

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | September 2025

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Jamie (Hickman) Weaver '07 is currently serving as the Director of Product and Programming Marketing Services at



President Manchin addresses the incoming freshman class during the Convocation Ceremony that was held on Friday, August 15.

Glenville State University Welcomes Class of 2029,

Academic Programs International, a study abroad and experiential learning company. Jamie also earned a prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in 2014 through the U.S. Department of State and Romanian/U.S. Fulbright Commission. These days, the Grantsville, West Virginia native lives in Chicago, Illinois.

After graduating from Glenville State in December 2006, Jamie went on to earn a master's degree in English Composition & Rhetoric from Marshall University and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Columbia College Chicago.

She has previously taught visual and performing arts and book arts courses at several Chicago-area colleges and she taught college-level English and arts courses for several years before transitioning to the edtech industry. In 2016, she was named Outstanding Young Alumna by the Glenville State College Alumni Association. She also earned a College Book Art Association Project Assistance Grant in 2014 and was awarded a Caxton Club Scholarship from the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois in 2012.

Jamie has published several works, including the 2016 essay "Topophilia: An Interdisciplinary Arts Approach to Re-Mapping Internal Landscapes" that was included in the (Im)Migration Patterns: Displacement and Relocation in Contemporary America collection as well as "Hard Rain, Hard Wind" (2016), "Stranger in Town" (2015), and "Strictly Confidential" (2014).

In her spare time, she enjoys running, trail racing, traveling, and baking. In fact, Jamie was even named Chicago's Best Pie Baker in 2024.

Returning Students Back to Campus

New Glenville State University students spent a week on campus acclimating to college life as they recently took part in the orientation process for incoming freshmen.

New Pioneer Orientation took place during the week of Monday, August 11. The process is designed to help new students create meaningful connections, become familiar with policies and procedures at Glenville State, connect with the caring and dedicated professionals across campus, and become informed of the services GSU provides.

As part of New Pioneer Orientation, new students met with their fellow students, attended a community and organization fair to find ways to get involved, and took part in several resource and information sessions and student activity events. New Pioneer Orientation is part of the GSU 100 course. That course, also known as "The First-Year Experience," is taken by all degree seeking students during their first semester at Glenville State University. It is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to make a smooth transition to the diverse academic, intellectual, and social culture of college life.

"This is truly the best time of the year," said Glenville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin. "The joy and energy our students bring back to campus each fall is unmatched. Seeing them reconnect with friends, meet new people, and start a new chapter in their academic journey reminds us all why we do what we do here at Glenville State."

As part of New Pioneer Orientation, GSU welcomes new students to campus with a formal ceremony known as Convocation. The ceremony took place on Friday, August 15 and included welcome messages from faculty, staff, the University's Board of Governors, and the Mayor of Glenville. New students also commit themselves to the Glenville State University Oath of Academic Excellence as part of the ceremony, which formally welcomes them into the university community.

Upperclassmen returned to campus during the weekend following orientation for new students and classes for the fall 2025 semester began on Monday, August 18.

Alumni Award Nominations Being Accepted

Alumni Council is accepting nominations for Glenville State alumni awards that will be presented in April 2026. Nominations received by December 31, 2025 will be considered for the upcoming year's awards. Those received after that date will be saved for the following year's consideration.

Award categories include Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award, Alumnus/Alumna Achievement Award, Community Achievement Award, Outstanding Teacher Award (Public Schools), Posthumous Award, and Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna Award.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Jamie said, "Attending Glenville State was a great experience and the faculty prepared me well for graduate school and a future career in my chosen field. I appreciate the support and encouragement I received from both faculty and staff during my time at Glenville."

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

Read more about the award categories, consideration criteria for each, and download a nomination form by [clicking here](#).

Alumni Council will review the nominees and decide the award recipients by majority vote. Awardees will be announced next spring.

Call (304) 462-6116 or email alumni@glenville.edu with any questions.



Glenville State's former Interim President Dr. Kathy Nelson at the December 2019 commencement ceremony.

Former Interim President Passes

The Glenville State University community was saddened to learn of the recent passing of former Interim President, Dr. Kathleen "Kathy" Nelson. She served in the role from July 1, 2019 until June 30, 2020.

Nelson had previously served as President of Lake Superior College (LSC) in Duluth, Minnesota for 13 years until her retirement. She was awarded the title of President Emeritus by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' Board of Trustees for her outstanding work and commitment to higher education. Following her presidential work at LSC, she served as a Higher Education consultant working with the Higher Learning Commission on regional accreditation issues including work with institutions seeking accreditation, revision of the Academic Quality Improvement Program pathway, fact-finding review for an institution with major accreditation issue complaints, and several special assignments relating to individual institutions.

Although her tenure at Glenville State was brief, she was extremely impactful during her time as Interim President.

We remember Kathy for her strong convictions to the values of trust, compassion, integrity, and respect. We remember her fairness, her commitment to principle-centered leadership, and her friendship. We also remember her advice to the Glenville State graduates in December 2019, "Plan well, but when the road diverges from its clearly marked route, don't be afraid to explore the detour. It may well lead you to your life's calling."

Kathy is survived by her husband Michael, daughter Megan of Duluth, Minnesota, son Jessie of Dewey, Arizona, her sister Deborah Knight of Orlando, Florida, and her brother, David Knight of Rochester, Minnesota.

Read Dr. Nelson's obituary [here](#).



Gov. Patrick Morrisey (right) on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025, appointed Fayette County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Ewing (standing left, with his wife Mindy, center) to the state Supreme Court of Appeals to fill a vacancy left by Justice Beth Walker. | West Virginia Office of Gov. Patrick Morrisey

Thomas Ewing Appointed to WV Supreme Court

Last month, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey [announced](#) that former Pioneer Basketball star Thomas Ewing '00 & '01, who had been serving as a circuit judge in Fayette County, was being appointed to the state Supreme Court.

Previously, Ewing was appointed to the circuit judge post by then Governor Jim Justice in 2018. He was elected in 2020 and won again in 2024.

Ewing was recruited to Glenville State by Hall of Fame coach Gary Nottingham '79. This came after a standout career at Midland Trail High School, where he was a multi-sport all-state performer (basketball

and football). He played from 1997 through 2000 for Glenville, playing one year for Nottingham, and his final three for coach Bob Williams.

He appeared in 19 games as a freshman, then became a part of the team's starting rotation for the remainder of his career, serving as team captain in 2000. He connected on a total of 108 three-pointers in his career, a total that propelled him into the Top Ten list all-time at GSU at the time. Still today, 25 years later, he remains in the Top Twenty at #18.

After his time at GSC, Ewing went on to obtain a law degree from West Virginia University in 2004.

"Glenville and my experience there as a student and an athlete were an integral part of my life and career. I would not be where I am today without those experiences, without those coaches and professors," Ewing said. "The idea of going to law school was borne out of a field trip with political science Professor Emeritus Mike Smith while I was a student at Glenville. Glenville prepared me for success in law school and in my legal and judicial career. I have many fond memories of playing in the old Lilly Center, running the loop on Mineral Road, and being on that campus and being part of that community. I met so many wonderful people during those years."

"We are all so proud of Judge Ewing for getting this appointment, and also for the decorated career and accomplishments he has achieved in his time since at Glenville," said Glenville Athletic Director, Jesse Skiles '88.

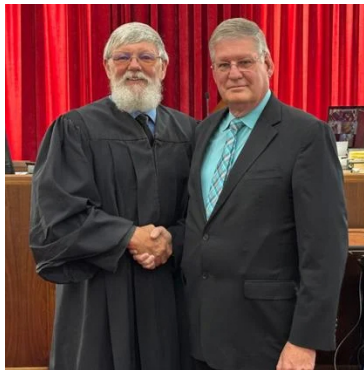
"I am glad that I have been able to bring pride to Pioneer Nation and carry the banner of GSU with me to my new role as a Supreme Court Justice," Ewing added.



Alumnus Named Worlds Mrs. Tourism 2026

Melissa G. Nicholas-West '03 has been crowned Worlds Mrs. Tourism 2026 during the Miss Tourism National Pageant in Nashville, Tennessee that took place early last month.

She competed as Worlds Mrs. West Virginia Tourism 2025. The areas of competition included interview, photogenic, state costume (Melissa represented the rhododendron flower), and evening gown.



New Preston County Clerk is GSC Grad

With the new fiscal year under way, newly appointed Preston County Clerk David Sypolt '88 has taken his oath of office, administered by Judge Steven Shaffer at the Preston County Courthouse. Clerk Sypolt was joined at the swearing-in by his wife Terri and parents Professor Emeritus Rick '75 and Alice Sypolt.

Speaking to his duties, Sypolt said his priorities include maintaining the integrity of elections, enhancing access to



Help "Fuel the Band" This Season

As our alumni and friends know, Pioneer Football is on the road full-time this season due to renovations at Morris Stadium. Because of that, the Pioneer marching band will also spend most of their season on the road, supporting the football team, playing tunes that "bring exhilaration to Pioneer Nation," and cheering right alongside the cheerleaders and fans!

With all of that extra travel, the band could use your support to help "fuel the music."

Melissa also received the Worlds Miss Tourism Role Model Beauty 2026. This award represents her dedication to community involvement and volunteering throughout her reign.

Congratulations, Melissa!

public records through continued digitization efforts, and fostering a collaborative environment within the clerk's office.

Click [here](#) to read more.

[Visit this link](#) to learn more, explore donation options, and give today.

If you have questions, please call (304) 462-6382.



The graphic features a central illustration of a red and white football helmet with a black face mask, resting on a red and white football. Above the helmet, the word "TOUCHDOWN!" is written in a stylized, arched font. Below the helmet, the text "GLENVILLE STATE PREGAME SOCIAL" is displayed in bold, blue capital letters. Underneath this, the location "Folklore Pizza and Bistro, 130 Steele Hollow Road, Spencer, WV" is listed. A horizontal line separates this from the date and time "SEPTEMBER 27TH AT 11 AM" in bold, blue capital letters. Below this, the price "Lunch Buffet - \$20 per person" and a note "*includes one adult beverage" are shown. Further down, a line of text reads "Join us after at Roane County Stadium as Glenville State takes on the University of Charleston at 1pm!". Below that, it says "Looking forward to seeing you there!". At the bottom, a line of text states "This event is organized by GSU Alumni - Roane County Chapter." The entire graphic is set against a background of green grass and includes faint illustrations of a stadium, a jersey, and a football.

TOUCHDOWN!

**GLENVILLE STATE
PREGAME SOCIAL**

Folklore Pizza and Bistro
130 Steele Hollow Road
Spencer, WV

SEPTEMBER 27TH AT 11 AM

Lunch Buffet - \$20 per person
*includes one adult beverage

Join us after at Roane County Stadium as Glenville
State takes on the University of Charleston at 1pm!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

This event is organized by GSU Alumni - Roane County Chapter.

Pioneer Football Home Away From Home Games Continue in Roane County

In case you haven't heard, the Glenville State Pioneers are hitting the road for the 2025 season!

Due to renovations at Morris Stadium, the Pioneers are set to play all home games "on the road" this season. These games are being hosted at select high school fields throughout West Virginia. On Saturday, September 27 GSU will travel to Roane County High School to face off against the University of Charleston, at RCHS, for a 1:00 PM kickoff.

GSU's Roane County Alumni Chapter has organized a pregame social for alumni and friends at Folklore Pizza and Bistro beginning at 11:00 AM on September 27th. A lunch buffet will be available for \$20 per person (includes one adult beverage). Folklore Pizza and Bistro is located at 130 Steele Hollow Road in Spencer, WV.

Please come out to enjoy food, drinks, and great conversations with fellow alumni and friends!

Oral History Project Update

As previously noted in this newsletter, the Glenville State University Alumni Oral History Project has been delayed.

We have been in contact with the publisher, PCI, regarding updates to this process. Those who purchased items (a copy of the oral history book, apparel, etc.) should have also been contacted by PCI with an update. The project is experiencing a delay with both the apparel production and with the printing of the book.

PCI has assured us that they will ship the publication and apparel items that have been ordered as soon as they have an estimated ship date. However, at this time they do not have an estimated date of when that will occur.

If you wish to cancel your order due to the long delay, please call 1-800-982-1590 or email PCIservice@publishingconcepts.com.

Show Your Spirit!



Shop Now: glenville.spirit.bncollege.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 14 - Cody Mullens Memorial Golf Scramble

9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

\$75 per person - Call (304) 377-7460 to sign up

Saturday, September 20 - Pioneer Wrestling Golf Outing

Group 1 Registration 8:30 AM; Group 2 Registration 10:30 AM - Glenville Golf Club

\$100 per player; \$400 per team - [Click here](#) to register

Thursday, September 25 - Little Kanawha Reading Series: Traci Probst

4:00 PM - RFK Library

Thursday, September 25 - Faculty Jazz Concert

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Saturday, September 27 - Pioneer Football vs University of Charleston Pregame Social

11:00 AM -12:30 PM - Folklore Pizza & Bistro (130 Steele Hollow Road, Spencer, WV)

Alumni and friends are invited to join us for drinks and lunch (\$20) at Folklore Pizza before traveling to Roane County High School to cheer on the Pioneers; game time is 1:00 PM. Event organized by the Roane County Alumni Chapter.

Friday, October 17 - Tim Carney Tribute Golf Outing

9:00 AM - Glenville Golf Club

\$80 Entry Fee - Call (304) 462-6052 to sign up



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