



**MICHAEL TOMLIN** receiving his prize for Best Dissertation from Dr. Gioia Pescetto, associate dean of postgraduate studies.

## 16 get MBAs – thanks to Durham

Thirteen Barbadian and three St. Lucian business professionals recently received their certificates of graduation from the prestigious Durham Caribbean MBA programme.

The certificates were presented by Dr. Christine Parkinson, chief executive officer of Caribbean Management Education Centre and regional academic director of the programme, at the Barbados Yacht Club.

The Ernst & Young Caribbean prize for the top student overall was presented to Lyndell Halliday, managing director of Automotive Art in St. Lucia, by Ben Arrindell, country managing partner of Ernst & Young Caribbean.

Speaking on behalf of his fellow students, Halliday said they had received great support from Durham University, England's third oldest faculty, Parkinson and Ernst & Young.

"A huge vote of thanks must also go to our employers for giving us the time to undertake the MBA programme and to our families for supporting us through a very challenging, yet hugely rewarding, three years," he said.

Arrindell echoed Halliday's comments: "My congratulations ... are enhanced by my realisation that a significant amount of personal sacrifice is involved in participating in the programme.

"At Ernst & Young, we recognised the need to provide greater learning opportunities for individuals involved in business and the public sector. It was important to us that these opportunities should be available right here in the Caribbean and not solely via distance learning.

"I must pay tribute to Dr. Parkinson for her tremendous dedication in driving the programme forward."



**KERRYANN IFILL** receiving her certificate from Dr. Christine Parkinson, academic director.

The Dean of Durham Business School's prize for the best dissertation was presented to Michael Tomlin, a senior account executive of CGM Brokers, by Dr. Gioia Pescetto, Durham Business School's associate dean of postgraduate studies.

Among the other graduates was blind student Kerryann Ifill, research project officer of the Barbados Council for the Disabled. She said: "I chose the Durham course because it was the most highly accredited and because it catered so well for my special needs. The essential Braille input was all prepared for me in Durham and a lot of the programme was available on computer – my computer has verbal output of what others can see on screen.

Graduating from the programme has advanced me as a person and helped me in my work, my personal life and my church activities."



**LYNDELL HALLIDAY**, left, receiving his prize for Top Overall Student from Ben Arrindell, country managing partner of Ernst & Young Caribbean.