.

An unrestricted scholarship has the benefit of allowing us to help a student in need without directing it to a student in a specific program, county, or sport. The General Meritorious Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate high achievement with accolades in various areas, such as academics, athletics, leadership, or community service.

Please help support our Glenville State students by [giving today](#).

[Donate Now](#)



1967 Glenville State Pioneers are shown in this picture. First row, left to right: Frank Hughes, Sterling Beane, Bill Piercey, Tom Herold, Stan Boyles, John Flint, Bill Frost, Larry Ackison, Harold D. Price, Jim Sprague, Mick Hartley. Second row: Mike Deem, Mick Lattetter, Joe Scallie, David Rawson, John Noland, John Lough, Chuck Mills, Dick Haynes, Dale Sheets, Steve Seals. Third row: Tom Haight, Marcus McQuill, Jim Frasher, Bill Rotress, Gail Plum, Phil Dennis, Jim Jurn, Joe Painter, Joe Smith, Ron Duncan. Fourth row: Jerry Rea, Mike Sims, Floyd Cline, Richard Cain, Mike Roscoe, Gary Ray, Dave Bonnette, Rick DayHuff, Raymond Johnson, Dan Curry. Fifth row: Martin Harper, Chuck Deaton, Mike Wooten, Ray White, James Mihaliak, Lee Stalnaker, Joe Walker, Bob Hays, Mike Holt, Bob Gruener, Mike Hissallouk. Sixth row: Frank Pfaff, Jim Heaton, Jerrv Wolfe, Dave Hughes, Bill McMillan, Bob Collins, Coach Hamlin, Coach Adolphson.

## *In Memoriam*

Former members of the Pioneer Football team are sad to report the passing of Richard "Rich" Cain. Richard passed away on Friday, September 12, 2025 at Camden Clark Medical Center in Parkersburg.

He graduated from Wirt County High School in 1967 before coming to Glenville State.

He will be dearly missed by his wife Judy, and children David, Devin, Kris, and Ryan. Rich was a devoted four-year member of the GSC football team from 1967-1970. He was a true friend to all those around him and will be sorely missed.

Click [here](#) to read his full obituary or leave a note for the family.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, December 1 - Christmas at the Library**

6:00 PM - RFK Library

Tree lighting, hot cocoa bar, and cookies | Free to attend

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**Tuesday, December 2 - Mid-Ohio Valley Alumni Christmas Dinner**

5:00 PM - Parkersburg Country Club

Tickets \$35 - [Click here to purchase](#) or call (304) 462-6116

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**Thursday, December 4 - Jazz Band Christmas Concert**

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Admission by donation

*Come to campus early and stop by the Pioneer Eatery (GSU's cafeteria) in the Mollohan Campus Community Center for dinner before the concert!*

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**Saturday, December 13 - Winter Commencement Ceremony**

10:00 AM - Waco Center

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**Saturday, February 28 - Winter Homecoming**

Waco Center



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