GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | November 2026

Alumni SPOTLIGHT





Drew Lothes ‘13 is currently serving as a Captain within the Weston (WV) Police Department. He has worked with the WPD since June of 2013.

The Elkins, West Virginia native graduated from Glenville State with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice in May 2013. He has also completed over 1,200 hours of police related training while working as an officer.

In July 2024, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and recently became Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT) certified. Drew also serves as part of the Weston/Lewis County Crisis Response Team.

He says the best part about being able to serve his community is when he can help someone in need, often at what may be one of the worst times of their life.

Outside of work he enjoys sports, fishing, being outdoors, and spending time with his family.

When asked what Glenville State means to him, Drew said, “It was the beginning of something new, and Glenville State allowed me the

Ike Morris speaking at GSU’s Business Leadership Series in December 2019.

Ike Morris: 1937-2026

Friend. Benefactor. Pioneer.

Glenville State University, the Glenville community, and the Mountain State were saddened to learn of the passing of I. L. “Ike” Morris on Monday, October 19. Morris was a prominent West Virginia businessman, philanthropist, and devoted supporter of his community and the entire state of West Virginia. He was 88.

A visitation was held at Glenville State’s Waco Center on Thursday, October 22. Thousands of mourners came to pay their respects to the family.

“We mourn the passing of an iconic figure. One who impacted Glenville, the region, and the state of West Virginia,” said Glenville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin. “While we mourn this tragic loss, we also celebrate a life well lived. I’m reflecting on his passing and honoring his life and legacy – a legacy that will continue on through every student that walks across the Glenville State University campus. Ike Morris will be greatly missed.”

Ike’s generous donations to the Pioneer football program over the years include creating a well-furnished weight room, multiple improvements and expansions to the field house, and the addition of artificial turf at I.L. and Sue Morris Stadium, their namesake athletic complex at Glenville State. The stadium was reopened in September and Mr. Morris and members of his family were on hand for the celebration. He also kickstarted fundraising for the Waco Center back in 2007 with a one-time $5 million donation, the largest private gift in the history of the institution. At the groundbreaking ceremony for the Waco Center in 2011, Ike called the project, “the finest thing I’ve ever been involved with.”

Tributes for Mr. Morris have poured in following his passing – including condolences from West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey, Senator Shelly Moore Capito, Senator Jim Justice, WV Secretary of State Kris Warner, several other state and local lawmakers, leaders of state higher education institutions, WVU football coach Rich Rodriguez, Tennessee Lady Vols head coach Kim (Stephens) Caldwell ’11, GSU staff, coaches, and alumni – and countless others.

Few individuals have had the opportunity to shape a community as profoundly as Ike Morris. Through his vision, generosity, and enduring commitment to the place he called home, he leaves behind far more than a record of professional success. He leaves a legacy of service, opportunity, and hope.

opportunity to be the first college graduate of my immediate family. It taught me that life is what you make it, even in the smallest of places you can find happiness. Glenville State and the town of Glenville accepted me as one of their own. It's where I met my wife Taylor, who is also the mother of my two amazing children, Gunner and Addalyn."

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

His life was exceptionally well lived, and his contributions will remain an enduring part of the history and future of Glenville, Gilmer County, and West Virginia. He was often heard saying, "I might not have been born in West Virginia, but I got here as fast as I could."



Members of the 2001 WVIAC championship football team gather for a group photo at Homecoming.

Pioneers Return to the Lighthouse on the Hill for Homecoming 2026

Nostalgia and Pioneer Pride were in the air throughout the week of October 19 as Glenville State University celebrated Homecoming 2026.

This year's homecoming theme was "Glenchella" and was designed to mimic the feeling of a multiday music festival. Eleven artists and bands were scheduled to perform; a majority of the groups had at least one GSU alumnus as part of their membership.

Following a week that included a Ferris wheel, carnival games, chili cook-off, dancing, music, and several other student-focused activities, Homecoming Weekend kicked off on Friday, October 23.

The annual Tim Carney '62 Golf Tournament teed off that morning at the Glenville Golf Club. Later in the day, the Homecoming parade through downtown Glenville was held. Following the parade, alumni and friends gathered at the Alumni Center (aka Arbuckle House) for a social and open house. Attendees enjoyed snacks while touring the house, looking through scrapbooks, photo albums, and yearbooks, and visiting with old friends. There was also a special musical performance by the band Woodbine on the back patio of the Alumni Center.

On Homecoming Saturday, the Morris Stadium parking lot was open early for tailgaters and music. The band Brasstaxx and the Thomas Jude '13 Band both took the stage during tailgating. The GSU Alumni Office also sponsored a free tailgate for alumni and friends – special thanks to Jason Frymier '06 for providing the food.

Our Greek organizations held their annual reunions and the sisters of Delta Zeta sponsored a food drive for the Glenville State University Pioneer Pantry (the campus food pantry for use by students). Special reunions also took place for GSC's 2001 WVIAC championship football team and the 1981, 1986, and 1996 WVIAC championship men's cross country teams.

On the field, Glenville State's football team faced the Mountain East Conference's best rushing attack and ultimately fell to the Hilltoppers of West Liberty, 44-22. GSU moved to (1-7, 0-5 MEC) while the Hilltoppers continue to sit atop the MEC at (7-1, 5-0 MEC).







Check out photos from Homecoming week by visiting our online photo gallery.



Exhibition Basketball Game Honors Ike Morris at Packed Waco Center

The Glenville State University Pioneers and the West Virginia University Mountaineers met late last month inside a packed Waco Center for the Waco Oil & Gas Shootout, honoring friend and benefactor, Ike Morris who had passed away just days prior. The Mountaineers bested the Pioneers, 103-66, shooting 47% from the field and scoring 47 points off of the bench.

The night started off with the Davisson Brothers Band leading the crowd in a heartfelt rendition of *Take Me Home, Country Roads* and a tribute to Mr. Morris.

West Virginia led at the break, 48-26, holding Glenville State to just six points for nearly 10 points until the Pioneers saw production from Kaden Warner, Prince Mosengo and Ammar Maxwell. GSU cut their 23-point deficit to 13 with just under seven minutes left, but a fierce Mountaineer run at the end of the half pushed the advantage back to 22.

It was a higher scoring second frame, as the two squads combined for 95 points. Glenville State kept the deficit around 20 for the beginning of the new half, however, another offensive burst from the nation's #18 transfer portal class and five-star guard Miles Sadler engulfed the WVU advantage.

Sadler's 18 points, six rebounds and six assists helped push the Mountaineers to the 37-point exhibition victory. Brenan Lorient (14 points, 4 assists), Martin Somerville (11 points), Javan Buchanan (10 points) and Mouhamed Sylla (10 points) were all in double figures as well. The Pioneers were led by Prince Mosengo, who scored 17 points and grabbed five rebounds. Ammar Maxwell also grabbed five rebounds and added 13 points with Corey Boulden closing the book with 10 points.

Glenville State will open the season on Friday, November 13 against Virginia Union in Institute. WVU will welcome Wheeling to Hope Coliseum before tipping off the regular season against Niagara on November 2.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 7 - Luke DeMarino Memorial Business Hall of Fame Ceremony
6:30 PM - Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom

Purchase Tickets Here

Thursday, November 12 - Little Kanawha Reading Series: Bonnie Proudfoot
4:00 PM - RFK Library

Thursday, November 12 & Friday, November 13 - GSU Theater Presents "Macbeth"
5:00 PM - Heflin Administration Building Presidents Auditorium

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Saturday, November 14 - War at the Waco
6:00 PM - Waco Center

Wednesday, November 18 - Choir & Chamber Singers Concert
7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

   

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