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President Details Achievements and New Goals at UCCI Graduation

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 November 2013

Character Building Remains a Key Goal at UCCI

At last Thursday's (7 November) graduation ceremony, packed with honours and distinctions, President Roy Bodden articulated UCCI's continued commitment to character building.

"There is the recognition, Mr. Bodden said, that UCCI must be for the Cayman Islands what Napoleon, that father of military genius in 1798 said of the French Citizen's army: 'the vitality of the nation, the purification of its morality and the foundation of all its habits.'"

Among these character building programmes are the "Men of Standard" programme, which is to be expanded beginning in the 2014 academic year, Mr. Bodden announced. The expanded programme will be submitted for accreditation by one of UCCI's external partners. In addition, the Board of Governors has approved, also to begin in the 2013/14 academic year, a mandatory community service aspect to studies at UCCI.

Other topics featuring in Mr. Bodden's report included new articulation agreements for UCCI. He also disclosed that more than a landmark 100 students have been registered in the associate of science degree, and reflected on the newly introduced nursing programme.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Ormond Williams, President of Cayman National Bank. Another key speaker, Valedictorian Shelly-Anne Cupid, challenged graduates to "re-coup, re-invent, and recharge," and to avoid "complacency [replacing] ambition": "Let the impetus that has brought you here take you even further."

Among those presenting certificates, diplomas and degrees to the 93 of 139 graduates participating in the ceremony were the Deputy Governor, Mr. Franz Manderson; the Minister for Education, the Hon. Tara Rivers; and outgoing Chair of the Board, Mrs. Berna Cummins.

Among new achievements, President Bodden disclosed that UCCI will now be offering the Commonwealth Executive Master's of Business Administration (CEMBA) and the Master's of Public Administration (CEMPA) programmes. These advances have been made possible by the university's acceptance into membership of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), and the Virtual University of Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC), respectively.

With regard to further recognition of the university's standing, Mr. Bodden reported continued efforts to expand the number of institutions with which the University College has articulation agreements.

This includes a recently signed agreement with the New England Institute of Technology (NEIT), giving UCCI engineering students access to their mechanical engineering programme. Meanwhile, NEIT remains "the premier destination of UCCI students seeking advanced study in technical and vocational studies," Mr. Bodden said.

As a reflection of the international regard of the university, the college will host next semester, for the first time, a professor from the Goethe University Frankfurt (full name "Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main"). Founded in 1914, the university was renamed in 1932 after one of the most famous natives of Frankfurt, the poet and writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Another professor, this time from the Missouri University of Science and Technology, will be similarly hosted next semester, both at no expense to UCCI.

Ends

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