

Durham Business School Honours MBA Graduates

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. In all, 15 students, ten of them from Barbados, secured an MBA while one other was awarded an MA.



The graduates of the recent Durham University Programme posing for a photograph.

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 M.Sc., from St Philip, proudly stepped forward to accept the Ernst & Young Caribbean prize for the top student overall, which was presented by Maria Robinson, representing the sponsors. Emily, a Nutrition Specialist and Specialty Food Buyer for Super Centre Ltd, carved her name into educational 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.

Speaking on behalf of her fellow graduates, Emily 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

personal lives with the demands of the programme.

"The simplicity of the structure of the Durham MBA programme 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 most contribution to the programme, a prize voted for by the students themselves. Chris, 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. We can now set out to make a greater contribution to the Caribbean region. This is ours to impact and develop."

Dr. Pescetto paid tribute to the students: "The calibre 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. Our links with the Caribbean and, particularly, Barbados stretch back to 1875 when degrees were offered through Codrington College. We are one of the leading providers of

executive MBAs in the world and are totally committed to our Caribbean programme."

Dr. Parkinson congratulated the graduates and thanked them and their predecessors for their efforts in promoting the Durham MBA programme to their friends and colleagues: "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 also extended our geographical coverage. In the past, we have recruited students resident in St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Anguilla as well as Barbados. This year we also have students travelling from Antigua and Trinidad.

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

Kerry Ann Ifill, a 2006 Durham Caribbean MBA programme graduate, was recently named as one of the new Senators to sit in the Upper Chamber of Parliament. Kerry Ann, Research Project Officer of the Barbados Council of 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".