

## **UCCI students kick off international research competition**

Five students from the University College of the Cayman Islands have rolled up their sleeves to compete in the annual regional Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Student Research Competition. The students representing UCCI are Vesna Domladis, Rafael Elias, Tessa Ryan, Alina Soto, and Darron Porter.

Teams of five students from universities throughout the Central American/Caribbean region met online via a virtual WebEx conference to obtain the ground rules for the competition. That conference revealed the subject company that the students will research for three to five hours every week over the next four months. The UCCI students will work closely with their designated academic and industry mentors: Ginnie Gardiner, PhD and Georgina Loxton, CFA.

The regional teams will make their presentations in Dallas, Texas USA in February 2014 and the winners will go on to compete for the Americas in Denver, Colorado USA in March. From there, the winning team will present at the global competition in Bangkok, Thailand in April.

As Professor Gardiner explained, "UCCI is very fortunate to have the support of the Cayman Islands CFA chapter. The Chartered Financial Analyst is the gold standard for the investments and finance industry. The students who compete will significantly enhance their resumes and have wonderful networking opportunities."

The high-tech meeting drew other local Chartered Financial Analysts, namely Christoph Barnett and Monique Frederick, to the kickoff on October 12<sup>th</sup> in the UCCI president's conference room. Team mentor and CFA Georgina Loxton attended electronically from her office in George Town.

UCCI is currently accredited by the Cayman Islands Government and a member of the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions (ACTI). Achieving IACBE Educational Membership status means that UCCI has affirmed its commitment to excellence in business education.

The College of Business Studies and Professional Development at the University College of the Cayman Islands is an Educational Member of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE), and has affirmed its commitment to excellence in business education. UCCI upholds this commitment by providing enriching opportunities for its students, such as the CFA Student Research Competition.

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Caption:

UCCI students Vesna Domladis, Rafael Elias, Tessa Ryan, Alina Soto, and Darron Porter with UCCI Finance Professor Ginnie Gardiner were joined by local Chartered Financial Analysts Christoph Barnett and Monique Frederick to kick off the annual CFA Student Research Competition. Not shown is team mentor and CFA Georgina Loxton.

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **University College of the Cayman Islands**

*UCCI is an institution of higher learning that contributes to the Caymanian society by advancing knowledge and developing creative graduates, and through its cultural, social, economic and environmental activities. "We will admit all students with the potential and passion to learn. We will challenge students intellectually and prepare them for life in the global market place".*

*The goals of the University College of the Cayman Islands are:*

- *To provide high quality education in career, liberal arts and transfer programmes;*
- *To encourage the maximum development of student potentials;*
- *To develop the competence of undergraduate students in basic skills;*
- *To prepare students in career programmes to meet the standards and competencies required for employment;*
- *To foster social and political awareness and involvement in the community through academic programmes and extra-curricular activities;*
- *To respond to the varied educational needs of the local community through a broad range of continuing education, career training and community service programmes;*
- *To develop new educational programmes in response to the economic development needs of the community in collaboration with the Cayman Islands Government, the Chamber of Commerce, and other local associations;*
- *To provide a systematic process of review that assures the realisation of the mission and goals of the University College.*

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