

Durham Caribbeangrads earn MBAs

Barbadian Business Professionals were joined by colleagues from St. Lucia and Anguilla at the Barbados Yacht Club recently for a glittering ceremony to honour their achievement in graduating from the prestigious Durham Caribbean MBA programme.

Fifteen students, ten of them from Barbados, secured an MBA while one other was awarded an MA.

The students, who were the second batch to graduate from the programme, were each presented with a certificate by Dr. Christine Parkinson, chief executive of CariMEC (Caribbean Management Education Centre) and regional academic director of the programme.

Emily Rose holding a Master of Science degree, proudly stepped forward to accept the Ernst & Young Caribbean prize for the **Top Student Overall**, which was presented by Maria Robinson, representing the sponsors.

Rose, a Nutrition Specialist and Specialty Food Buyer for Super Centre Ltd, carved her name into education history last year by earning the highest mark ever awarded for an MBA dissertation by the University of Durham Business School.

This mark ensured that Emily also won the Dean of Durham University Business School's prize for the **Best Dissertation**. This was presented by Dr. Gioia Pescetto, the university's associate dean of postgraduate studies.

Personal sacrifice

Speaking on behalf of her fellow graduates, Rose said: "In deciding to undertake the Durham MBA programme, each of us opted to take on a challenge which requires not only tremendous dedication but also a huge amount of personal sacrifice.

"For two years, we had to cope with juggling our professional and personal lives with the demands of the programme. The simplicity of the Durham MBA programme structure played a large part in carrying us through to graduation.

"I believe that had I entered a different course, I would not have graduated.

Durham University clearly understands the complexities and struggles of being a part-time student and it developed its programme accordingly."

Chris Richardson from Anguilla was awarded the prize for the **Student Who Made The Biggest Contribution To The Programme**, a prize voted for by the students themselves.

Richardson, executive manager (rooms division) of Cuisinart Resort & Spa in Anguilla, said: "The influence of the Durham MBA lecturers will enhance our work performance and our outlook on the business world in general.

Greater Contribution

We can now set out to make a greater contribution to the Caribbean region. This is ours to impact and develop."

Pescetto in paying tribute to the students said: "The caliber of our students in the Caribbean is very high and I have observed how well they help each other and how committed they are to the Durham MBA programme."

He noted that Durham's links to the Caribbean, and particularly Barbados, stretch back to 1875 when degrees were offered through Codrington College.

Parkinson congratulated the graduates, saying: "Our students are our greatest ambassadors. They played a large part in securing a record intake of 29 students for our new programme which commenced last October."

We have an advantage over other MBA programmes because ours is fully taught. It is not distance learning but taught entirely by lecturers from Durham University, who fly here to conduct classes so students in the Caribbean get a near identical learning experience to those attending the university.

Local focus



Emily Rose (left), who earned a Master of Science degree from Durham Caribbean's MBA programme, was awarded the Ernst & Young Caribbean prize for Top Student Overall and also the school's prize for the best dissertation. Here she is being presented with her prize by Dr. Gioia Pescetto.

"We also provide a local focus to our teaching, where possible, and involve eminent local speakers in each module," the CariMEC chief said.

Senator Kerry Ann Ifill, a 2006 Durham Caribbean MBA programme graduate and currently research project officer of the Barbados Council for the Disabled, said: "Graduating from the programme advanced me as a person and helped me in my work, my personal life and my church activities." (PR)