

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | May 2026

Alumni SPOTLIGHT





Victoria "Tori" Lewis '20 is currently living overseas and is using this time in her life to travel. Recently, she has visited France, Germany, Spain, and Iceland. This, Tori says, has finally given her a version of the study abroad experience that she missed during the pandemic.

During her time at Glenville State, she was a member of the Track & Field and Cross Country teams and a member of Sigma Pi Xi, the criminal justice organization for students.

Tori began her career in education during the COVID pandemic, working at a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school. She later transitioned into higher education at Western Governors University, where she supported students while also earning a master's degree in educational technology and learning experience design (2025).

Early in her career at Western Governors, Tori was promoted within her first year and was consistently recognized for exceeding admissions and student intake goals.

Tori and her fiancée have recently become engaged. The pair met at Glenville and say

Glenville State University Alumni Association award recipients for 2026 (l-r) Eric Peyatt, Maria Durbin representing the family of Dan Durbin, Catie Pelfrey, Paula Oliverio, Donnie Lambert, Dr. Carrie Kirkpatrick-Summers, Daniel Reed, and Dan White.

Alumni Association Honors Eight

Glenville State University alumni and friends gathered on campus for the 2026 Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 25 in the Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom. Those in attendance enjoyed a dinner buffet and the presentation of the 2026 GSU Alumni Association Awards.

- Dr. Carrie Kirkpatrick-Summers '98, Alumnus of the Year
- Daniel Reed '93, Alumni Achievement Award
- Eric Peyatt '19, Community Achievement Award
- Paula (Jones) Oliverio '86, Outstanding Teacher Award
- Dan White '98, Outstanding Teacher Award
- Dan Durbin '84, Posthumous Award
- Catie Pelfrey '21, Outstanding Young Alumna
- Donnie Lambert '18, Outstanding Young Alumnus

[Read more about each honoree](#) and [view pictures](#) from the Awards Banquet.

If you know of an alumnus who should be considered for future recognition, click here to [download an award nomination form](#).



Justice Tom Ewing speaking to students on April 28 in the Administration Building Auditorium on campus.

that it is special to see something that started at GSU come full circle.

In her spare time, Tori enjoys cooking, reading, and watercolor painting – which is something she had a chance to develop further during her time at Glenville through two elective courses.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Tori said, “Glenville has always held, and always will hold, a special place in my heart. From the first time I visited campus, there was something about it that just stuck with me. It was completely different from what I grew up surrounded by, which made it feel unique but there’s also a kind of magic in those beautiful rolling hills and the 15-mile road it takes to get there. To me, Glenville represents growth, connection, and the start of so many important parts of my life.”

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

Ewing Visits Campus, Speaks to Students

Justice Thomas Ewing '01 visited his alma mater last month and spoke to students in several social science courses, including West Virginia Politics and American National Government.

Ewing was sworn in as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in August 2025 after Gov. Patrick Morrisey appointed him to fill a vacancy. At the time of his appointment, he was a circuit judge in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit (Fayette County).

During his time at Glenville State, he graduated summa cum laude and was a four-year member and captain of the men’s basketball team.

Justice Ewing was an attorney with the law firm of Kay, Casto & Chaney, PLLC, from 2004 until his appointment to the bench in 2018 and was the managing member of its Fayetteville office from 2015 to 2018.

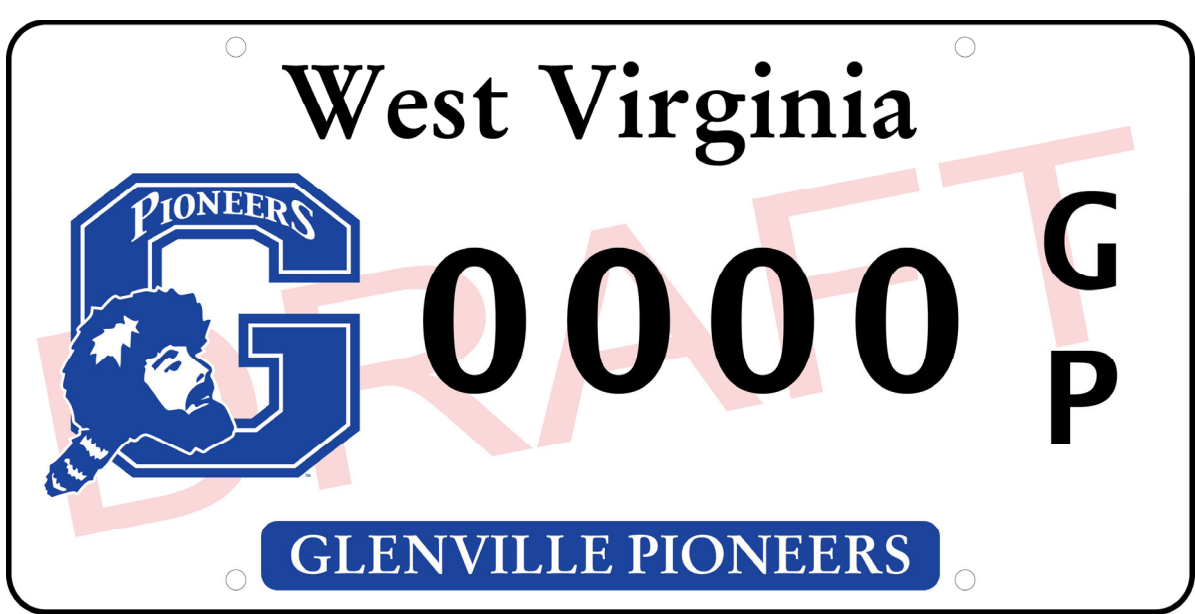
Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony Nearing

The newest members of Glenville State's Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame - Sam Marchio '48, Todd Layhew '90, Rahmann Lee '16, Camai Roberson-Mazzulla '09, and Bob Zdanek (aka Bob Edwards) will be inducted as members of the 2025 Class at a ceremony later this month.

A banquet and induction ceremony to honor the 2025 inductees will take place in the Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom at 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 16. A social reception will precede the event at 5:00 PM. Tickets for the event are \$25 and may be purchased [here](#). Please RSVP by Friday, May 8. For questions about the induction ceremony banquet, please call (304) 462-6116.

Glenville State University's Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2001 through the generosity of the late Curtis Elam.

Show Your Pioneer Spirit!

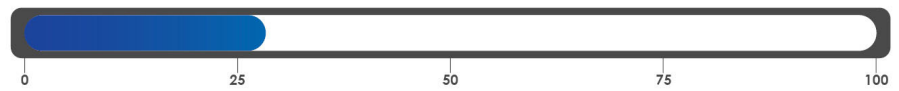


Glenville State License Plate

Glenville State University alumni, friends, employees, and students who reside in West Virginia are now able to submit a preliminary interest application for a special Glenville State University license plate! Preliminary interest applications are being accepted through August 3, 2026.

These plates will be actual specialty license plates created and issued by the West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. When the University receives the first 100 preliminary interest applications, final design and production of the license plate will begin. There are no restrictions on the number of special plates you may obtain.

Those interested in submitting a preliminary interest application for a special GSU license plate should visit www.glenville.edu/alumni/license-plates to learn more and download an application form.



We are about a quarter of the way to our goal of 100 completed interest applications - help us reach that number and unlock the ability to have these special license plates produced!

Reminder: If GSU does not collect at least 100 interest applications by August 3, the project will be canceled per DMV and WV Legislative rules. Application fees (less any nonrefundable credit card processing fees) will be returned to those who completed an application.



GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY GSU Night at GoMart Ballpark

GSU Night at GoMart Park is June 13

Glennville State alumni and friends are invited to GoMart Ballpark on Saturday, June 13 for an evening of fun and baseball. The Charleston Dirty Birds are set to take on the High Point Rockers; gates open at 5:30 p.m. and game time is set for 6:35 p.m.

We have reserved the Bud Light Party Deck inside GoMart Park for Pioneer alumni and friends to enjoy. A \$30 ticket includes all-inclusive food, unlimited fountain drinks, and a cash bar. Children 4 and under get in free.

If you [purchase tickets online](#), tickets are distributed electronically (unless you opt to receive them via USPS mail). Electronic tickets will be sent to the email address provided at the time of purchase within 1-2 business days.

Contact (304) 462-6116 for questions.



Barr Opens W.Va. Fitness Club

Keith Barr '07 (pictured here with WV Senator Ben Queen) recently held a soft opening for his Taste of Fitness by No Holds fitness club in Shinnston, West Virginia.

Visit the [Taste of Fitness](#) website for hours of operation, pricing information, and more.

Barr was a member of the Pioneer football and track and field teams during his time at Glenville State. He also previously worked at GSC, holds several boxing titles, and was the National Physique Committee's Mr. WV Physique winner in 2022.

State and local officials joined Barr and his friends and family at the opening event.

Allen Announced as GCHS Teacher of the Year

Gilmer County High School has announced Morgan Allen '18 as their 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year.

Now in her eighth year in education, Allen has built her career around creating a supportive, engaging environment where all students feel comfortable learning and growing.

When asked about being selected as Teacher of the Year, Allen described the recognition as both unexpected and meaningful. "It feels great. It was a surprise but a great feeling," she said.

Allen will now represent Gilmer County High School at the county level for Teacher of the Year.

Jones Earns Norwegian Foot March Badge

CPT Marc Jones '14 recently completed the Norwegian Foot March, a march that was first held in 1915 as a test of marching endurance for soldiers in the Norwegian Army. These days, the march is also used to promote long-distance hiking and physical fitness among Norway's allies and civilian populations.

The march requires participants to complete an 18.64-mile course while carrying a rucksack with a dry weight of at least 24.25 pounds within a prescribed time according to gender and age.

Jones earned the Bronze Norwegian Foot March Badge, marking his first successful completion of the march within the required time.



Alumna Recognized with Delta Kappa Gamma Achievement Award

Dr. Ressie Phillips '91 has received the Delta Kappa Gamma West Virginia State Organization Achievement Award. The Achievement Award is the highest honor a member can achieve at the state level.

“Receiving this award is a true blessing that fills my heart with gratitude. I’m humbled to stand alongside such remarkable educators, and I thank God for placing me among this extraordinary community of dedicated professionals,” Phillips said.

Phillips was recognized by Glenville State’s Alumni Association as the Outstanding Teacher Award recipient in 2015. She has over thirty years of teaching and educational leadership experience. In addition to her degree from Glenville State, she also holds degrees in sign language interpreting and deaf education.

Dr. Phillips (left) is pictured after receiving the 2026 Achievement Award during the DKG WVSO Leadership Conference in April; accompanying her is 2025 Achievement Award recipient, Barbara Tabaretti.

PIONEER ATHLETICS

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



Men's Golf



Softball



Women's Golf



Baseball



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](#) to learn more about membership benefits and how to enroll.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 1 - Glenville Masters Tournament Benefitting Women's Golf
10:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

Friday, May 1 - Concert Band Concert
7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Friday, May 8-Saturday, May 9 - 50 Year Graduates Weekend
Celebrating the Class of 1976

Saturday, May 9 - Commencement
10:00 AM - Waco Center
Join us to celebrate the Class of 2026 or [watch the ceremony online](#)

Friday, May 15 - Whitey Adolphson Memorial Golf Scramble
Glenville Golf Club
To benefit Pioneer Football - Save the Date!

Saturday, May 16 - Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony
5:00 PM - Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom
\$25 - [Click here to purchase tickets](#) or call (304) 462-6116

Saturday, June 13 - GSU Night at GoMart Ballpark
5:30 PM - GoMart Ballpark (Charleston, WV)
\$30 - [Click here to purchase tickets](#) or call (304) 462-6116



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Glenville State University
200 High St., Glenville, WV 26351