

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | June 2026

Alumni SPOTLIGHT





Cole Houser '23 is currently serving as the head wrestling coach at Salem University, a position he has held since April 2024. He previously served as the assistant coach of the wrestling program at King University from 2023-2024.

The Bellefontaine, Ohio native came to Glenville State and was a member of the wrestling team and Student Athletic Advisory Committee. During his time on the mat with the Pioneers, Cole was a two-time national qualifier, led the NCAA in technical falls in 2023, was a four-time NCAA regional placer, a three-time MEC finalist, was a three-time Academic All-American, and held an NCAA record of 124-46.

Since graduating, Houser has coached two national qualifiers, one conference champion, two conference finalists, seven regional placers, and three Academic All-Americans.

In his spare time, Cole enjoys golfing, fishing, and spending time with his friends and family. He also helps run youth practices with the Doddridge County Mat Club.

Members of the Class of 1976 who attended the 50 year reunion during Commencement Weekend. (l-r): Brenda (Barton) McCartney, Professor Emerita Dr. Kathy (Poling) Butler, Kim (Ellyson) Norman, Greg James, Betty Jo (Snider) Heater, John Wolfe, Rebecca (Phillips) Buehl, Woody Wilson, Barbara (Stemple) Harris, Carol Hilleary, Janet (Erwin) Willson, Larry Jones, Arthur Ausberry, Stella (Scott) Moon, Arthur "Danny" Williams, and Shara (Robinson) Arison (not pictured: Bernie Buttrey)

Class of 1976 Celebrates 50 Years

Several members of the Class of 1976 recently returned to campus for their 50th reunion weekend.

The reunion weekend took place on Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. 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.

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 with a special commemorative medallion signifying their status as a 50 Year Graduate. Wearing gold regalia, the Class of 1976 was seated in the dignitary section of the commencement hall and walked across the stage to be recognized.

Members of the Class of 1976 who participated in the weekend included, Shara (Robinson) Arison, Arthur Ausberry, Rebecca (Phillips) Buehl, Professor Emerita Dr. Kathy (Poling) Butler, Bernie Buttrey, Betty Jo (Snider) Heater, Barbara (Stemple) Harris, Carol Hilleary, Greg James, Larry Jones, Brenda (Barton) McCartney, Stella (Scott) Moon, Kim (Ellyson) Norman, Arthur "Danny" Williams, Janet (Erwin) Willson, Woody Wilson, and John Wolfe.

Cole and his wife, Ashley Fridley '22, currently reside in Salem, West Virginia.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, Cole said, "Glenville State University will always mean more to me than just a place. It's where I met my beautiful wife, helped build a wrestling program into a national powerhouse, and made some of the best memories of my life with friends who will always be like family. Looking back, it was a time full of hard work, unforgettable moments, and people who truly shaped who I am today, and I'll always be grateful for it."

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



Alumni and friends enjoying the party deck at a previous GSU Night at GoMart Park.

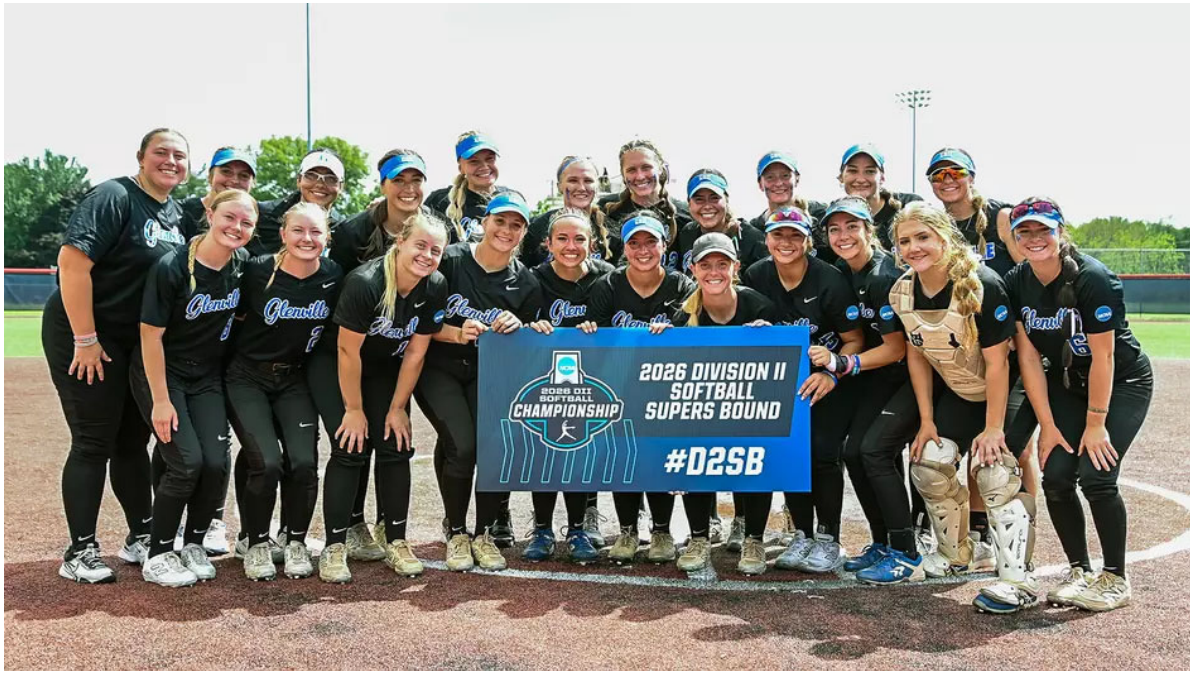
GSU Night at GoMart Park is June 13

Join your fellow Pioneers at GoMart Ballpark in Charleston, West Virginia for an evening of baseball, food, and fun – Saturday, June 13 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.

GSU has 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. [Click here](#) to purchase your tickets and make plans to join us!

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 alumni@glenville.edu or call (304) 462-6116.



Members of the GSU Softball team following their Atlantic Super Regional win over Kutztown last month.

Softball Closes Historic Season Following DII Women's College World Series Appearance

Last month, the Glenville State Softball season came to close following a momentous run for the Pioneers. The team captured another MEC South Division Regular Season title, an MEC Tournament championship, Atlantic Region 1 title, and Atlantic Super Regional championship trophy this year, ending 2026 with 51 total wins.

Glenville State was the seventh-seed heading into the NCAA Division II Women's College World Series, which was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Their first game, which was against No. 2 Missouri Southern, fell just short (5-3) following a late-inning comeback. GSU then moved to the loser's bracket where they took on North Georgia, but were eventually eliminated from the tournament.

The team picked up multiple student-athlete and staff accolades to close out the season.

Glenville State's Delaney Warnick became Pioneer Softball's first-ever All-American, landing on the Division II Conference Communications Association (D2CCA) Third Team.

Warnick, a junior shortstop from Perryopolis, Pennsylvania, hit .398 with 77 hits, 12 doubles, one triple, 19 home runs, and 70 RBIs heading into the World Series. She earned MEC Tournament MVP after hitting .545 with six homers and 18 RBIs as well as D2CCA All-Region First Team following a strong regional tournament at Shippensburg. Her 19 home runs rank her T-6th in the country while her 70 RBIs is tied for 10th-best in the nation.

The Glenville State Softball coaching staff were also named the ATEC/NFCA Atlantic Region Coaching Staff of the Year. The award is voted on by respective region's coaching staffs.

Head coach Sara Scoone, assistant coach Tim White, and graduate assistant Makenna Negley '25

earned the award after leading the Pioneers to an historic 2026 campaign. Scoone has led the program for six seasons, White has been with the Pioneers for two seasons, and Negley is in her first season of coaching after a successful playing career with Glenville State.

Kudos to Pioneer Softball for this spectacular season!



Graduating student Sandra Crites addresses the commencement assembly during the spring graduation ceremony. Crites was selected as the Student Pioneer of the Year.

Hats Off to Our Graduates: GSU Class of 2026 takes part in Commencement Ceremony

Glenville State University's 152nd Commencement Ceremony took place on Saturday, May 9.

The Glenville State University Class of 2026 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 2026 is made up of students from throughout West Virginia and California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC – and Argentina, Bulgaria, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hungary, Ireland, Ghana, and Peru.

During a somber moment of ceremony, a posthumous Honorary Bachelor of Science degree was presented to Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom. Her mother, Evalea Beckstrom, was on hand to accept the degree. Specialist Beckstrom was a military police officer with the 863rd Military Police Company based in Glen Jean, West Virginia. A 2023 graduate of Webster County High School,

Beckstrom was also a dual enrollment Glenville State University student. In 2025, she was taking part in Operation D.C. Safe and Beautiful and, while carrying out her duties on patrol, Specialist Beckstrom was tragically killed in an ambush-style attack.

Additionally, graduating student Sandra Crites was recognized as the Student Pioneer of the Year and Dr. Schuyler Chapman was honored with the Outstanding Faculty Award. West Virginia Senator Ben Queen served as the keynote speaker. Sen. Queen was also presented with a Presidential Citation from GSU.

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



Members of the Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame 2025 induction class; (l-r) Rahmann Lee, Bob Zdanek, Camai Roberson Mazzulla, Sandy Snead (representing the family of Sam Marchio), and Todd Layhew.

GSU Inducts 2025 Class into Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame

Glenville State University officially welcomed five new members into the Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, May 16. The 2025 Class included Todd Layhew '90, Rahmann Lee '16, Sam Marchio '48, Camai Roberson-Mazzulla '09, and Bob Zdanek. The event was held in the Mollohan Campus Community Center.

Layhew was a four-year starter at linebacker for the football program, recording 129 tackles as a senior and being the school's all-time leader in tackles at the time his career ended. All-WVIAC First Team selection twice and was a Second Team NAIA All-American once. Layhew was also a Montrose Award recipient as well as a member of the Pioneer basketball team and track & field team, where he was a thrower. These days, Layhew is the Assistant Director of Roane-Jackson Technical Center, a role he has been in since 2009. He also serves as a guide for the Jackson County Hunting Heroes program, where he assists and supports U.S. veterans during outdoor

hunting experiences, and he has experience in football, softball, baseball, and basketball and football officiating.

Lee is Glensville State's all-time leading rusher at 4,907 yards, eclipsing over 1,000 rushing yards in all four seasons at Glensville State. His 412 rushing yards against WVWC in 2015 is a school record and Lee was a four-time First Team All-Conference selection. On the track, Lee won a conference championship in the 100m dash. He is currently serving as the Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach of the Virginia State University Trojans. Lee has also made coaching stops at West Virginia State University, ASA Miami, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and North Carolina Central University.

Marchio competed in both men's basketball and football for the Pioneers, earning First Team All-WVIAC in basketball in 1940 and 1946 after serving in World War II. He became principal at Weston Junior High School in the early 1960s and remained in that position for 20 years. In 1974, he was selected as a member of the WVIAC All-Time Football Team alongside 110 other former athletes. Marchio was a supervisor of officials for the WVIAC and was an official for high school and college basketball games for 28 years. He was the first person to be appointed to the supervisor of officials position by the WVIAC. Marchio passed away on June 25, 1988. Several of his grandchildren, including Lisa Young, Sandy Snead, Laura Whelan, and Liz McDonald (and their families), were on hand at the ceremony to accept the recognition on Marchio's behalf.

Roberson-Mazzulla was a two-time All-WVIAC and All-Tournament Team selection in volleyball, including a First Team nod in 2008 while earning Track & Field Rookie of the Year and being a Conference champion in the high jump, long jump and with the 4x100m team. She was the Track & Field MVP in 2008 and was the runner-up finish in the WVIAC's first-ever heptathlon as well. She later served as head coach with the volleyball program and assistant coach with the track & field team after graduation. She has volunteered through various organizations such as the Youth Advocacy Program, the Corpus Christi-St. Bernard Parish Youth Ministry, the Auburndale Community Garden, as a board member of More Than a Season, Nations of Coaches, and as a YMCA Coach. In 2023, she was named YMCA Adult Volunteer of the Year.

Zdanek, also known to Pioneer fans as "Bob Edwards," has been the Voice of Pioneer football and basketball since 1992. He has provided play-by-play coverage on the radio and via the Mountain East Conference network for countless home contests in addition to 20 Glensville State Conference Championship teams, one National Championship team, and one National Runner-Up team. Zdanek also worked for the Public Relations Department at Glensville State. He was named Glensville State's Classified Staff Employee of the Year for 2013-2014 and he has also been inducted into the Roane County Hall of Fame.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how to submit nominations for the Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame.



Eric Marks, right, is presented with the Glenville State University Staff Employee of the Year Award by President Dr. Mark Manchin.

Marks Receives 2026 Staff Employee of the Year Award

Glenville State University's Manager of Information Systems, Eric Marks '03, has been named the 2026 GSU Staff Employee of the Year award recipient.

As the Manager of Information Systems, Marks works within Glenville State's Office of Technology, which is tasked with keeping campus technology systems operating.

"When my name was announced as the Staff Employee of the Year, I was very surprised," Marks said. "GSU has so many employees who go above and beyond and were just as deserving of this award as I was. Then came a brief moment of panic, because it was so unexpected, and I realized I had to get up in front of everyone and speak with only about 50 feet to come up with something to say."

He adds that the students are his favorite part about working at Glenville State. "The students are the reason we are all here in the first place. Knowing that the work we do contributes to the betterment of the next generation, and therefore the world, while allowing us to share in their educational journey, is amazing."

Marks becomes the 37th 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.

Show Your Pioneer Spirit with a Special Glenville State License Plate!



Reminder: 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 not yet 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 13 - GSU Night at GoMart Ballpark
6:30 PM - GoMart Ballpark (Charleston, WV)
Tickets \$30 - [Click here to purchase](#)

Thursday, June 18-Sunday, June 21 - WV State Folk Festival
City of Glenville

Saturday, July 18 - "A Night Under the Stars" Adult Prom
Save the Date!



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