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Eighty-seven graduate from FIU

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OVER 80 PERSONS received their Bachelor of Science (BSc) in hospitality management and master's of business administration (MBA) degrees from the Florida International University (FIU), at the graduation ceremony for the class of 2004, at a ceremony in Kingston last Sunday.

Audrey Marks, managing director of Paymaster (Ja) Ltd. ,and Lascelles Chin of LASCO, received the 'Business Leader of the Year' award for female and male, respectively.

TEARY-EYED FAREWELLS

There were many teary-eyed individuals among the class of 2004 as they reminisced on the sacrifices that culminated in the happy occasion. Courses ranged from 20 months to three years and all graduates pursued their degrees while holding full-time jobs, running businesses and taking care of families. Many travelled from as far as the county of Cornwall to Kingston on weekends for classes.

Guest speaker at the ceremony and chairman of the Jamaica Library Service, Dr. Simon Clarke, charged the graduates to use the skills and knowledge they have gained to help in the development of the quality of human life. The degrees will also making them more effective and efficient at the work place, being more qualified for promotions and earning more.

"The knowledge and skills you have gained will be worth little if they do not assist you to be more human and more importantly, to learn to live harmoniously with others. In addition to academic content, there must be a cultural context in your intellectual and technical development because 'development divorced from its human or cultural context is growth without a soul'," Dr. Clarke said.

ECONOMIC MATTERS

He noted further that the concern for economic matters has become far greater than the cultural and educational aspects of our society. However, Dr. Clarke stressed economic development is directly influenced by cultural development and none is possible without the other.

Dr. Clarke also implored the graduates to share what they have learnt with others. "Some insecure managers are reluctant to share their knowledge and insights with those who work for them. Wise managers know that the more they develop the people around them and help them to one day take over, the more the individual manager develops. The real success of a manager in any enterprise, is the quality of his succession."

Jose de la Torre, dean of the Chapman Graduate School of Business, reminded the graduating class that they were standing on the shoulders of all those work colleagues, spouses and children who had made it possible for them to attain the milestone.



He noted that in just five years, the programme had made significant achievements. "We are now recruiting for the fall semester, we have set up an overseas alumni chapter and our host institutions Institute of Management and Production and Institute of Management Sciences, have merged to become the University College of the Caribbean. And this fall, we will be launching our master's in human resource management degree," Mr. de la Torre said.

- *Barbara Ellington*

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