

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | August 2026

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Dr. John Lopez '05 is currently serving as the Director of Bands at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, where he



Former Glenville State College First Lady, Betsy Barr (center), speaking to Former GSC President Dr. Tom Powell and Former First Lady Irene Powell at an event on campus in 2006. Mrs. Barr passed away on July 20, 2026.

Glenville State Mourns Passing of Former First Lady

directs the Pride of South Texas Javelina Marching Band and Wind Symphony, and teaches graduate conducting and courses in music education. Dr. Lopez's work at TAMUK earned him the William J. Hall Faculty Award in 2026 for outstanding student mentorship.

In addition to his degree in Music Education from Glenville State, John also holds a Master of Music degree in Wind Conducting from Ohio University and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting from the University of Georgia.

During his time at GSC, John was a member of the Student Government Association, Music Educators National Conference (now known as the National Association for Music Education), and Tau Kappa Epsilon. He also served as a Resident Assistant and was selected to serve as the Chief Student Marshal.

From 2013 to 2022 he served as the Director of Athletic Bands at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia where he was the director of the 200+ member Marching Captains and Pep Band and was the conductor of the University Concert Band. Prior to his graduate work, Dr. Lopez served as the Director of Bands at Gilmer County High School where his teaching earned him the 2007 West Virginia Region 7 Teacher of the Year. During his graduate studies at Ohio University, he earned the 2010 Ohio University Outstanding Graduate Teaching Associate Award and the Ronald Socciarelli Award for Outstanding Service to the Ohio University Marching 110. While at OU and UGA, Lopez routinely conducted all the bands, assisted with, and taught undergraduate conducting, and served as a

Former Glenville State First Lady Dr. Elizabeth "Betsy" Barr has passed away, she was 83.

President and Mrs. Barr were on campus from 2006-2017, with both becoming important members of the campus and local community.

Mrs. Barr was very active during her years as First Lady. She volunteered with the Gilmer County Public Library and could often be found helping to recruit new students, assisting with the Hidden Promise Scholars program, and interacting with alumni and parents. In fact, she felt so strongly about keeping the parents and families of students informed of campus goings-on, that she established a newsletter for them, from her, called *The Barr Bulletin*. Publication of that newsletter spanned almost the entire Barr presidency and included general campus news, student accomplishments, faculty and staff updates, notes from Mrs. Barr, and more.

Betsy also worked to strengthen the connection between GSC's campus and Glenville community. She often helped coordinate freshman orientation community service projects and she also took part in tree planting efforts at Yeager Airport, a multiyear project undertaken by Glenville State student volunteers. In 2017, Barr was made an honorary GSC Hidden Promise Scholar.

Before coming to Glenville State, Mrs. Barr taught psychology at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina. She was also the Dean of the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences and served a stint as Interim Provost at CCU. All told, Barr taught at the college level for thirty-two years, but began her career teaching kindergarten students.

Originally from Mercer, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Barr received her undergraduate degree in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and both a master's degree and a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Arrangements for Mrs. Barr are being handled by Lee Funeral Home. You may read her full obituary and express condolences online [here](#).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the GSU Hidden Promise Scholars Program. [You may donate online here](#), or via mail through the Glenville State University Foundation office (GSU Foundation, 200 High Street, Glenville, WV 26351; please note HPS Program/Betsy Barr on the memo line of your check).

teaching assistant with the OU Marching 110 and the UGA Redcoat Band.

During his time at Christopher Newport University, The Marching Captains over doubled in size and became one of the largest NCAA Division III athletic band programs in the country. The band was featured in the 2016 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland and the 2019 Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago. He has been honored twice by the Northeast District of Kappa Kappa Psi with the Outstanding Sponsor Award for his work as the advisor to the Mu Nu chapter of the organization.

Dr. Lopez is also an active scholar on wind band music with extensive contributions to the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series. He routinely presents at state and regional music conferences and serves regularly as a guest conductor and adjudicator throughout the eastern United States. Additionally, Lopez holds professional memberships in Phi Mu Alpha, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, and Pi Kappa Lambda, and is also a National Arts Associate for Sigma Alpha Iota.

In his spare time, John regularly works with local high school band programs as they prepare for performances. He also enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, **Jessica Jones '08**, reading, computer programming, and following college football.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, John said, "My years at Glenville State were probably the most influential in my development as a professional and as a human being. I was able to make lifelong friends with both my peers and professors, many of whom I am still in regular



GSU Night at Lambert's Winery is August 12

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

The event takes place on Wednesday, August 12 and runs from 5:00-9:00 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.

We always have a great time at GSU Night, so bring a friend and join the fun!

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

Lambert's Winery is located at 190 Vineyard Drive in Weston, West Virginia.



contact with to this day. Glenville State gave me a wide array of opportunities and experiences through serving on Student Government, working as a resident assistant, performing in music ensembles, and serving in other leadership roles on campus. Those diverse experiences were vital in preparing me for my career as a college band director, and I am eternally grateful to Glenville State for providing an environment in which I could grow into the person that I am today."

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

Glenville State University students, faculty, and staff from the Department of Land Resources join with staff members from Maibarara Geothermal, Inc. outside of the facility visitor center.

Glenville State Students Visit Philippines for Summer Education Abroad Trip

Glenville State University students, faculty, and staff within the Department of Land Resources recently completed an education abroad program in the Philippines. This experience brought together academic exchange, applied research, field-based learning, and cultural engagement.

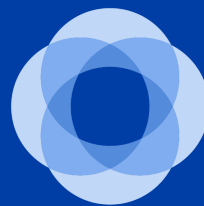
The Glenville State delegation included: Waylon Lucabaugh and Ethan McIntyre, both undergraduate Land Surveying and Mapping students, Hannah Cooley and Kieren Poff, both undergraduate Natural Resource Management students, Dr. Rico Gazal, Professor of Forestry, study abroad coordinator, and GSU representative to the WV Abroad Consortium, Dr. Jacob Petry, Associate Professor of Land Surveying, MacKenzie Petry, Assistant Professor of Accounting, and Jonah Siminski, Land Resources Department Academic Laboratory Instructional Assistant.

"This study abroad program gave our students the opportunity to connect their academic training at Glenville State University with real forestry, environmental science, and land surveying issues in the Philippines," said Gazal. "Through research presentations, field visits, applied research, and cultural exchange, students gained a broader understanding of how natural resource challenges are studied and managed in different parts of the world."

The visit took place from May 14 to June 1. Click [here](#) to read more.

Time to Renew WLC Memberships

Annual membership to Glenville State's Women's Leadership Circle (WLC) runs from July 1 to June 30 - and now is the time to renew your membership or become a first-time member! The WLC is a women's giving circle created and sponsored by the Glenville State University Foundation.



**WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP
CIRCLE**
GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

The WLC was founded on the basis of fellowship, opportunity, and philanthropy. WLC membership provides you invitations to exclusive events, aids in growing the WLC scholarship fund, and helps to create a culture of female empowerment for GSU and in the community.

[Click here](#) to renew your membership or become a new member.



GLENVILLE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Education

GRADUATE PROGRAMS WITH LASTING IMPACT

Whether you're looking to earn your initial teaching license or expand your expertise as an experienced educator, Glenville State University's graduate education programs can help you take the next step.



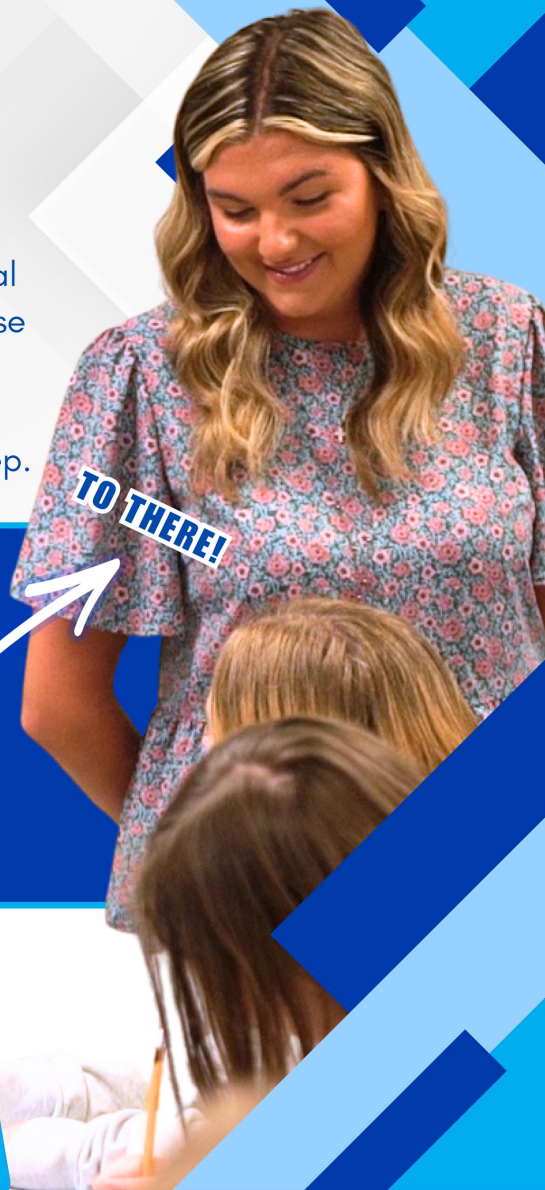
Master of Arts in Teaching



**Master of Arts in
Curriculum & Instruction**



Autism Coursework



304.462.4128



glenville.edu/academics/graduate

In Memoriam: Professor Emerita Dolores Mysliwec

The Glenville State University family was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Professor Emerita Dolores Mysliwec; she died July 22, 2026 at her residence following an extended illness.

You may recall that Ms. Mysliwec was a former sociology professor at GSC. During her career at Glenville State (1974-2005), she taught sociology, developed the College's Behavioral Sciences Program,



and, at one point, served as Social Science Division Chair. She also initiated Social Studies Fairs for Gilmer County Public Schools and has trained Hospice volunteers in many parts of WV as a Certified National Death Educator and Grief Facilitator.

No public services are scheduled; a private celebration of her life will be conducted at a later date.

You may view her full obituary online [here](#).



Need New Glenville Swag?
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, August 12 - GSU Night at Lambert's Winery
5:00-9:00 PM - Lambert's Winery (190 Vineyard Drive, Weston, WV)

Monday, August 17 - First Day of Classes

Saturday, October 24 - Homecoming
Save the Date!



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