

Happy Holidays!

The CLARION

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Concert tonight - see page 4



Volume 90, Issue 13 *Web Edition* SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

Dec. 12, 2024

IWIL Christmas party

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

IWIL is a program that helps women gain leadership skills through service projects on and off campus. The program also takes the Brevard College motto to heart, which is "Learn in Order to Serve."



Sophomores Zoe Hughes, Zoe Herber, and Gina Drouse pose for a photo in front of the Christmas tree in the Porter Center.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, IWIL (Institute for Women in Leadership) had their end of the year Christmas party.

Throughout the semester, each IWIL member must complete ten hours of community service, which can be anything related to the community, or on campus.

Students helped with food drives and picking up trash around the community, and some members went to volunteer at the Sharing House to serve hot meals for those affected by the hurricane.

During the holiday party, the Myer's Dining Hall staff prepared a special dessert that included a hot chocolate bar where you could add peppermint, marshmallows, and chocolate walnut tarts to your hot drink.

There was also Christmas themed trivia that



Students "compete" in an ugly sweater contest.

included Christmas characters and song lyrics. At the end of the celebration, they even had an ugly sweater contest.

The celebration offered a time for the members to come together and reflect on the fall semester. Hurricane Helene had changed some of the plans for the program; however, it also provided a great opportunity for this group to lead by example while giving back to the college and community during a time of need.



Above: First-year IWIL members Hannah Mervine and Mikayla Rubin pose for a photo in their Christmas attire (Photos by Alecia Janerio).

Pancakes, now with live music

BC Wind Ensemble performs Christmastime classics during end-of-semester tradition

Brevard College’s “Pancake Break” is a popular, fun end-of-semester tradition on the Monday of final exam week that features pancakes (duh!), prizes, and plenty of holiday cheer.

This year, however, it had a little something more: a live performance of Christmas music by the BC Wind Ensemble.

The 26 or so musicians set up near the plate return room in Myers Dining Hall and played around 20 Christmastime classics, both secular ones like “Jingle Bells” and “Up on the House-top” as well as more traditional Christmas carols like “The First Noel” and “Silent Night.”

The performance also served double duty: it was the final exam for music professor Cole Hairston’s music conducting class.

“But we had this idea of why not have them conduct for the pancake dinner,” Hairston said. Each class member selected two Christmas songs to conduct and they rehearsed it earlier this week.

“And then tonight they got up and performed, and actually conducted two real pieces in front of real people,” Hairston said.

Hairston credits the idea to Matthew Evans, who said he wanted to play some Christmas music. They brainstormed some ideas, and that’s how they ended up choosing the Pancake Break, which provided a real audience somewhere other than in the Porter Center.

“I think we’re going to try to do it every year,” Hairston said. “I think it’s a great place for us to come and play to center and, and be able to engage the student body.”



Above: Junior Roxxanne Petryshak held a lucky ticket number, winning one of two Happy Holidays Master Card \$50 gift cards at Monday’s Pancake Break.



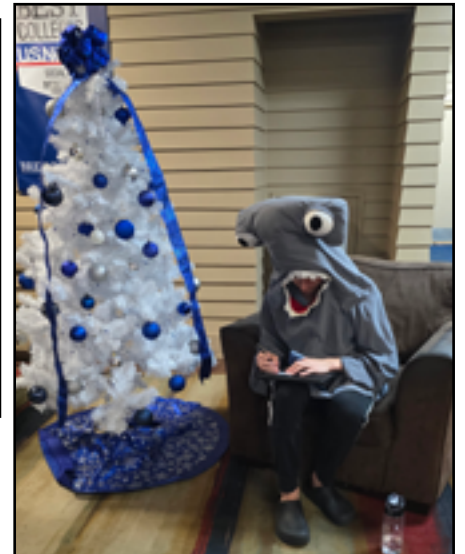
Right: Evan Webb, a criminal justice major, sports a three-dimensional jingle bell holiday sweater at Pancake Break. (Photos by Esther Padgett)



The Clarion’s YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@bcclarion>) has video of the BC Wind Ensemble’s performance at the Pancake Break on Monday. The performance served as the final exam for students in a music conducting class taught by Cole Hairston (seen above).



In the Myers lobby, Colbin Hill (right) sports a shark look while penning a thought for the “Student Voices Box” managed by SGA representatives Mikayla Zvekan and Olivia Guillermo (above) during Pancake Break.



A sweet Christmas tradition

Amy Clyburn
Copy Editor

My Momma's Christmas Cookies

A Christmas tradition my mother and I have had ever since I was little was to make her infamous Christmas cookies.

My favorite part has been decorating the cookies, and as a kid I would go absolutely wild. I remember getting frosting all over my fingers and my face.

If you need something sweet to warm your heart this holiday season, try my momma's sugar cookies recipe!

These cookies are insanely good to pair with your favorite buttercream, and I promise you'll love them. Merry Christmas, everyone! Have a safe and happy break!

- 1 cup shortening
- 2 cups sugar, divided
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Cream shortening; add 1 1/4 cups sugar, beating until light and fluffy. Add eggs and flavorings; beat well. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Add to creamed mixture; mix. Drop dough by heaping teaspoonfuls 3 inches apart onto greased cookie sheets. Press cookies with a fork to flatten. Sprinkle cookies with remaining sugar. Bake at 375° for 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool. Yield: a dozen.



Join the staff of The Clarion and

- * get a free staff t-shirt
- * get free pizza at the staff party
- * get academic credit (COM 108)
- * get valuable on-the-job experience

Contact faculty advisor John Padgett for more information.

THE CLARION

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Holiday Movies

Autumn Jones
Managing Editor

and touching storyline make it a perfect family viewing experience.

As the holiday spirit makes its way towards us, there's nothing quite like relaxing with loved ones to enjoy Christmas films.

"Home Alone" remains an absolute must-watch. Macaulay Culkin's antics as Kevin McCallister, outsmarting burglars in his family home, continue to delight audiences decades after its release. The film's blend of humor and holiday heart makes it a Christmas favorite.

Another comedy gem is "Elf," starring Will Ferrell. His portrayal of Buddy the Elf, a human raised by Santa's elves who travels to New York City, brings joy and laugh-out-loud moments that have made this film a modern Christmas classic.

For those seeking more emotion, "It's a Wonderful Life" remains an unmatched masterpiece. Jimmy Stewart's performance as George Bailey, who learns the true value of his life through a miraculous intervention, continues to resonate with audiences of all ages.

Children and adults alike enjoy "The Polar Express," which captures the magic of believing in Christmas miracles. Its beautiful animation

and touching storyline make it a perfect family viewing experience. "Love Actually" has become a holiday staple, weaving together multiple love stories that showcase the various forms of love during the Christmas season. Its cast and interconnected narratives provide both humor and heart.



Holiday music not over yet

Christmas concert tonight in Porter Center

The Brevard College Chamber Singers and the Transylvania Choral Society will present **Elaine Hagenberg's "Illuminare"** and the third cantata from **Johann Sebastian Bach's "Christmas Oratorio"** this evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Porter Center.

The event is ticketed by the Transylvania Choral Society. General admission tickets are \$23 at the door, but Brevard College students, faculty and staff will be admitted for free with ID.

Also, on Saturday, BC music faculty will be among those featured in a ticketed concert at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church in Brevard of **Handel's "Messiah"** as a sing-along event.

The event will feature baroque instruments and faculty soloists. This community performance has been organized by voice faculty member Dr. Brittnee Siemon, who directs music at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. She will sing the alto solos, and Dr. David Gresham will conduct the chorus and orchestra. Dr. Kathryn Gresham will be the soprano soloist.

The two performances, at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., require advance tickets at \$25 per person. Tickets can be purchased online at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Thank you, Clarion staff, for your work this semester

John B. Padgett
Faculty Advisor

For this final issue of The Clarion for 2024, I thought it would be appropriate to take a few moments and thank the Clarion staff for their hard work this semester in writing and producing the Brevard College student newspaper.

First, a heartfelt thank you goes to **Olivia Hyde**, who took the reins at the beginning of the semester to serve as The Clarion's editor in chief. Even though she'd had only limited experience on the staff before, she stepped up when there was a vacancy and did the job, writing and editing articles, learning the principles and techniques of layout and page design, and seeing to it that an issue was produced every week—even that crazy week when a hurricane disrupted communication and so much more—all while balancing a very busy season on BC's cycling team.

Olivia is taking a step back from serving on the staff next semester to devote more time to her studies as an environmental studies major, but she will continue to be a contributor.

Thanks go also to **Autumn Jones**, who served as managing editor this semester, and **Zoe Hughes**, a staff writer. Autumn is an English major pursuing teacher licensure, and Zoe is a communication major. For both, this was their first semester on staff, but they are already undertaking greater responsibilities: Autumn will be editor in chief in the spring, and Zoe will serve as managing editor.

Another first-time staffer also deserves a special thank you: **Abigail Callahan**, a transfer student in her first semester at Brevard College. A communication major and member of the Institute for Women in Leadership program, Abigail has been a steady and reliable staff writer all semester, contributing news and feature articles, opinion pieces and photographs, on a wide variety of topics. The Clarion is lucky to have her.

I also would like to thank everyone who either served on staff or who contributed articles. Staff members include **Mari Carter**, **Amy Clyburn**, **James Laycock**, **Alex Spangler**, **DeVon Taylor** and **Kailey Ward**, all of whom were integral contributors throughout the semester. Thanks also to other contributors this semester, who were sometimes asked to write something (and often on very short notice!): these include **Madeleine Pollock**, **Olivia Ervin**, **Emma Murray**, **Charlyn Anderson**, **Mia Rijkenberg** and **Elisabeth Hornfeck**.

And one more person needs to be thanked for her work this semester, both for actual contributions to The Clarion and for lots of work behind the scenes working with students, coming up with story ideas, assisting with editing and production, and even providing cupcakes for our end-of-semester pizza party: my wife, **Esther Padgett**.

Finally, I want to thank our readers. It's always encouraging when we see people reading the paper, whether perusing our print edition (in MG, the Caf or coffeeshop) or clicking on the online edition. I know I speak for everyone on the staff when I say if it weren't for you, none of this would matter.

Bill Sizemore named BC's director of pitching development

Bill Sizemore has been named Director of Pitching Development for the Brevard College Tornados Baseball program, announced Interim Head Coach Vinny Carone.

Sizemore joins the coaching staff with a wealth of baseball experience on the high school, collegiate and professional levels. Sizemore will officially begin his coaching duties at Brevard College on January 1.

"I would like to thank Director of Athletics Myranda Nash and Coach Carone for the opportunity to join the Brevard College baseball program and the Tornado family," said Sizemore. "I am excited to continue coaching student-athletes at Brevard College. As a coach, my focus has always been the development of student-athletes, both on and off the field. I look forward to being part of the continued success of Tornado baseball."

Sizemore arrives at Brevard after college baseball tenures at Whitman College (Wash.) and Bethany College (W.Va.). Prior to coaching at Whitman and Bethany, Sizemore spent over 20 years working with professional baseball organizations.

"Bill is a living encyclopedia of baseball knowledge and stories," said Carone. "Not only will he challenge our players to be better, but he will challenge me to be a better coach. I'm

looking forward to being alongside him in the dugout for 40-plus games this season."

Sizemore began his coaching journey in 1979 as the Head Baseball Coach at Burroughs High School in Ridgecrest, California. After a stint at Canyon High School in Canyon Country, California, he became the Pitching Coach at Saugus (Calif.) High School where he had the opportunity to work with Roger Salkeld, the no. 1 pick (no. 3 overall) of the Seattle Mariners in the 1989 MLB draft. Sizemore then moved to Hart High School in Newhall, California in 1992 as an assistant coach.

Sizemore left Hart H.S. to become the Head Coach at Thousand Oaks (Calif.) High School where he won a Marmonte League championship and reached the state quarterfinals in 2000. While at Thousand Oaks, he coached Jack Wilson, an MLB All-Star shortstop who played for the Pirates, Mariners and Braves.

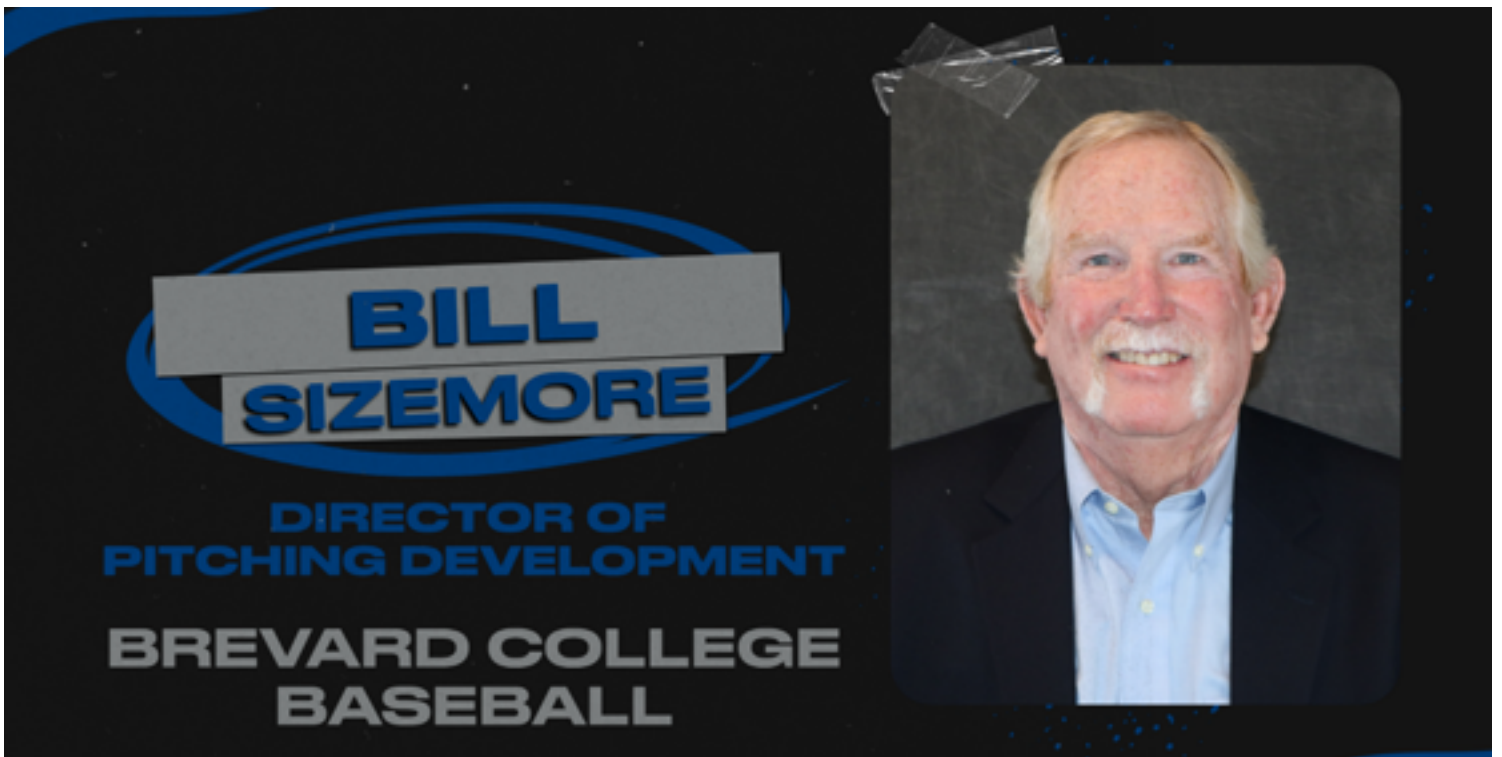
Next for Sizemore was the veteran coach's first college baseball opportunity, serving as Assistant Coach for Moorpark College in California. In 2013, he was named Pitching Coach at Bethany College in West Virginia. From 2016-18, Sizemore was the Pitching Coach for Whitman College, an NCAA Division III school located in Walla Walla, Washington.

Sizemore's 20-plus years in professional base-

ball began in 1989 as an Associate Scout for the Mariners before being hired as a minor league pitching coach for Seattle. After his time with the Mariners, he worked with Major League Baseball as a pitching coach in the Pioneer League, followed by a seven-year assignment as a minor league pitching coach for the Florida Marlins. After working in player development, Sizemore moved into scouting for the Marlins for four years. He later served as a part-time area scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 2007-11.

During his eight years of scouting, Sizemore spent his summers working as the pitching coach for the Rockville Express and the Bethesda Big Train in the Cal Ripken Collegiate League. The Big Train won a national championship in 2011 and was the number one ranked summer league team by Perfect Game. While in the Ripken League, Sizemore helped develop future major league pitchers Joe Smith (Angels, Astros), Justin DeFratus (Phillies), Cody Allen (Indians, Angels) and Matt Bowman (Cardinals, Reds, Yankees).

Sizemore graduated from Cal State Stanislaus with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Education. At Cal State Stanislaus, he was a member of two national championship baseball teams and held the school record for career winning percentage as a pitcher.



BC cyclists compete at USA Cycling Cyclocross National Championships

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky. – The 10-time national champion Brevard College Cycling team returns to the national stage with this week's USA Cycling Cyclocross National Championships at Joe Creason Park in Louisville, Kentucky. The collegiate portion of the event takes place today and Friday.

Today, in the Women's Collegiate Varsity championship race, five Brevard College student-athletes—Nicole Bradbury, Ayana Gagne, Kelly Lawson, Kiara Lylyk and Madeleine Pollock—are racing for the women's title.

The Men's Collegiate Varsity championship follows later with eight racers—Ned Broersma, Owen Clark, Matthew Leliveld, Kyle McDonald, Cole Punchard, Dylan Richardson, Liam Smith and Kevin Vereeke—representing the Tornados.

In last year's event, Punchard won the Men's Varsity Collegiate national championship with Clark finishing seventh. Lylyk led the Tornados on the women's side in 2023 with a seventh-place result. BC's team of Clark, Punchard, Lylyk and Bradbury finished second in the Team Relay, while the Tornados also finished second in the overall collegiate team results behind Colorado Mesa University.

Tomorrow, the collegiate championships conclude with the exciting Team Relay, which will feature four laps around the challenging course at Joe Creason Park. The Team Relay is slated to begin at 3:15 p.m. on Friday.

Brevard College Cycling is coming off an extraordinary performance at last month's USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships. At the mountain bike nationals, BC racers combined for seven total national championships with six individual titles plus a gold medal in the Team Relay. Clark won the Men's Cross Country and Short Track titles. Lylyk earned championships in the Women's Individual Omnium and Cross Country.

Punchard won the Men's Individual Omnium and Matthew Leliveld captured the Men's Downhill, while Bradbury, Lylyk, Punchard and Clark combined to win the Team Relay to cap off the event.

Collegiate Men Varsity

1.	212	SIPPY	Ivan	Colorado Mesa University
2.	211	SPRANGER	Jack	Colorado Mesa University
3.	205	CLARK	Owen	Brevard College
4.	208	COOTE	Herry	Colorado Mesa University
5.	233	MATTERN	Miles	Marian University
6.	204	PUNCHARD	Cole	Brevard College

BREAKING: As of publication, two BC riders have finished in the top 10 of the men's varsity: Clark Owen at third and Cole Punchard at 6th.

For more information on the 2024 USA Cycling Cyclocross National Championships visit the USA Cycling event page or <https://my.raceresult.com/318047/results>.



BC Cycling photo by Dustin Vanover.

Silent night, holy night



For those who will be in town Dec. 20-22, Brevard Wesleyan Church will host a free Christmas experience for all from from 7-9 p.m. on those three days. Many return every year. This photo is from last year's event.

A live nativity scene with sheep or other animals will be set up on the front lawn on top of the hill for all up-close viewers and anyone driving by from their vehicles. The event also features an open house with an array of refreshments in the reception hall and live music in the church sanctuary.

Guests can move about freely on their own time for these indoor and outdoor evening activities at 583 N Broad St., close to campus across from the Ingles gas station. (Photo by Esther Padgett)