

# Meet your Class of 2017 Graduation speakers

## *Kate Brandhuber & Tiela Smith*

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This Saturday, May 6, Kate Brandhuber and Tiela Smith are the two guest speakers from the student body set to bring their own unique voices to the end of the 2017 class' academic career at Brevard College.

Brandhuber is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Organizational Leadership along with a minor in Environmental Studies.

Along with her challenging work in academics, Kate has also been an avid member of BC Greens, IWIL, and SGA. She is proud of all the environmental progress that she has helped contribute to, saying, "I've had the privilege to work towards sustainable initiatives on campus."

"Being a graduation speaker puts you into the shoes of all your peers, faculty and staff. You're also thinking of the proud families and friends in the audience, and you want to send everyone off with something they can use for the rest of their lives. I'm so excited to speak," Brandhuber explains.

She gives credit to one professor at Brevard College whom she says has "really helped to fine tune" her writing skills. Her credit goes to Dr. Ralph Hamlett who she says has helped her to learn a lot of the necessary skills it takes to grow as a writer. She feels that the skills she has mastered have prepared her for the upcoming ceremony, which is now only days away.

Kate is very grateful for the entire Brevard community for how far she has come as she prepares to soon start the next chapter of her life. She says, "At the end of the day, I simply feel like the luckiest woman alive to be chosen

to speak at my own graduation. I never thought I could go this far, but I wouldn't be here without the love and support of my community."

The second graduation speaker, Tiela Smith, is herself graduating with a degree in criminal justice. Smith says that when it came to her becoming a guest speaker, the position was "open to anyone to run," explaining that it was a quasi-election process that was based on student votes as well as recommendations from faculty.

Smith didn't elaborate on what she would be saying at the ceremony, only that the title of her speech is "The Butterflies Fly Away." The speech itself was difficult to write at first, and

those who are hearing the speech should expect a lot of metaphorical talk.

As expected, Smith is "definitely nervous." Not necessarily about the speech, but just about making sure everyone who needs to be included in her speech actually is.

Set to speak likely after Kate Brandhuber gives her speech, Smith says she has "more broad coverage" and the addition of the graduation being streamed live certainly is an interesting wrinkle to the situation.

The Clarion gives it's sincerest congratulations to the two guest speakers as well as the entire graduating class of 2017.

## Cole claims D1 Title



Photo courtesy of Brevard College Cycling Facebook Page

Sophomore Janelle Cole has claimed the colleges first individual national title. Find an article on the achievement inside this issue.