

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | October 2026

Alumni SPOTLIGHT





Traci Probst ‘90 is currently serving as the Technology Coordinator at West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC).

She earned a degree in English education from Glenville State. During her time as a student at GSC, she served as president of the Student Education Association, was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the Literary Society, and Wesley Foundation, and she was a contributor to the *Trillium*. Traci received the prestigious Outstanding Student Award from Glenville State College in 1990.

In addition to her degree from Glenville State, Traci holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Poetry) from WVWC and a Master of Art +45 in Special Education from West Virginia University. She holds National Board Certification in Adolescent English Education and has been trained in Specific Learning Disabilities K-12, Behavioral Disorders K-12, and Technical Integration Specialist 9-12.

Traci also serves as the president of the Arts Council of Weston, West Virginia, where she actively supports and promotes the arts within the community. Her poetry has

Homecoming Weekend is October 23 & 24

Glenville State University is gearing up for Homecoming 2026 and we hope that all alumni and friends can make plans to join us back at the Lighthouse on the Hill!

Homecoming Weekend kicks off on Friday, October 23. The annual Tim Carney '62 Golf Tournament tees off at 9:00 AM at the Glenville Golf Club. Contact Bill Lilly '82 at (304) 462-6052 with questions about the tournament or to sign up.

Later in the day, the Homecoming parade through downtown Glenville kicks off at 3:00 PM. If you have an alumni group that wishes to be in the Homecoming parade on Friday afternoon, feel free to organize amongst yourselves and let the Alumni Office know so we can save space for you in the lineup.

From 4:00-6:30 PM there will be an Alumni Social and Open House at the Alumni Center (aka Arbuckle House). Stop by to visit with friends, hear a special musical performance by the band Woodbine, see our alumni and Greek memorabilia, and enjoy refreshments. (Woodbine features alumna Brittany McGuire ’15!)

Then, at 7:00 PM, the Glenville State University Pioneers will take on the West Virginia University Mountaineers at the Waco Oil & Gas Shootout at the Waco Center. Check ticket availability and purchase online here.

There will be activities and music from the band Dalchord that evening after the game in the Amphitheater. (Dalchord includes alumnus Josh Runyon ’19!)

On Saturday, October 24 your Alumni Office will be hosting an Alumni Brunch at Morris Stadium beginning at 10:00 AM. The parking lot opens at 10:00 AM for tailgating – don’t forget your lawn chair, canopy, snacks to share, and your beverage of choice. At 11:00 AM, the band Brasstaxx will perform (they include alumni Dakota Ellyson '15, Ryan Spangenberg '14, and Charlie Powell '12), followed by the Thomas Jude '13 Band at noon.

Greek organization alumni will have designated spaces to gather during the tailgate and the sisters of Delta Zeta are once again sponsoring a food drive – please remember to bring along nonperishable goods to donate to the Glenville State University Pioneer Pantry (the campus food pantry for use by students).

The homecoming game begins at 1:30 PM when the GSU Pioneers will take on the West Liberty University Hilltoppers.

been published in *Bouillabaisse* (1994), *Wordwrights* (1998), *Appalachian Heritage* (2000), and *Vandalia* (2017). Her writing often explores the bridge between the physical and spiritual worlds, delving into how those intersections shape experience and meaning. She was the featured speaker at the September 2025 Little Kanawha Reading Series held at GSU's Robert F. Kidd Library.

She has previously worked as an adjunct faculty member at Fairmont State University, Glenville State University, and WVWC. She has also been the Instructional Technologist at WVWC, the Technology Integration Specialist at Lewis County High School, and an English teacher at Lewis County High School.

In 1997 she was recognized as the Lewis County Teacher of the Year. She was also named the 'Young Careerist' for Region IV, Buckhannon Business and Professional Woman State Runner-up in 1994.

In her spare time, Traci enjoys reading and writing poetry, kayaking Stonewall Lake, and spending time with her family. She is also a supporter of the Central WV Heart House and she and her daughter work with foster groups to raise litters of kittens. Traci notes that her son Brycen and his wife Cardyn are soon expecting their first child, which will be her third grandchild.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Traci said,

Stick around to jam out with The Band to be Named Later from 5:00-6:45 PM just outside the Waco Center entrance, then help cheer for the GSU Volleyball team as they challenge Davis & Elkins College at 7:00 PM. (The Band to be Named Later features alumni Deron Haught '24, Isiac McAllister '25, Annie Hoyt '25, and Camren Rozelle '26!)

This year's homecoming theme is "Glenchella" and is designed to mimic the feeling of a music festival (which is why you'll notice several musical performances on the schedule). Current Glenville State students are admitted to the shows for free, all others are admitted by donation. The concerts are open to the public.

Contact alumni@glenville.edu or call (304) 462-6116 for more information about Homecoming Weekend. Visiting from out of town? See a list of nearby lodging accommodations.

**Parade Note: The Homecoming parade will take place on Friday afternoon (not our usual Saturday morning) to allow the football team a chance to participate and to provide more opportunity for students and alumni to tailgate and enjoy the football game on Saturday.*



Artwork from Craig Drennen's Pale Fire exhibition on display inside the Brigitte Mulholland gallery. | Photos courtesy of the Brigitte Mulholland

Alumnus has Solo Exhibition at Paris Gallery

Craig Drennen '88 is currently in the midst of his first solo exhibition in Paris. The exhibition, *Pale Fire*, is on display at the

"Glenville State University was far more than an institution of higher education—it changed my trajectory. There, English faculty nudged me to publish my early work and pursue an MFA program. My professors didn't simply lecture; they welcomed me into their homes and lives, building bonds that endured long past graduation. Days after commencement, Dr. Craig Etchison asked me to teach two English classes in Summersville, igniting my career in higher education. His confidence encouraged me to step up and make a genuine impact in my community and across three colleges and universities. When I married my first husband, Gary Williams, Professor Emeritus Dr. Lowell Peterson, Professor Emeritus Wayne deRosset, and Professor Emeritus Dr. Jim Meads '68 were right there celebrating with us. Today, these beloved faculty members continue to enrich my life through emails, visits, and phone calls, and their legacy inspires me to carry that same light forward."

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

Brigitte Mulholland, a contemporary art gallery located in Paris, France.

Since 2008, Drennen has organized his studio practice around Shakespeare's *Timon of Athens*, a play that the exhibition description calls "arguably the worst play from one of the world's best authors."

His long-form project includes painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, performance, and video –prompted by the list of characters from the play. Each character is constructed from contemporary references and a distinct method of execution that allows Drennen to continuously expand his exploration of painting and contemporary artmaking. In *Pale Fire*, viewers are introduced to the character of Flavius. The works devoted to him exist on custom-made supports in the shape of a guillotine blade. The blade silhouette returns painting to the position of public spectacle – with the distant echo of revolution.

The exhibit runs through October 10. See works from *Pale Fire* here.

You can read more about Drennen's work in his own words here in a piece published last month in *Burnaway* magazine.

Have News? We'd Love To Hear From You!

If you have a news item (new job, professional or community honor, birth in the family, promotion, advanced degree, marriage, etc.), please tell us!

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN UPDATE



Bernie Rees speaking at the GSU Business Hall of Fame ceremony in 2024.

Scholarship Established by Alumnus to Benefit Ravenswood High School Students

Glenville State alumnus Bernie Rees '91 has recently established an endowed scholarship fund to benefit students from his high school alma mater, Ravenswood High School in Jackson County, West Virginia.

The Bernie Rees Scholarship aims to acknowledge the meaningful experiences and opportunities Rees had as a student-athlete at Glenville State. Through the scholarship, Rees says he hopes to provide future students from his community with the opportunity to experience the same educational, personal, and athletic benefits that Glenville State provided to him.

“Glenville had a tremendous impact on my life. It helped set the tone for my career, but more importantly, it shaped how I approach people—with humility, gratitude, and respect. The lessons I learned there extended far beyond the classroom and have stayed with me throughout my personal and professional journey,” said Rees.

“My faith has also played a significant role in my decision to establish this scholarship,” Rees added. “I believe strongly in being a generous giver and in helping others create opportunities for themselves. If this scholarship can ease the burden for a student and encourage them to pursue their education at Glenville, then it is accomplishing exactly what I hoped it would. I truly believe they will benefit from the experience and opportunities there, just as I did, and I’m confident they won’t regret it.”

Rees came to Glenville State from Ravenswood High School, and he says he has a deep appreciation for RHS and the outstanding teachers, mentors, and community members who invested in him along the way.

During his time as a Glenville State student, he majored in marketing and management and participated in basketball and track and field. He is still ranked 5th all-time for three-pointers made at Glenville State. He holds the record for going 10-10 in a game with a 100% field goal percentage on three-pointers and for single season three-point percentage. He is also in the top five for career three-point percentage. He earned an All-Conference Honorable Mention as well. For track and field, the team earned championships all three years Rees ran track. He was also All-Conference each year. Rees graduated from Glenville State in December 1990.

He went on to complete an MBA from Marshall University after leaving Glenville State. He also served as a graduate assistant for their track and field program.

These days, Rees is President of Reliance Aerospace Group. Reliance is the world's largest provider of aerospace raw material products in the aerospace market. Providing raw materials for Boeing, Lockheed, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Airbus, Dassault, Gulfstream, Cessna, SpaceX, Blue Origin, and many others. AMI won Boeing Supplier of the Year three times and Gulfstream Supplier of the Year six times. The company also won multiple awards from every major aircraft and space company. He previously worked for Kaiser Aluminum Corporation.

Rees was inducted into Glenville State's Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame in 2023 and is a member of the Luke DeMarino Memorial Business Hall of Fame, 2024 induction class.

In his spare time, Rees also works with For Him, Inc., which is a faith-based community center in Ravenswood, West Virginia. It offers a free soup kitchen, clothing, baby needs, assistance for the elderly with projects, a venue for meetings and weddings, and whatever else its members are led to do.

Rees and his wife Kristine reside in Franklin, Tennessee. They have six successful children and 7 grandkids.

To be eligible for the Bernie Rees Scholarship, students must have graduated from Ravenswood High School and be attending Glenville State University and maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Rees has stipulated that other students from within Jackson County are also eligible to receive the scholarship in the event that no students from RHS fit the criteria.

"I'm so appreciative of Bernie for establishing this namesake scholarship at Glenville State University. With his background and successes, he is a great example to our students of what they can accomplish as Glenville State alumni. We also look forward to seeing how this will benefit the students of Ravenswood High School," said David Hutchison, Vice President of Advancement at Glenville State University.

The first $1,000 Bernie Rees Scholarship is slated to be awarded to a deserving student in the fall of 2027.

For more information about the Bernie Rees Scholarship or to learn about establishing a scholarship at Glenville State University, contact Hutchison at David.Hutchison@glenville.edu or call (304) 462-6381.



Get Ready For Homecoming With Some New Glenville State Merch!



Shop Now: glenville.spirit.bncollege.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 1 - GSU Honor Choir Concert
7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Thursday, October 8 - Little Kanawha Reading Series: Doc McLemore
4:00 PM - RFK Library

Saturday, October 10 - Curtis Elam Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony
5:00 PM - Social Reception; 6:00 PM - Banquet & Ceremony
Tickets $25 (order here)

Tuesday, October 20 - Little Kanawha Reading Series: David Prather
4:00 PM - RFK Library

Tuesday, October 20 - Music Fest Concert
7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Friday, October 23 - Tim Carney Golf Tournament
9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club
Call (304) 462-6052 to sign up.

Friday, October 23 - Homecoming Parade
3:00 PM - Downtown Glenville

Friday, October 23 - Alumni Center Open House & Alumni Social with music by the band Woodbine
4:00-6:00 PM - Alumni Center/Arbuckle House

Friday, October 23 - Waco Oil & Gas Shootout
7:00 PM - Waco Center
Tickets $21; purchase online here.

Friday, October 23 - Music by the band Dalchord
9:00 PM - Amphitheater

Saturday, October 24 - Tailgating Opens
10:00 AM - Morris Stadium Parking Lot

Saturday, October 24 - Homecoming Brunch
10:00 AM - Morris Stadium Parking Lot

Saturday, October 24 - Music by Brasstaxx
11:00 AM - Morris Stadium Parking Lot

Saturday, October 24 - Music by the Thomas Jude Band
12:00 PM - Morris Stadium Parking Lot

Saturday, October 24 - Pioneer Football vs West Liberty
1:30 PM - Morris Stadium

Saturday, October 24 - Music by The Band to be Named Later
5:00-6:45 PM - Waco Center Parking Lot

Saturday, October 24 - Volleyball vs Davis & Elkins
7:00 PM - Waco Center

   

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