

# COMMENCEMENT 2017

## The CLARION

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More commencement photos, graduates' favorite BC memories, and other features inside!



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# 'We're brilliant'

*Largest class since the college became a four-year institution receive diplomas in BC's 164th commencement exercises*

The weather Saturday morning was breezy and unseasonably cool, downright chilly in fact, but not even temperatures in the low 50s could cool the spirits on campus as Brevard College celebrated its largest graduating class since it became a four-year college more than 20 years ago.

More than 160 seniors marched in the college's 164th commencement exercises May 8, dressed in traditional black gowns but adorned with colorful hoods representing the diversity of their fields of study.

The Saturday morning event concluded a weekend of celebration that started Friday night in the Porter Center with the baccalaureate and hooding ceremony, during which seniors were "hooded" by a faculty or staff member—a sign of the personal connections students make with professors, coaches, and other staff at BC en route to their degree.

As is tradition, two members of the graduating class spoke as the featured speakers at Saturday morning's ceremony: Kate Brandhuber, a business and organizational leadership major and environmental studies minor from Dothan, Ala., and Tiela Smith, a criminal justice major from Pine Bush, N.Y. In her speech, Smith compared the time she and her classmates had spent at Brevard College to caterpillars in a cocoon undergoing a metamorphosis into something greater.

"Today, we realize we have transformed to who we are right at this very moment," Smith said. "We no longer are those tiny caterpillars. We decided to evolve into something better. We're brilliant."

In her speech, Brandhuber eloquently summarized how each of Brevard College's majors prepare students for life after college.



Tiela Smith, a criminal justice major from Pine Bush, N.Y., was one of two seniors chosen by college officials to address the graduating class at Brevard College's commencement exercises Saturday.

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