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Cocktails with ...

Still elated from winning the National Commercial Bank (NCB) Nation Builders Award in the Women in Business category, a bubbly Sandra Samuels, CEO of Totally Male, is nestled in a lounge chair at Christopher's. Besides being thought of as the guardian of style for Kingston's poshest playboys, she outlines that hers is a job that requires dedication and patience, qualities which these days seem ever so rare.

What's your favourite cocktail? Strawberry daiquiri.

What do you love most about chilling at Christopher's? You see a lot of familiar faces, it's central and it's always buzzing with activity. And I like the idea that you have the option of partying upstairs if you so choose.

So you won the NCB Nation Builders Award in the category of Women in Business; how does it feel? First of all, I feel like it's my year because this win comes on the heels of my being awarded US\$75,000 during the regional leg of the Pioneers of Prosperity awards.

Socialite or homebody? With my business it's important to be sociable and I do like meeting people, but I love my down time as well.

Flats or stilettos? Flats for everyday life, but definitely heels for business and social occasions.

What's your style? Contemporary, I like clean lines.

What's in your handbag? My two phones — one's a Digicel and the other is LIME my business cards, my Rotary Club directory, my compact, lipsticks, my glasses and my 'gratitude book' in which I write down all the things that I'm grateful for each day. Who does your hair? Racquel Lawla from The Salon on Old Hope Road.

Who does your nails? Charmaine at Northside Plaza.

TV or a good book? I love local TV...love Ian Boyne's Profile and Religious Hard Talk; Ity & Fancy Cat Show...I'm a Jamaican girl at heart, what more can I say?

What's your idea of the perfect date? (Sighs!) I like having dinner, preferably Jamaican fare, with excellent conversation and hopefully dancing follows.

What's your idea of the perfect man? He must have a sense of humour; intelligent; tall, dark and 'bodied' (laughs). He must be well puttogether, attractive, financially secure and spiritual. What turns you off? An unkempt individual, liars and negative people.

What's your latest obsession? Achieving my ideal weight.

So you're a gym buff? Yes! I walk up Mountain Spring every morning before going to the gym.

What are your current projects? Organising my staff training programmes in order to take complete advantage of the US\$75,000 grant, which is tenable for the next two years. Also, planning Totally Male's 15th anniversary celebration slated for November.

What's in your car stereo? Music by Maxwell, Jennifer Hudson, Beyoncé, Ledisi, Mary J Blige and Jazmine Sullivan.

What do you feel is your best character trait? Honesty.

What's your worst? Tardiness, which I'm desperately working on.

What's your advice to young entrepreneurs? You must choose your passion, surround yourself with positive people;

procrastination is a thief. Honesty and integrity will carry you a far way, and never forget God. Work hard, be dedicated and it will pay off.

And 10 years from now? Managing my franchises, hopefully with my soulmate...I'm speaking that one into being.



