

Lakeside Village | Climate Symposium | Leadership UMiami

# MIAMI

THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MAGAZINE | SPRING 2020



## ON THE FRONT LINES

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Consider making a gift to University of Miami scholarships today at [bit.ly/um-student-relief](https://bit.ly/um-student-relief)

Financial limitations should not be an obstacle to a University of Miami education.



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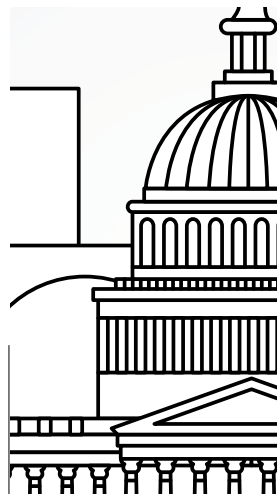
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## MIAMI

The University of Miami Magazine

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WE HONOR THE DOCTORS, NURSES, RESEARCHERS, AND LEADERS WHO ARE ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19.

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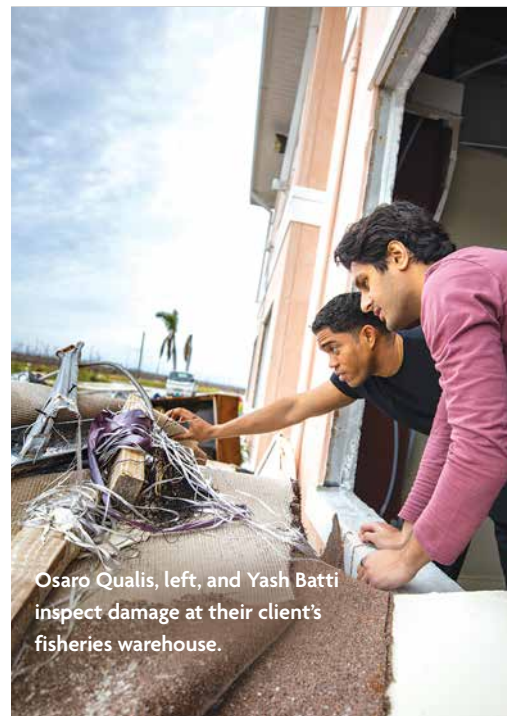


## Students Help Fuel Recovery, Resiliency in the Bahamas

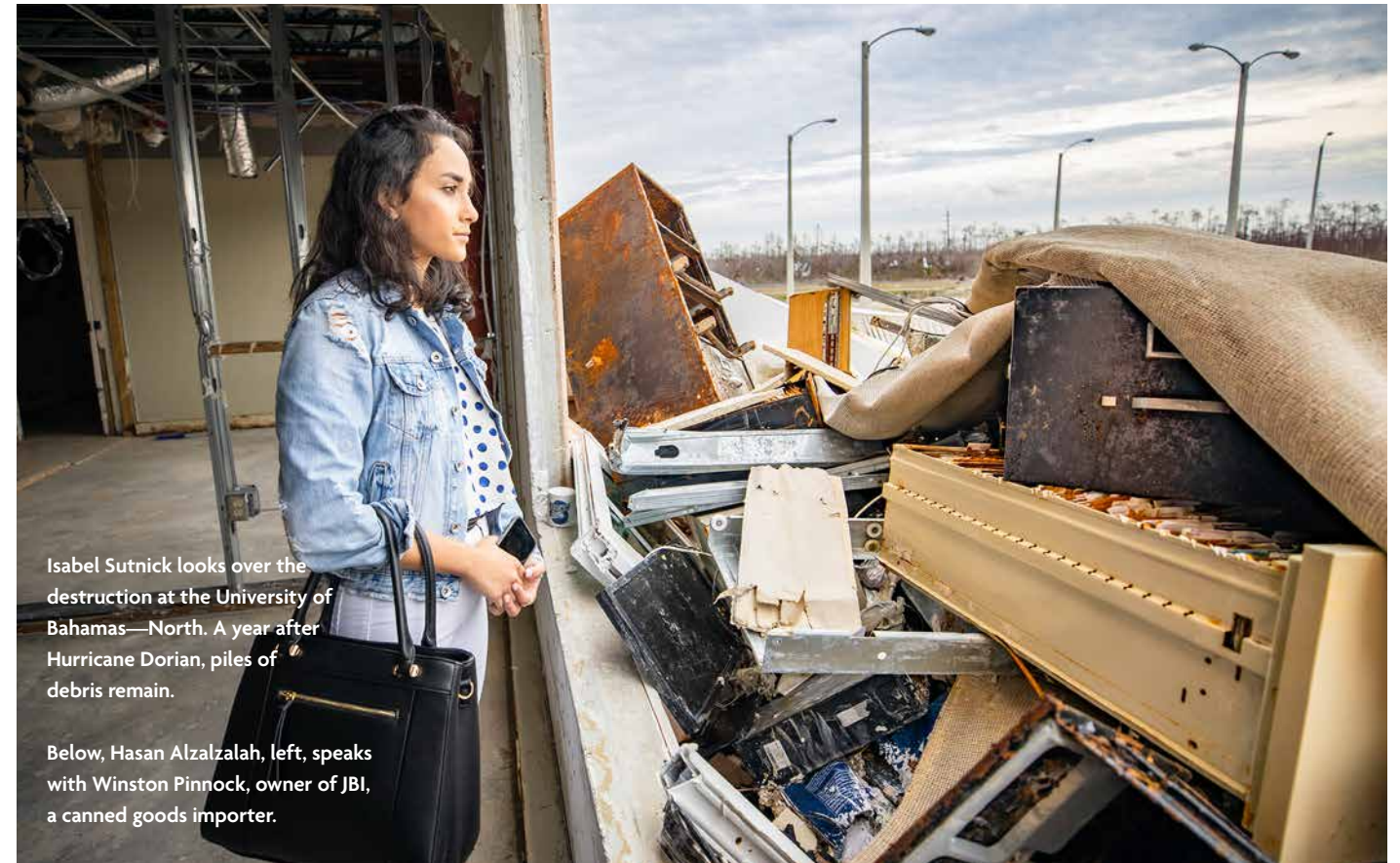
University group provides hope and inspiration to struggling business owners in Freeport—and gleans lasting personal insights



M.B.A. students Chris Williams, right, and Philip Winn share ideas with Alex Thompson, left, at her retail shop in downtown Freeport.



Osaro Qualis, left, and Yash Batti inspect damage at their client's fisheries warehouse.



Isabel Sutnick looks over the destruction at the University of Bahamas—North. A year after Hurricane Dorian, piles of debris remain.

Below, Hasan Alzalalah, left, speaks with Winston Pinnock, owner of JBI, a canned goods importer.



“We met with some fantastic owners who did everything they could to prepare and everything they could to mitigate the damage, but this really showed me how precarious business can be.” —Chris Williams

In conversations, professional consultants question their clients to know their “pain points”—a specific problem area that the customer is experiencing to provide the best assistance.

For the cohort of University of Miami students who spent a February weekend in Grand Bahama as part of the Bahamas Consultancy Project, those pain points were visually evident.

Toppled radio towers. Mangled machinery. Tens of thousands of dollars of merchandise lost. Empty warehouses. Damaged structures. All evidence of the destruction caused by Hurricane Dorian, which pummeled the islands of Grand Bahama and Great Abaco for days last September.

“We met with some fantastic owners who did everything they could to prepare and everything they could to mitigate the damage, but this really showed me how precarious business can be,” says Chris Williams, an M.B.A. student who made the trip.

Eighteen students—second-year M.B.A.s joined by peers from the School of Law and College of Arts and Sciences—traveled as part of the semester-long action project class offered by the Miami Herbert Business School. They met with owners of four businesses representative of the island nation's principle industries—retail, fisheries, communications, and canning—to develop training and reports to foster resiliency against future disasters.

“We’re doing something with a community truly in need.” —Aldana Velasquez

“We met with two brilliant women who are really struggling to get their retail businesses back up,” says Gaby Gallou, an M.B.A. student. “They’re motivated, working hard, and willing to do whatever they can to get back on their feet.”

“One thing that we can do to help is to really listen to them,” she adds. “They need to feel that they have that support in order to be more resilient for the future.”

The collaboration with the University of the Bahamas launched more than a year ago. After Dorian hit, it gained immediacy and shifted to helping local businesses recover through student consultancy. Patricia Abril, vice dean of graduate business programs at the Miami Herbert Business School, traveled with the students and outlined how the project supports the University’s mission.

“One of the roles of the University of Miami and of our business school is to solve complex problems in society and also to be a good citizen, leader, and teacher in the hemisphere,” she says. “We see this as a project that is stepping in the direction of doing that.”

Alex Niemeyer, who worked with a global management

firm before joining the University as an associate professor, teaches the action project class. Over the course of the weekend, he noted marked changes in the students’ approach to the project.

“They went from thinking ‘this is an interesting project’ to ‘this is something where we can really make a difference in peoples’ lives and make the Bahamian economy more resilient,’” Niemeyer notes.

On the plane ride home, M.B.A. student Natalia Aldana Velásquez reflected on her experience.

“We’re doing something with a community truly in need,” says Aldana Velasquez. “In class, we don’t get real interaction like this. Here the problem is unsolved, and you have to explore to get as much information as you can from the client. That leads to a relationship—and then you have a responsibility to that person.” —Michael R. Malone



# Strengthening Mathematical Bonds

New institute will harness knowledge throughout the hemisphere

Dedicated to fostering new collaborations in mathematics across the hemisphere, the University of Miami has launched the Institute of the Mathematical Sciences of the Americas (IMSA), with funding from one of the foremost private supporters of mathematics and basic sciences.

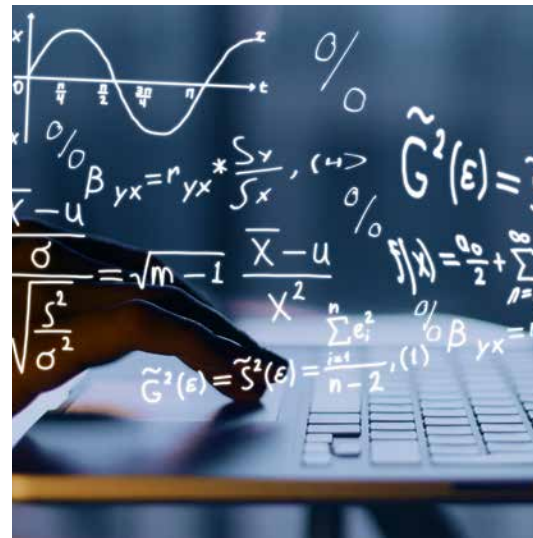
“Mathematics is a very international activity, and we want to advance collaborations in both pure mathematics and in its applications to other fields,” says IMSA director Robert Stephen Cantrell, professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics. “Miami is the de facto intellectual capital of Latin America, so it’s a natural hub. This gives us the opportunity to enhance the stature of the department and the University.”

The institute was established with a \$2 million grant from the New York-based Simons Foundation. The center’s

mission aligns closely with the Roadmap to Our New Century, the University’s strategic plan for tackling world challenges by building new bridges across geographic, cultural, and intellectual borders, particularly in the STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—fields of inquiry.

“Math is truly the international language,” notes Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost. “It allows powerful concepts to be communicated concisely and precisely across boundaries. Having a powerhouse for intellectual capital like IMSA will help the University of Miami distinguish itself in this critical discipline.”

Over the next five years, IMSA will engage in several working group projects where professors and graduate students from the University’s math department



will be paired with academics from universities across Latin America to lead teams of researchers on significant projects in mathematics and its applications.

# The U Creates Provides a Platform Dedicated to the Arts

The University launches a new website that spotlights creative expression and scholarship



Whether it’s watching musicians on stage, perusing photos from the Beaux Arts Festival, or reading about time-limited theater that teaches students teamwork, the University of Miami has created a new website, The U Creates, which will serve as a platform for the stories behind outstanding students

and faculty members from a wide range of academic disciplines, including theater, film, music, and fine arts. The U Creates is designed to enrich the student body and community experience in the arts and humanities.

“The arts and humanities are fundamental to our mission, and as you know, the U has played a foundational role in promoting the arts in South Florida since 1926,” says University President Julio Frenk.

“The U Creates celebrates diverse perspectives and forms of expression, affording students unique opportunities to experience artistic creation and production,” he adds.

The site provides audiences interested in the arts easy access to information about academics, cutting-edge

premieres, thought-provoking lectures, exhibits, and films that reflect the University’s youthful spirit and multicultural vibrancy. It also spotlights the important role the arts and humanities play in academic institutions.

“At the University of Miami, we strive to transform lives by offering an array of majors and programs, giving students the opportunity to engage in world-class performances, scholarship, and research that enhances their experience in the arts and humanities,” points out Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost. “Our goal is to consistently provide students with an innovative, motivating, and relevant education so they can continue to grow as leaders in the world of art and innovation.”



Visit [arts.miami.edu](https://arts.miami.edu) to learn more about The U Creates.

# The U Shines on Super Sunday

Super Bowl LIV is a win for the University

With Miami tapped as host city for Super Bowl LIV, the University optimized the opportunity to showcase the talent and expertise of students, faculty members, and administrators through a range of collaborations with the National Football League.

Three University of Miami innovators—Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost; Lee Kaplan, director of the University of Miami Sports Medicine Institute; and Nick Tsinoremas, vice provost for research computing and data—served as judges for NFL’s 1st and Future, a pitch competition to assess innovative products and data models held at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

“Participating in the competition was a great opportunity to celebrate not only our role in the region, but also our efforts and research in the areas of big science, big data, and analytics in general,” says Duerk.

Norma Kenyon, vice provost for innovation and chief innovation officer at the Miller School of Medicine, and the U Innovation team played a major role in the event’s success.



Provost Jeffrey Duerk, right, and Lee Kaplan, left, director of the University of Miami Sports Medicine Institute, participated as judges on a panel to assess innovative products at the NFL’s 1st and Future competition.



## A halftime for all time

The Frost Band of the Hour, color guard, and the Hurricanettes dance team appeared in four high-profile NFL events during Super Bowl week, most notably as cast members and featured dancers for the halftime show.

“When I stepped onto the field at halftime it definitely felt special,” says Carly Battipaglia, a sociology and criminology major and Hurricanette.

“Pregame and halftime were electric,” says Donald Fielding, a trumpeter, senior in engineering, and four-year veteran of the band. “Being there live was a moment I’ll never forget.”

During the two weeks prior to the big game, Frost Band of the Hour students juggled classes and calendars to attend closed rehearsals.

“Never have I experienced such a sea of media,” declares Steven Mailloux-Adler, a classical percussionist and Frost music education junior.

## Super volunteer experience

More than a dozen University of Miami students volunteered at Super Bowl LIV and for events leading up to the game as part of the Sport Facilities and Event Management class offered during the fall in the School of Education and

Human Development’s Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences.

Taught by Erin McNary, assistant professor, the new course gave students the chance to learn from Super Bowl employees and members of the Super Bowl Host Committee.

“It’s been really exciting to see my students in action and to see them grow and learn a lot about the overall operations of bringing a mega-event to a city,” acknowledges McNary.

Guest speakers from the Super Bowl Host Committee offered weekly lectures on event planning, marketing, sponsorship, economic impact, and leadership. Students were trained as volunteer captains and recruited other volunteers to help.

“This experience really convinced me that sports is where I want to work,” says Tyler Sklut, a sophomore majoring in sport administration who helped manage the social media board for fans.

Lauren Yelner, a sophomore broadcast journalism and sport administration major, appreciated the opportunity.

“I’m lucky that both the communications and sport administration programs have professors who are well connected and give plenty of opportunities for real-world experience,” Yelner says.



# 5G to Power Research and Academics

The University will be first college campus to adopt the new technology



A magnified, computer-generated strand of DNA that could be viewed and manipulated by several students wearing spatial computing headsets. Sensors that can detect the slightest change in weather and send that information to phones and tablets to be processed in near real time. Art history students who can view some of the most iconic artworks from museums around the world at unprecedented fidelity, with experts

at their home institutions providing instruction. Feature films and video games loading on phones and tablets in seconds rather than minutes.

These are some of the capabilities of 5G and Edge technology, computing experts say.

“In collaboration with AT&T, the University of Miami will be able to support 5G using millimeter wave spectrum (5G+) and Edge technology on its Coral Gables campus, placing the University at the forefront of digital transformation impacting every field,” says Ernie Fernandez, vice president for information technology and chief information officer for the University. “It will allow students, faculty, and staff to develop, test, and use the next generation of digital apps, including Magic Leap’s spatial computing platform, in new and exciting ways.”

The University signed an agreement with AT&T to become the company’s first college campus to adopt AT&T 5G+ and AT&T Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC) technology. The term 5G refers to a larger cellular bandwidth that will deliver more data from the internet to wireless devices at a faster pace. This will help large data files like videos and graphics load quicker on phones and tablets, says Nick Tsinoremas, director of the University’s Institute for Data Science and Computing.

Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, says that the University’s ability to pioneer this technology demonstrates its commitment to explorative pedagogies, digital scholarship, creative endeavors, science, technology, engineering, and math as part of the University’s Roadmap to Our New Century strategic plan.

## Jazzy Tribute

Frost School concert honors the legendary Miles Davis

Marcello Carelli, a junior at the University of Miami and drummer in the Stamps Music Scholars Jazz Quintet, was still decades from picking up his first drumsticks when in 1970 Miles Davis’ audacious seminal record, “Bitches Brew,” turned the jazz world on its hi-hat.

Yet Carelli and 16 other Frost School of Music Concert Jazz Band student musicians celebrated Davis with a masterful tribute concert, Bitches Brew Revisited: A Celebration of 50 Years of Jazz Fusion, at Maurice Gusman Concert Hall that demonstrated their artful understanding of the jazz icon’s place in history and a well-practiced feel for his music.

In preparation, they were well-schooled by Frost associate professor Charles “Chuck” Bergeron, M.M. ’93, a music historian and professional bassist who has played Davis’ music for decades.

“There’s no connection for students without the educational component,”

says Bergeron, pointing out that the concert jazz band students all completed two semesters of his Jazz History course and listened to countless hours of Davis’ records in addition to rehearsal time.

Additionally, Frost faculty members and the students traveled to New Orleans, where they performed from the “Bitches Brew” repertoire at the Jazz Educators Network Conference, met with renowned contemporary musicians, and participated in master classes.

Bergeron planned and coordinated the concert and enlisted the expertise of his longtime friend Charles Pillow, a renowned saxophonist and Eastman School of Music professor.

“We do concerts three times a semester, and we’re always looking for new and interesting projects,” Bergeron explains. “It’s always nice to collaborate with an artist from another school and especially satisfying to bring him to Miami.”

National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master Saxophonist Dave Liebman, a Miles Davis sideman who completed a



Marcello Carelli performs in the Miles Davis tribute concert.

residency at the Frost School, also was pivotal in helping students integrate the complexities of Davis’ enduring album that changed the style of jazz.

The two-set tribute concert featured both the Frost Septet and the Concert Jazz Band. Pillow, Bergeron, Liebman, Frost Dean Shelton Berg, and Frost associate professors Martin Bejarano, M.M. ’98, and John Daversa all performed as well.



Quynh Anh Pham was happy with her match.

## Keeping the Tradition Alive

Graduating medical students celebrate Match Day at home and online

In past years, the graduating class of Miller School of Medicine students celebrated Match Day—the ceremony in which they learn where they will be completing their residency—on the Schoninger Research Quadrangle. But this year, because of COVID-19 health precautions, 179 members of the Class of 2020 received the news directly in individual emails from the National Residency Match Program at noon on March 20.

“Although we can’t be together physically today, we are all cheering your amazing milestone and accomplishment remotely,” Alex Mechaber, M.D. ’94, Bernard J. Fogel Chair in Medical Education and senior associate dean for undergraduate medical education, told the students in an email.

“This is the next step in my career, and all my studies have led to this point,” said Natalia Parra just before learning she will be doing her

obstetrics-gynecology residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital—Columbia University Medical Center.

For Jason Onugha, a residency in psychiatry at Northwestern McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University was the fulfillment of a dream, just as it was for Sumedh Shah, who will pursue his career in neurological surgery at UM/Jackson Memorial Hospital.

“My father had brain cancer, and that’s why I became a doctor,” said Shah.

Mechaber reports that 26 percent of the graduating class will be staying at UM/Jackson Memorial Hospital or the Miller School of Medicine at Holy Cross in Fort Lauderdale, up from 21 percent last year. And, 36 percent of graduates will be staying in Florida for some aspect of their training, up from 30 percent last year. Another 13 percent will be going to California and 9 percent to New York. About 36 percent of all graduates, and 41 percent of M.D./M.P.H. graduates, will be going into primary care fields.



Visit [med.miami.edu/news/miller-school-students-celebrate-match-day-with-families-and-friends/](https://med.miami.edu/news/miller-school-students-celebrate-match-day-with-families-and-friends/) to view this year’s Match Day video.

## Preserving Nature’s Lab

Conservation ecologist takes Gifford Arboretum under his wing

An expert on palm trees who also has spent more than a decade studying the links between animals, climate change, and rainforests in his native Brazil, Mauro Galetti feels right at home in the University’s John C. Gifford Arboretum. As the arboretum’s new director, Galetti wants to help University faculty, staff, and students take full advantage of this collection of 439 tropical trees and myriad tropical plants on the Coral Gables campus.

“Instead of studying organisms in a

petri dish, the arboretum is a natural lab for ecologists,” says Galetti, an associate professor in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Biology. “So, we have to keep the collection well and alive.”

One of Galetti’s first priorities is to work with student curator Ezra Remer and with Teddy L’Houtellier, the University’s sustainability manager, to replace many of the arboretum’s trees that were lost or damaged in Hurricane Irma.



Associate professor Mauro Galetti checks on the blooms from a flame of the forest tree in the Gifford Arboretum.



# DCC 10 Draws Record Numbers

Six thousand people participated on Feb. 29 to tackle cancer

A sunny but cool South Florida Saturday—perfect for riding, running, or walking—drew a record 6,000 participants and volunteers to the 10th annual Dolphins Cancer Challenge (DCC). The event provides critical funding for research at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of UHealth—the University of Miami Health System.

About 1,500 of the participants represented Team Hurricanes—employees, donors, and other proud members of the University family.

Jacqueline Travisano, executive vice president for business and finance and chief operating officer who led Team Hurricanes, takes the cancer fight personally. “I’ve lost very significant people in my life to cancer,” she says. “I want to make sure that no one else has to lose a friend, family member, or loved one. And, I think the only way that’s going to happen is through academic research into cancer treatments and cures.”



Stephen D. Nimer, center, director of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, rides with members of the 'Canes community.

In addition to Team Hurricanes, more than 230 cancer survivors also participated in the day’s events. Among them was Vivian Mechaber, mother of Alex Mechaber, M.D. ’94, the Bernard J. Fogel Chair in Medical Education and senior associate dean for undergraduate medical education at the Miller School of Medicine.

From the moment she learned she had

endometrial cancer last May and through months of treatment at Sylvester, Mechaber was motivated to prevail, thanks in large part to the support of her family—who accompanied her on the 5K walk/run.

“I said, ‘For this race I’m going to be well enough to walk myself;’” the family matriarch says. “And here I am! I want to tell people who have cancer not to give up.”

## NextGenMD

New medical curriculum addresses innovative ways to teach and learn



Dean Henri R. Ford opens the curriculum renewal showcase.

When the Class of 2024 begins their work this fall, they will be the first to experience a new curriculum that will truly be Miller School specific—one that Dean Henri R. Ford hopes “in the

next five to 10 years will become the envy of other medical schools throughout the world.”

Called NextGenMD, the curriculum renewal initiative is the inspired work of 177 faculty members, students, and residents on eight planning teams who have been meeting to design a new way of teaching and learning. Among the recommendations are earlier and integrated clerkship experiences for students, an emphasis on personalized plans for a second degree or pathway of excellence, a strong focus on population health, an opportunity for some students to enter residency early, and an overhaul of the way students are evaluated.

“The new curriculum will produce physician leaders who will have the opportunity to shape the future of medicine, direct health systems, and

champion discovery and its translation into clinical interventions,” says Laurence B. Gardner, executive dean for education and policy.

A core group of Miller School master educators will do the bulk of the teaching, in small groups with team-based collaborative learning approaches. The new clerkship experience will reflect the best ways to learn the science, art, and practice of medicine, and help students plan their future areas of concentration.

“This truly is an extraordinary effort,” says Alex Mechaber, M.D. ’94, Bernard J. Fogel Chair in Medical Education and senior associate dean for undergraduate medical education. “We’re all really excited about it, because it is going to result in the transformational leaders in health care that we need.”

## Ancient Secrets Revealed

Traci Ardren, archaeologist and professor of anthropology, and fellow scholars are conducting the first lidar study of a 100-kilometer stone highway in Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula to reveal secrets about ancient Maya civilization.

Lidar—short for “light detection and ranging”—has been previously used mainly by meteorologists to study clouds, yet Ardren’s team is using the technology, which is deployed from low-flying planes, to scan beneath the dense vegetation to view the ancient houses, platforms, and pyramids that have lain hidden for ages.

“The lidar allowed us to understand the road in much greater detail and to identify many new towns and cities along the road—new to us but preexisting the road,” Ardren says.

An expert on gender in ancient Maya society, Ardren is exploring the theory that a powerful queen of one of the greatest cities of the ancient Maya world built the road to expand her domain. An analysis of the study was published in the Journal of Archaeological Science.



Traci Ardren, archaeologist and professor of anthropology

## Ethnic Pain Disparities

In a new study published in Nature Human Behavior, Elizabeth Losin, assistant professor of psychology and director of the Social and Cultural Neuroscience Lab, and colleagues investigate the mechanisms underlying racial and ethnic disparities related to pain and pain treatment.

“There’s evidence that both the general public and clinicians believe that African Americans are less sensitive to pain than non-Hispanic whites; yet research, including our own, shows exactly the opposite,” says Losin.

The inaccurate racial and ethnic biases about pain could have medical consequences.

“If medical professionals, whether consciously or subconsciously, believe that African Americans feel less pain than others, clinicians may be less inclined to alleviate the pain of their African American patients,” explains Losin.

Their findings point to a promising avenue for reducing pain-related health disparities in the near term, and perhaps a path to building greater trust between African

## R+D Update



Elizabeth Losin, assistant professor of psychology and director of the Social and Cultural Neuroscience Lab

American patients and their doctors.

## Partner Power Systems plants

Industrial engineering professor Nurcin Celik is developing technology that would allow local power systems to “talk” to each other and mitigate the impact of power outages.

As part of her federally funded research, groups of microgrids—local power systems that are connected to a main grid but can operate autonomously when outages occur—would communicate with and make decisions based on the status of each other, providing power to neighboring areas where electricity has been disrupted by a storm or some other catastrophic event.

“Think of it as running a long extension cord,” says Celik. “Imagine if the University of Miami, the city of Coral Gables, and Coconut Grove all had their own microgrids. If a

storm were to knock out power to an area in the Gables, UM’s microgrid could help provide energy for that sector.”

The study, which is funded by a three-year, \$500,000 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, offers the potential to save lives and millions of dollars by keeping power systems up and running during times of crisis.



Industrial engineering professor Nurcin Celik



# Students Honor Haiti Earthquake Victims

Remembrance ceremony salutes victims of the 2010 earthquake with songs, poetry, and dance



Toni Ann Farquharson recites a poem.

Ten years ago, a massive earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti, forever changing the lives of many, including Jordi Polycarpe, a junior at the University of Miami. Her cousin was one of the hundreds of thousands of

lives lost in the catastrophic disaster.

“My cousin was just 5 years old,” says Polycarpe, a musicianship, artistry development, and entrepreneurship major. “This time of the year is difficult for my family and me, and it’s just really important to come together and remember the good things.”

Planet Kreyol, the University’s Haitian student group, hosted 10 Years of Growth, a ceremony commemorating the earthquake and celebrating Haiti. Students, faculty, staff, and members and of the community gathered in the Shalala Student Center Ballroom for a program that featured poetic performances, dance selections, and remarks by Patricia A. Whitely, Ed.D. ’94, vice president for student affairs, and Louis Herns Marcelin, associate professor in the departments of international studies, anthropology,

and public health sciences.

“This is a big deal, and it’s an honor to be able to host such an event. It’s something that we do in commemoration and out of respect for those who have fallen,” says Herveline Saintil, a nursing and psychology major, who is co-president of Planet Kreyol along with Sara St. Juste.

“Ten years later, the fragility has been compounded, the poverty has been compounded by governance and political issues, an international community has created dependency, and several other disasters have happened in between,” says Marcelin. “While at the same time, young people are trying to do what they can and create an environment for their future. Through community-based organizations and social media, they are trying to create hope for the future.”

# Frost Professor, Four Alumni Win Grammys

Professor Brian Lynch receives the award for Best Large Jazz Ensemble

A professor of jazz trumpet at the Frost School of Music and four alumni of the University of Miami received Grammy Awards during the 62nd annual ceremony that was held on Jan. 26, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Brian Lynch, jazz trumpet professor, was honored in the category of Best Large Jazz Ensemble. The Omni-American Book Club by the Brian Lynch Big Band features Frost students and alumni and was recorded in one of the school’s studios.

“I am completely blown away and extremely gratified to have been awarded this honor and in such distinguished company,” Lynch admits. “This Grammy Award for Best Jazz Large Ensemble Album is really an award for all of us here at Frost, for I could not have made this project without the help of everyone here in my Frost family.”

Lynch says the album was truly “Frost built” since it involved students, alumni, and faculty members, and it

was recorded in the Weeks Studio.

Shelton Berg, dean of the Frost School, says Lynch is “one of the world’s greats as a jazz trumpeter, composer, and arranger, and richly deserving of the Grammy Award for his innovative, erudite, and most of all, highly artistic recording.”

The album, Berg notes, provides “the full value of Lynch’s endlessly curious approach to life, imbued with his varied musical influences, from Afro-Cuban to hard bop. I couldn’t be prouder of Brian, and the fact that most of the personnel on this Grammy-winning recording are Frost School of Music students and alums, and the project was recorded in one of the school’s state-of-the-art studios is a fantastic achievement.”

Frost alumni who also were honored with a Grammy Award this year include: Best Classical Instrumental Solo—Marsalis: Violin Concerto Fiddle Dance Suite, Cristian Macelaru, B.M. ’03, Instrumental Performance; Best Latin



Professor Brian Lynch says he was “blown away” to receive a Grammy.

Pop Album—#El Disco: Alejandro Sanz and Julio Reyes Copello, M.M. ’00, Media Writing and Production (album producer); Carlos Fernando Lopez, B.M. ’12, Media Writing and Production, Current Graduate Student (album arranger, engineer); Natalia Ramirez, M.A. ’17, Presenting and Live Entertainment Management (album engineer).

# Shaping Leaders in Sustainability

New master’s degrees prepare students for novel challenges

The extreme changes in climate that threaten our planet will require urban environments and structures that are resilient in the face of severe weather, sea level rise, and whatever the future may bring.

With this in mind, the University of Miami introduces a Master of Professional Science in Urban Sustainability and Resilience degree, an interdisciplinary program offered jointly by the School of Architecture and the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Geography and Regional Studies. Shouraseni Sen Roy, professor in the Department of Geography and Regional Studies, and Sonia Chao, research associate professor in the School of Architecture, will codirect the program, which begins this fall.

“We are excited about the partnership with the college and its potential for setting a model for our efforts in interdisciplinary education,” says Rodolphe el-Khoury, dean of the School of Architecture. “We also welcome a greatly anticipated program that aligns precisely with our strategic priorities



and our focus on the challenges facing urban environments.”

“The purpose of this new interdisciplinary master’s degree program,” notes Leonidas Bachas, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, “is to help our students understand the way global cities operate and how sustainability is necessary to build and maintain resilient metropolises around the world.”

Another new graduate program, the Miami Herbert Business School’s 10-month Master of Science in

Sustainable Business, enrolled its first cohort last fall of students from 10 countries who are seeking to become major players in companies that are adopting sustainable practices.

“The students come from a wide range of cultural and functional backgrounds, and they have various sustainability interests,” says Marie T. Dashborough, associate professor of management in the Miami Herbert Business School. “There is one thing that they all have in common—they all share a strong passion for making a positive lasting impact on the world.”

“This is the master’s degree of my dreams,” says Marcia Guevara, a Venezuelan student. “I am passionate about sustainability and climate change.”

“Our students are dedicated to the importance of sustainability, and they will be the leaders of tomorrow entrusted with building successful businesses that respect the environment and are socially responsible,” says John Quelch, dean of the Miami Herbert Business School. “They will be shouldering critical responsibilities.”

# President Julio Frenk Named Interim CEO of UHealth System

New Joint Operations Leadership Team supports his role

Julio Frenk, president of the University of Miami, a physician and global health expert, has been named the interim CEO of the University of Miami Health System, or UHealth.

Following the April 3 announcement of former chief executive officer Edward Abraham’s retirement, the UHealth Board of Directors asked Frenk to take over the role through July 1. He will be supported by the recently instituted Joint Operations Leadership Team (JOLT). The members of the JOLT are Joe Echevarria, who has been named

interim chief administrative officer; Dipen Parekh, interim chief operating officer; Henri Ford, dean of the Miller School of Medicine; Stephen Nimer, director of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Oscar de la Renta Chair in Cancer Research; Eduardo Alfonso, director of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute; Roy Weiss, chair of the Department of Medicine; and Omaid Velazquez, chair of the Department of Surgery.

Frenk is a former minister of health of Mexico, a past executive at the World



Health Organization, and the former dean of the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University.





## Athletics Adjusts to an Abrupt End of Season

The NCAA announcement March 12 that it was canceling all winter and spring championships in response to the COVID-19 pandemic delivered a stunning, nearly incomprehensible realization.

That decision meant that, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, four Hurricanes who had been preparing to compete for titles at the Division I Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships were forced to return home, their title hopes dashed.

In Orlando, where Miami's baseball team had just notched a big win over the University of Central Florida, the seventh-ranked Hurricanes learned their promising season was over.

And, it meant that the 'Canes diving contingent that garnered the top four finishes at the

Gabrielsen Natatorium to qualify for the NCAA Men's Championships would not be traveling to Indianapolis, Indiana, after all.

So, the unenviable task of delivering the disheartening news to coaches and to begin the work of navigating a new reality fell on Blake James, athletics director.

"It's hard to know you're ending a student-athlete's opportunity to compete in a sport they've worked so hard at and that they strive to be the very best at," James says. "But we're all about the well-being and safety of our students, and this was a decision that was made with the long-term well-being of not only our students but our entire country in mind."

James and the athletics department began immediately ensuring that Miami's student-athletes are prepared to handle the change, to stay healthy,

and to be ready to compete again when sports return. They face many hurdles and questions in the coming weeks and months, especially in light of a subsequent NCAA announcement that student-athletes who would have competed in spring sports will receive eligibility relief.

## Hall of Famer Ed Reed Named Chief of Staff

In late January, the University of Miami football program hired College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Ed Reed, B.L.A. '02, as its new chief of staff.

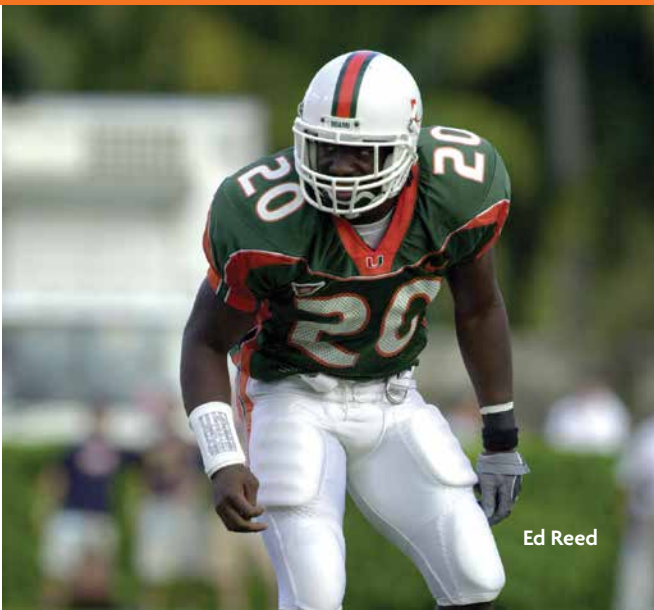
"Ed is not only one of the most decorated players in Miami football history, but also a devoted 'Cane who cares deeply about this program," says head coach Manny Diaz. "All of our players, coaches, and staff will be

fortunate to tap into his experience, knowledge, and passion on a regular basis."

As chief of staff, Reed will serve in an advisory role to Diaz in all aspects of the football program, including strategic planning, quality control, operations, player evaluation, and player development. Reed will also assist in team building, student-athlete mentorship, and recruiting, as permissible under NCAA rules.

A consensus All-America in 2000 and 2001, Reed helped the 'Canes post a 23-1 record during his last two seasons, which culminated with the 2001 national championship. A first-round draft pick in 2002, he went on to a stellar career in the National Football League.

Reed is passionate about the opportunity to mentor current Hurricanes.



Ed Reed

MIAMI ATHLETICS

"I'm from a small town in Louisiana, where kids don't have the structure to be successful in life," Reed notes. "Yes, I've become a Hall of Famer at every level—and that has helped me to be a light and a role model for a lot of kids. We need to set a great example for our youth, and that's what we're here to do."

## Coordinator Readies 'Canes to Go Up-tempo

New 'Canes offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Rhett Lashlee demonstrated the spread-option, up-tempo offense he's bringing to Miami at a news conference just days into spring practice. When several reporters fired questions at him, Lashlee went on the offensive.

"Come on, I can do two at once—gotta have a run-pass option," he quipped.

Lashlee, who guided Southern Methodist University's offense the past two years, joined



Rhett Lashlee

MIAMI ATHLETICS

Manny Diaz's staff in early January and has been part of a rash of off-season changes that include the signing of several highly regarded coaches and recruits.

He helped his former team to a 10-3 finish in 2019 and to a ranking as the No. 7 scoring team in the country. Now, he's focused on bringing that fast-paced mindset to Miami.

"Our philosophy is that we want to play fast and physical, and there are great advantages to playing fast, but you have to execute at a high level," says

Lashlee, who first adopted the up-tempo system during his quarterback days in high school.

With only a few practices under his belt, Lashlee likes the talent he sees in the new 'Canes squad.

"We have speed and athleticism, but we

Estela Perez-Somarriba



have to show them how to win," the new coach says. "That'll be a big part for us as a coaching staff to show them what it takes to win at a high level."

Lashlee has coached at a few different-sized programs and in different conferences.

"I've coached in two national championship games, three SEC Championship Games, and a couple other championship games in the leagues I've been in—big moments that have prepared me to be where I am today," he points out.

When the 'Canes kick off their season, best to keep your eyes riveted on the field—things are bound to be moving fast.

## Women's Tennis Stars Face Off

The more than 5,500 tennis fans in attendance at the Delray Beach Open in mid-February got a special treat when 15-year-old sensation Coco Gauff, the world's No. 51-ranked

player, and Estela Perez-Somarriba, the second player in 'Canes history to claim the NCAA Singles Championship title, faced off for a spirited match.

Gauff, a longtime Hurricanes fan, won the exhibition match 6-3, 6-3, but it was clear that both emerging stars enjoyed the experience of lightheartedly competing in the first women's tennis match ever played at the tournament.

The idea to bring Gauff and Perez-Somarriba together began brewing last summer, not long after Perez-Somarriba won her national title and Gauff captured the attention of tennis fans worldwide with her remarkable run at Wimbledon.

For Gauff, the match came weeks after a run at the Australian Open that ended just shy of the quarterfinals. For Perez-Somarriba, it came less than 24 hours after a win at Georgia Tech.

Still, despite the quick turnaround, Perez-Somarriba more than held her own, returning more than a few of Gauff's 108-miles-per-hour serves.

"I have a lot to learn, but this experience helped," says Perez-Somarriba. "This gives me strength and confidence and tells me I can do this."

Granted the opportunity for another year of eligibility because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the reigning NCAA women's tennis champion decided in late March to return to the University in 2020-21.



# IT'S GREAT TO BE A MIAMI DOUBLE 'CANE.

The University of Miami brought you some of the best years of your life. But just because you graduated doesn't mean that your time as a 'Cane has to end. Designed to fit you and your career goals, Miami Herbert Business School offers a variety of graduate opportunities to help you keep the success going at the place where it all started. **To learn more about how to transform yourself into a future business leader and continue your legacy, visit [go.miami.edu/doublecane](https://go.miami.edu/doublecane).**

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 UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
**MIAMI HERBERT**  
BUSINESS SCHOOL

## Faculty Files

### Researcher a Pioneer on the Impact of Cannabis

With 2020 projected to be “the year of cannabis,” Denise Christina Vidot, A.B. '08, Ph.D. '15, an assistant professor at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, is closely monitoring the rash of reforms and new laws regarding medicinal and recreational marijuana use in Florida and around the country.

While many are tracking the trends looking to turn a profit from the booming cannabis industry, Vidot's interest is vastly different.

An epidemiologist and researcher, Vidot has spent the past decade exploring the holistic impact of cannabis use. She wants to determine how cannabis affects metabolic syndrome—the cluster of conditions that occur together increasing risk to heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes.

“My goal is to describe the idea of how the brain, heart, and gut work together—or don't—in cannabis users,” Vidot says. “All the research I'm doing is in that direction. When I first started, I was focused on the heart, but now I'm exploring the bigger picture of how these organs work together.”

Of Puerto Rican descent, Vidot grew up in Boynton Beach. She wanted “to be

a doctor, treat patients, and save the world” and challenged herself to attend the University of Miami where she earned her A.B. in English with minors in biology and chemistry. Yet while at the U, her father was diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer.

The doctor called on the phone to tell the family the news.

Over the phone? An incredulous Vidot was even more perplexed that the physician knew so little about the disease. “Because of the lack of research and understanding, he couldn't give my dad the care he needed,” she says.

She pursued a master's degree in nonprofit management at the University of Georgia while working at Morehouse College in Atlanta and, though she “had no interest in research,” she accepted her mentor's invitation to visit a detention facility and meet with incarcerated youth.

“It was my first time putting real faces to my learning,” she remembers. “Hearing and seeing these kids talk about being exposed to and using drugs at such a young age, now in jail” shifted her world.

She returned to Miami to pursue her Ph.D. after conducting research with University neonatologist Emmalee Bandstra, exploring the risks of perinatal substance abuse.

“No one was looking at cannabis back then,” Vidot says. “That's where I found my niche, seeing that gap.”

Vidot's cannabis research focuses in large part on cannabis use in emerging adults and HIV patients or those at risk for HIV. Recently, she has examined its impact on young adults who undergo bariatric or weight-loss surgery.

With six siblings and growing up in a working class family, Vidot faced an uphill climb to succeed at

“I'm not just a scientist with my petri dish—I'm an advocate and a teacher, too.”

—Christina Vidot

the U. But succeed she did—and she continues to pay her success forward. She is a member of the Iron Arrow Honor Society and, after being positively impacted by Lambda Theta Alpha as an undergrad, serves today as the foundation's president, helping to provide scholarships and relief to underserved populations.

Florida recently ended the ban on smoking medicinal marijuana—a move that inspired Vidot to take action through research.

“Little is known about the long-term health effect of smoking cannabis, and it troubles me as an epidemiologist when policies are made without taking the scientific evidence into account,” she points out.

“There's no easy understanding of this issue, and that's what makes me so passionate,” Vidot notes. “I'm not just a scientist with my petri dish—I'm an advocate and a teacher, too.” —Michael R. Malone



# Protecting Seguro Popular

President's book examines universal health care in Mexico



In his newest book, Julio Frenk, president of the University of Miami, argues that universal health care, provided in Mexico through the program known as Seguro Popular, is a human right that must be protected.

"Proteger a México," published in Spanish and introduced last November at the Guadalajara International Book Fair, examines the development and impact of the landmark Mexican government health care initiative launched in 2004 that provided care to tens of millions of Mexicans, most of them peasants and farmers.

Frenk, the health minister of Mexico from 2000 to 2006, was the driving force behind strategizing passage of the popular initiative—at risk of being dismantled by the current administration in Mexico.

The centerpiece of "Proteger" is a case study on Mexico's health care system, and Frenk explores how the "three Cs"—crime, corruption, and corporatism—that plague Mexico and other countries are "eroding its social fabric," and perpetuating inequalities. He especially tackles corporatism, which claims privilege for certain groups in

society, while excluding others, as the most pernicious.

The president bookends this "conceptional core" with an opening reflection on his personal biography and a closing call for unity in Mexico and elsewhere.

"My motivation for this book is very simple," he writes in his opening. "The German government failed my ancestors in the 1930s. Not only did the government not protect them, but the government itself then became the main perpetrator of the violation of their rights. It was the generosity of strangers that saved my grandparents' and my father's lives and made my life possible. Mexico is the country that did that—and I owe a debt of gratitude."

In his book, Frenk argues that a government's fundamental responsibility is to protect its citizens, yet he warns against being duped by two "distortions" that some governments use—mainly "protectionism," the use of trade and tariffs to shield domestic industries, and the demagoguery that populist leaders use to aggrandize themselves.

"I'm talking about protection against the real risks that citizens face," he writes. "Not the fear mongering and inventing of imaginary enemies so that then the leaders of the government can proclaim themselves the 'protectors of the nation.'"

For the essay core, Frenk draws on his decades of experience as a public health specialist and discusses his role in bringing Seguro Popular to life in the early 2000s.

In "Proteger," Frenk urges the current Mexican administration to build on the progress made over the past 15-plus years with Seguro Popular and, as part of the book's message, he advances the belief that diversity creates richness, a credo that he has seeded in a range of initiatives and dimensions as University president since 2015.

"Each of us is all of us—there's no pure anything," he writes in the book. "We need to embrace that we are multidimensional—and that's a richness that we carry within each of us."

—Michael R. Malone

## Student Spotlight

# Tracking Rivers in the Skies

Doctoral student Breanna Zavadoff has developed a passion for studying extreme weather events

In living rooms and dining rooms from the Florida Panhandle to the southernmost tip of Texas, they watched for days, sitting, standing, or stooping in front of flat screens to learn the latest on Hurricane Katrina's path.

One of those keeping an eye on the powerful cyclone was a Long Island 9-year-old named Breanna Zavadoff.

"Everyday weather just didn't stir me up," recalls Zavadoff. "But whenever there was a hurricane or large storm threatening land, I would obsessively watch the Weather Channel's coverage."

Her preoccupation with hurricanes wasn't a passing fancy. It continued unabated, growing so strong that she majored in meteorology in college.

Today, as a Ph.D. student at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Zavadoff is fascinated by another type of extreme weather phenomenon—atmospheric rivers. Long, narrow corridors of water vapor in the sky, atmospheric rivers (ARs) move with the weather, producing massive amounts of

rain and snow when they make landfall.

Sometimes called "drought busters," ARs can produce up to 50 percent of California's precipitation, helping to replenish reservoirs in the northern portion of the state.

"But on the flip side, those that contain the largest amounts of water vapor can produce too much rain in too short a period of time, and that's when floods can occur," explains Zavadoff, a meteorology and physical oceanography specialist whose research focuses on the impact of atmospheric rivers in Europe. ARs, she points out, cause major flooding and landslides in the Iberian Peninsula.

"If we could better predict where they will hit and determine if they'll help or hinder, it would be a tremendous help to emergency response managers and forecasters," Zavadoff says.

Studying a phenomenon known as atmospheric Rossby waves could hold the key. Named for the Swedish-born meteorologist Carl-Gustaf Rossby, these atmospheric waves are giant meanders in

high-altitude winds that influence weather and are associated with pressure systems and the jet stream.

"When atmospheric rivers are in sync with anti-cyclonic Rossby wave breaking, the rivers tend to be stronger," Zavadoff says. "So, forecasting such an event could help us model atmospheric rivers more effectively."

As an undergraduate, Zavadoff played rugby for three years, once breaking a rib. "I enjoyed the camaraderie the sport brings out," she says. "There's no protective gear, no stopping the clock. We're all out

there to win; but at the same time, we need to protect each other because of how physical and intense the sport is."

Zavadoff borrows a page from her rugby playbook in terms of camaraderie amid the intensity of climatic events such as floods, hurricanes, and fires: "We've got to get everyone on the same page," she says. "We need to ramp up the dialogue that the science of climate change is fact and not just a belief."

—Robert C. Jones Jr.





The collage consists of 20 images arranged in a 5x4 grid. The images depict various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the University of Miami:

- Top row: A man in a suit, a stadium, a person in a lab, a person in a mask.
- Second row: A person in a mask, a person in a lab coat, a person in a mask, a person in a lab coat.
- Third row: A person in a mask, a person in a lab coat, a person in a mask, a person in a lab coat.
- Fourth row: A person in a mask, a person in a lab coat, a person in a mask, a person in a lab coat.
- Fifth row: A person in a mask, a person in a lab coat, a person in a mask, a person in a lab coat.

The collage consists of 24 images arranged in a 6x4 grid. The images depict various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the University of Miami, including:
 

- Top row: A man in a suit, a stadium, a person in a lab, a person in a mask.
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- Sixth row: A person in a mask, a person in a lab coat, a person in a mask, a person in a lab coat.



FROM LATE SUMMER TO EARLY WINTER, THE  
CADENCE HAD ALWAYS BEEN REGULAR AND  
STEADY. BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, THE CAMPUS'S  
CIRCADIAN RHYTHM WAS THROWN OUT OF  
SYNC. CLASSROOMS IN EVERY BUILDING SAT  
EMPTY. NO STUDENTS. NO INSTRUCTORS.  
NO GROUP DISCUSSIONS. NO EXPERIMENTS.

Walkways that connect a labyrinth of structures were devoid of foot traffic. Eateries in the massive food court were closed. And in a ballpark where 19- and 20-year-olds wielded bats and gloves to bag four College World Series titles and were poised to make a run at a fifth, the cheers went silent.

The COVID-19 pandemic that changed the world had turned the University of Miami almost into a ghost town, as school officials, like so many of their counterparts across the nation, made the painful but necessary decision to send students home for the rest of the academic term in an effort to halt the spread of the virus.

The University's commencement exercises, academic rites of passage for thousands of graduates, were postponed. Students studying abroad were called home. Athletic competitions and other events were either canceled or put on hold. And, employees no longer commuted to the office but worked from home.

Still, the lectures, lessons, and learning continued—via Zoom, Skype, and on laptops and smartphones.

The changes occurred quickly—seemingly in the blink of an eye. It was the vision of a farsighted university president with a generation's worth of know-how in responding to pandemics and a task force to support him that made things happen.



In truth, the University's coronavirus response effort started before the decade even came to an end. When government officials in China reported in late December that health care workers were treating dozens of people in the central city of Wuhan for a mysterious pneumonia-like illness with symptoms that included fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and lung lesions, students were still on winter break, catching their breath after a months-long semester of studying and test taking.

Nearly 8,500 miles away in Coral Gables, University officials were keeping an eye on the outbreak, making plans for the virus's inevitable arrival in South Florida. By the time the first cases were confirmed in four states, the University had already mobilized its Office of Emergency Management response team and was rolling out its first advisory to the University community and launching a coronavirus response website—which grew to include everything from information and FAQs for students, faculty, and staff to prevention and well-being tips and a comprehensive list of resources.

The University didn't go it alone. It partnered with Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida to monitor the crisis as it unfolded, and it followed guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization when issuing health advisories to its community of students and employees.

University President Julio Frenk, interim CEO of University of Miami Health System and a former health minister of Mexico, also employed the power of media. In video messages to the University community, he became a calming and comforting voice in a time of crisis, providing updates on the institution's latest actions to safeguard students and workers. In one communiqué, he reminded everyone that it was "a time for preparation, precaution, and prudence—not panic."

In his role as chair of the Miami-Dade Beacon Council's One Community One Goal Academic Leaders Council, Frenk rallied other academic leaders. He met virtually with the presidents of other colleges and universities in the county to discuss ways to help the Greater Miami area amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

With more than 5,000 people participating in three virtual town halls held on March 31 and April 1, University leaders and medical experts answered questions and provided updates for faculty, staff, students, and their families on COVID-19 and its impact on the institution and the University of Miami Health System.

## THE MOVE TO REMOTE LEARNING

If there was any measure that demonstrated how swiftly and thoroughly University leadership responded to the crisis, it was the decision and ability to migrate courses to a virtual environment after students left for spring recess.

The University extended the semester break for a week, giving faculty time to prepare for remote instruction, a process leadership helped facilitate by launching an academic and business continuity site. What normally would have taken weeks to pull off was done at breakneck speed. All told, faculty, with support from staff at the Distance Learning Institute, accomplished the transition—which required hours of training, the modification of courses and syllabi, and the translation of their teaching into digital platforms—in a week. A feat Jeffrey L. Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, called an "extraordinary testament" to their hard work and dedication.

The tools and technology used in the conversion, says Duerk, will serve the University well into the future. "Some might say that this began when we started stepping up efforts to build a robust academic continuity infrastructure following Hurricane Irma," says Duerk. "Few of us were thinking of a quickly spreading global pandemic; yet, hurricane or pandemic, the ramifications of our efforts will continue to ripple through not only higher education but all areas of our lives in unforeseen ways."





DAVID SUITA

## HEALTH CARE RESPONSE

If there were any University entity that was under the most pressure to respond to the pandemic, it was the University of Miami Health System, which started ramping up its clinical operations weeks before the first coronavirus case was even confirmed in Miami-Dade County.

To care for the influx of COVID-19 patients the health system would see, a task force of physicians, nurses, and administrators changed the way health care is being administered at the 560-bed UHealth Tower, creating special units and teams dedicated to the care of those patients, stepping up screening protocols, and instituting a host of hospital-wide measures to make sure the virus didn't spread.

UHealth Tower's north and south penthouse floors were converted to COVID-19 units, with patients quartered in negative pressure isolation rooms that allow air to flow in but not out—a ventilation technique that prevents the escape of aerosolized viral particles.

Teams of physicians and nurses, culled from the hospital's existing intensive care unit, were created with the purpose of caring solely for those patients. They have been equipped with the resources they need to do their jobs effectively, as UHealth's coronavirus task force, acutely aware of the rising worldwide mortality rates of COVID-19 patients, created ICU environments with telemetry monitors in each of the negative pressure rooms.

The response has been all-encompassing, "a total reinvention of ourselves," says Tanira Ferreira, assistant professor of medicine and chief medical officer of UHealth Tower.

Ferreira; Kymberlee Manni, CEO of UHealth Tower; and Dipen Parekh, chief operating officer, are three of the key players in the health system's clinical response to the coronavirus outbreak. "We need to remain focused for the long road ahead," Parekh, a renowned urologic oncologist, said in a video message to UHealth employees. "Getting through this will mean each of us stepping in and doing our part."

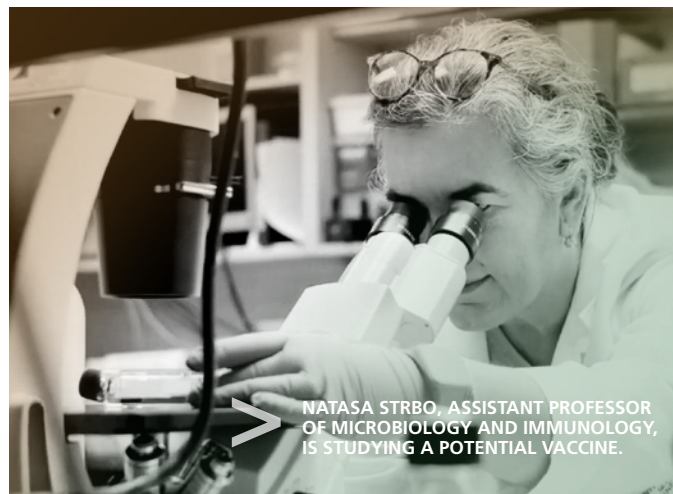


At UHealth Tower's Emergency Department (ED), tents have been erected outside to screen patients. There, medical staff members ask patients a battery of questions that range from whether they are experiencing fever, cough, or respiratory symptoms to their recent travel history. Anyone who gives a positive response is placed in an isolated area.

And within the ED, certain rooms have been designated as isolation areas for patients who are high risk. "We consider every patient that comes in as possibly having coronavirus," says David Lang, medical director of UHealth Tower's Emergency Department. "Some are a little bit easier to detect; they come in with fever, cough, shortness of breath. We also see patients who come in with something totally unrelated and who need to be admitted for other illnesses but can test positive for the virus.

"So, our process has changed," Lang continues. "The entire department now wears masks, and we have masks on the patients. When we go in to see patients, we put on protective gear. If it's high risk, it may be a little bit more gear. And if it's lower risk, we may not fully suit up. But our approach is to consider every patient a suspect."

From rapid diagnostic tests to potential vaccines, researchers at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine are also fighting the battle against COVID-19 in their labs, with Natasa Strbo helping to lead the way. The assistant professor of microbiology and immunology enlisted the cancer and infectious disease vaccine she has worked on for more than a decade in the fight against the virus.



NATASA STRBO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY, IS STUDYING A POTENTIAL VACCINE.

"As soon as I heard that something pretty bad was happening in China, I was excited to investigate the potential of our vaccine, which is a really different approach. It's based on a natural protein, gp96, that is present in our cells and activates immune responses," says Strbo, whose team is working on the COVID-19 vaccine with Heat Biologics, the biopharmaceutical company that now owns the gp96 platform she helped develop. "We already have tremendous knowledge from our previous vaccine studies, so I think the gp96 platform has a lot of potential in inducing a protective immunity against COVID-19."

Meanwhile, Miller School biomedical researchers were involved in efforts to develop a rapid diagnostic test for the virus. The patient-friendly test, developed by Sylvia Daunert, chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and her colleagues, and funded in part by the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation, requires a simple pharyngeal throat swab to deliver on-the-spot results on a paper strip in less than 30 minutes.

"Our lab has tremendous experience developing accurate and easily usable tests for infectious diseases such as HPV and Zika," says Daunert.



SYLVIA DAUNERT, LEFT, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, AND HER COLLEAGUES ARE DEVELOPING A PAPER STRIP TEST TO DELIVER ON-THE-SPOT RESULTS IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES.

Novel clinical trials are underway that could have a significant impact on the treatment of COVID-19 patients. An international team of scientists led by Camillo Ricordi, director of the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI) and Cell Transplant Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was granted immediate FDA authorization for a 24-patient clinical trial to test the safety and exploratory efficacy of umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells to block the life-threatening lung inflammation that accompanies severe cases of COVID-19. This research is being supported through a \$3 million gift from North America's Building Trades Unions to the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, the fundraising arm for the DRI.

And one physician is using a new therapy that has the potential to delay the need for a ventilator. Pulmonologist Roger Alvarez began treating a COVID-19 patient in late March using a nitric oxide system called INOpulse that had

been recently approved by the FDA for treating coronavirus patients. "The cardiopulmonary benefit demonstrated by INOpulse in various indications provides the potential to prevent deterioration in patients with COVID-19, allowing ventilators to be preserved for the most critically ill," explains Alvarez, referring to the system developed by Warren, New Jersey-based Bellerophon Therapeutics, Inc.



NITRIC OXIDE SYSTEM: INOPULSE



DAVID LANG, MEDICAL DIRECTOR AT UHEALTH TOWER, LEFT, CHATS WITH PRESIDENT JULIO FRENK AND HENRI FORD, DEAN OF THE MILLER SCHOOL.

## 'WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS'

The pandemic isn't the first challenge the University has faced. The first class of 646 full-time students enrolled at the University in the fall of 1926 when the South Florida land boom had already collapsed and just days after a major hurricane devastated the area. And, in August of 1992, Hurricane Andrew hit the city, damaging buildings on the Coral Gables campus and delaying the start of classes.

In both instances, the institution recovered. So, too, will the University recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Frenk says.

But there is a lesson that the nation—indeed, the world—needs to learn from the current crisis, he says.

"We will get through this, just as we've gotten through every pandemic," he says. "But once we get through it, we would be foolish to assume that this was the last one. There will be another one; and if we let our guard down, we will again incur the same disruption and cost we are suffering now.

"We owe it to everyone who is undergoing the sacrifices and to all the people who will have died, not to relinquish our responsibility, and to keep the necessary investments and the capability around the world up to the level of the challenge," Frenk points out. "This is a challenge that we can face. We have the tools. It will be faced successfully. I am very confident, thanks to science." ■





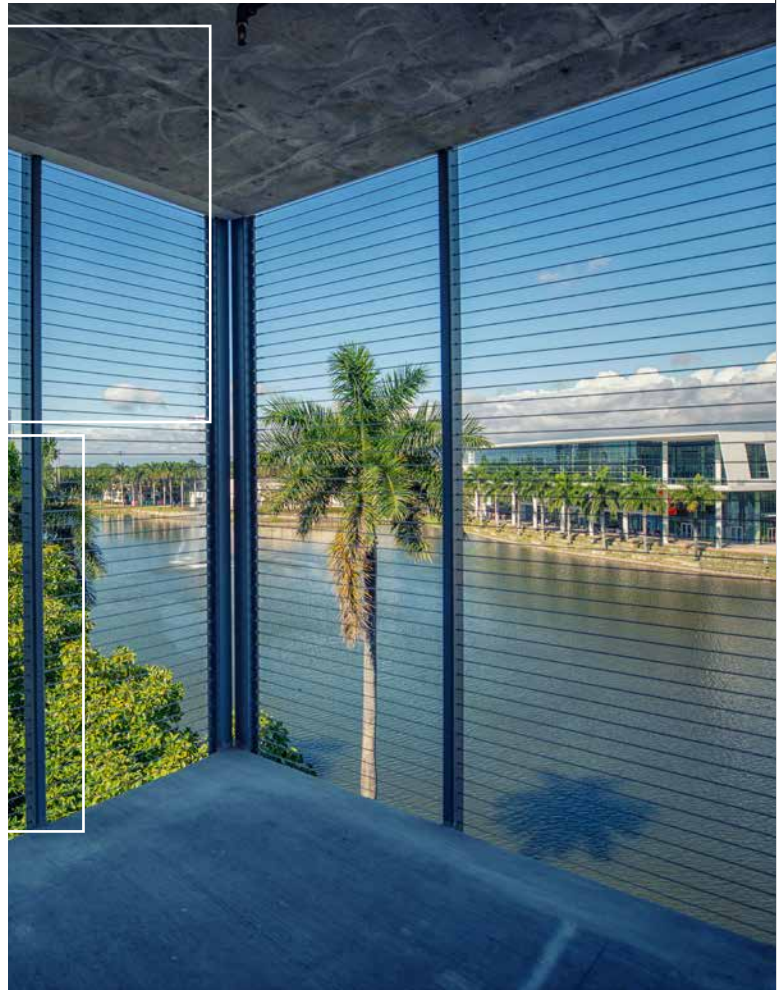
Lakeside Village, the University of Miami's vision of next-generation student living and an amalgam of the best that living—and pursuing an education in Miami—offers has opened its doors.

# Lakeside Village Elevates Living & Learning

BY MICHAEL R. MALONE



DETAIL: LOBBY STAIRCASE



PORCH VIEWS: OVERLOOKING SHALALA STUDENT CENTER

lakeside

## THE NEW STUDENT HOUSING COMPLEX THAT FRONTS LAKE OSCEOLA BOASTS AN ARRAY OF THE MOST MODERN, ATTRACTIVE, AND ECO-FRIENDLY ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

**IMAGINABLE**, yet arguably the most emblematic are its open-air, front porches that look out—from the stairwells on five different levels—onto Lake Osceola, Cobb Fountain, the Shalala Student Center, the Fate Bridge—essentially the University's "downtown."

Porches have long conveyed a sense of home, community, and connection, and now as the first University of Miami students prepare to enter the appropriately named Lakeside Village, they will experience home, community, and connection as never before on the Coral Gables campus.

Lakeside Village, the University of Miami's nod to next-generation student living and an amalgam of the best that living—and pursuing an education in Miami—offers has opened its doors.



**James Smart, M.S.Ed. '96, associate vice president for student affairs housing strategic initiatives, has watched the new architectural marvel unfold, literary right before his eyes.** His office within Housing and Residential Life looks onto the lakefront construction site—an area once a parking lot—so for the eight years between the time the white paper was submitted to launch the project until the last liriopie was planted in the rooftop green space, Smart gazed daily out his window and watched the structure take shape.

“I’ve learned a lot about architecture in the last eight years,” Smart says, noting that when traditional dormitories were built in the 1950s and ’60s, no one thought about them as part of the educational system. “Over these 50 years, we’ve learned that education doesn’t just happen in the classroom.”

“We’ve had the opportunity with Lakeside Village and the subsequent phases of this strategic plan to really think about how we want to make the student housing experience here a model,” he notes. “That chance doesn’t happen that often, and so for me, with 40-plus years in the field, it’s like working on your thesis—you apply everything you’ve ever learned.”

Jon Baldessari, executive director of housing operations and facilities, joined the University in the early 1990s when new notions about residential college systems were emerging nationally.

“We became much more student-centered and holistic in our understanding of education and began focusing on all the things we look at today that help students persist so they can nail their career choice and be successful,” Baldessari says.

Both leaders concur that the need for new housing became increasingly urgent. Most campus buildings, built in the post-World War II era of the 1950s and 1960s, were requiring more money and attention to maintain dated mechanical systems, and University Village, opened in 2006, was the last residential construction completed. The idea to replace student housing had been explored for years, Smart says, but hadn’t risen to priority status. By 2012—with more students wanting to live on campus, new data demonstrating the impact of housing on student success, and changes pending in University leadership—there was impetus for action.

Smart worked closely with Patricia A. Whitely, Ed.D. ’94, vice president for student affairs, to develop the report submitted that year recommending an assessment of campus buildings.

Whitely, who has served in her role since 1997, has held a range of positions that put her closely in touch with students. Her ear is tuned to hear what students want from their college experience.

“Our focus as a university is on our students,” Whitely says, noting that in 2012 “one of the things we had to do before tackling housing for first-year students was to build housing for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.”

The proposal to build something was a small first step. Ascertaining the national standard, deciding on the design to fit the master plan, and determining the complexities of a housing project for the 21st century—all within budget—was a leap into the unknown. Many voices—faculty, students, and parents, as well as staff in facilities and real estate divisions—expressed opinions of what to do.

“It’s been collectively hundreds, thousands of inputs into this process of being able to create a housing system that we are confident supports student education as well as student development into the 21st century,” Smart says. The team went through several iterations of design, and the final plan was selected from a design competition—a decision majorly influenced by the opening of the Shalala Student Center.

“That changed the campus,” Smart says. “We’d always talked about the lake as being the heart of the campus, and with the construction of the new center and renovations at the Whitten Center, it was becoming a hub of activity the way we’d imagined,” he adds.

The shimmering glass-and-pillars structure on the north side of the lake had a rippling effect. “When architecture is done well, it adds values in ways that you wouldn’t anticipate. We wanted to bring that same sense of energy to the south side of the lake,” says Smart.

Jessica Brumley, vice president for facilities operations and planning, joined the University in early 2018 and inherited the reins of the project.

“It’s been a fabulous opportunity professionally to jump into a project of this magnitude, one with such a visible, identifiable presence, together with Pat Whitely and her team,” says Brumley.

“So many parties—project managers, financial staff, central staff, and others—had to come together behind the scenes to make this possible,” she states. “This project puts a stake in the ground for the University’s future. The Braman Miller Center for Jewish Life and the Toppel Career Center have broadened our presence on Ponce. This project, with its depth and volume, serves to say: ‘We’re here—and we’re making a statement.’”



STILTVILLE, BISCAYNE BAY

## A uniquely Miami design

Lakeside Village finds its architectural inspiration in Stiltville, the spindly historic shacks that seem to float above the shallow sea grass beds in Biscayne Bay. Elevating the student residential spaces on 25-foot pilotis, or reinforced concrete pillars, frees the ground-level for gardens and lush tropical landscaping, promotes natural air flow, and allows for a comfortable outdoor space and a range of public functions.

The stats are impressive—545,000 square feet, 1,115 beds, 121 suite units (312 beds), 329 apartments (803 beds), and six floors with a mezzanine section near the main lobby (which will host Student Affairs office space).

The complex is composed of 25 residential nodes, strung together as a necklace to produce a single undulating structure. Dividing the building into clusters reduces its massiveness as a singular structure and introduces natural daylight and views into the interior circulation spaces. Three different façades—simulated wood, metal, and concrete/stucco—reflect the natural feel of the site and enhance the concept of community. These same motifs and colors weave through the interior and exterior of the building.

The complex intends to create a destination space where residential students have everything they need to live and thrive on campus. Yet the Outdoor Adventure Center, located at ground level, celebrates the fact

Lakeside Village finds its architectural inspiration in Stiltville.



INTEGRATED HEALTH OPTIONS

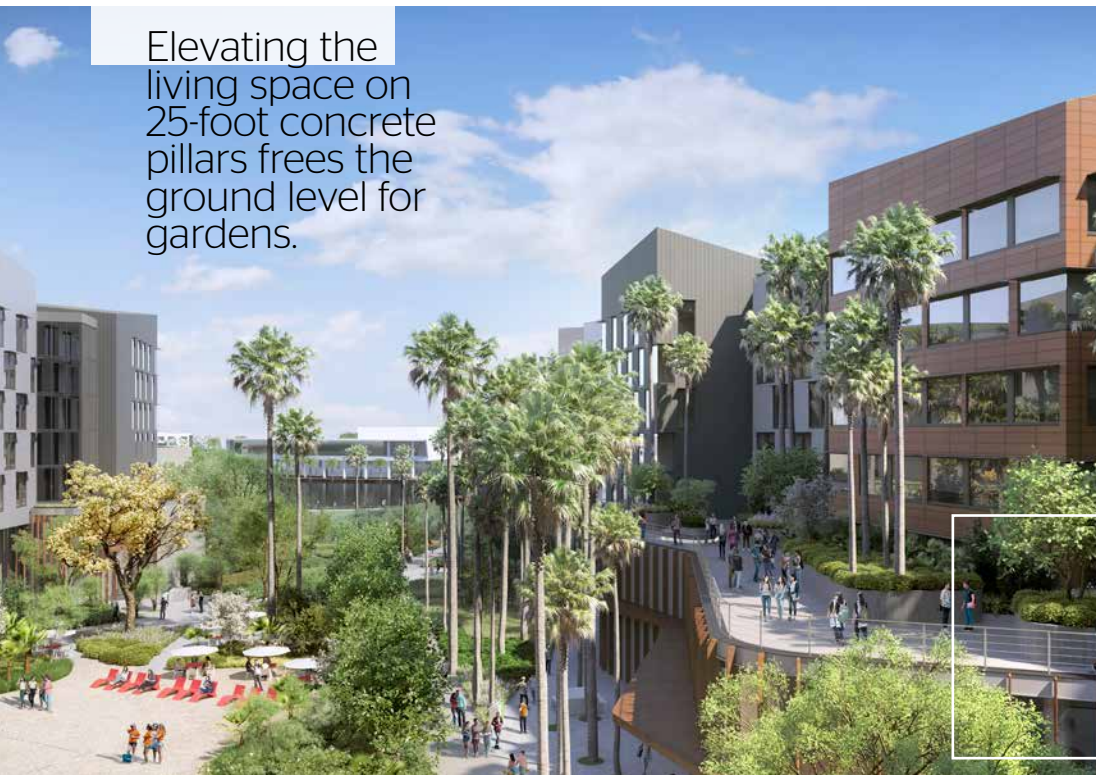
The new residential complex offers students a place to live and flourish on the Coral Gables campus.

that South Florida is truly a paradise. There, students can scale the climbing wall as a team-building exercise and also book off-campus excursions, such as kayaking and nature walks.

“One of the questions the University has been asking itself is, ‘how do we connect students to the campus and the local community?’—now we have the chance,” says Mike Piacentino, B.S.C. ’14, M.A. ’18, manager of marketing, communications, and development.



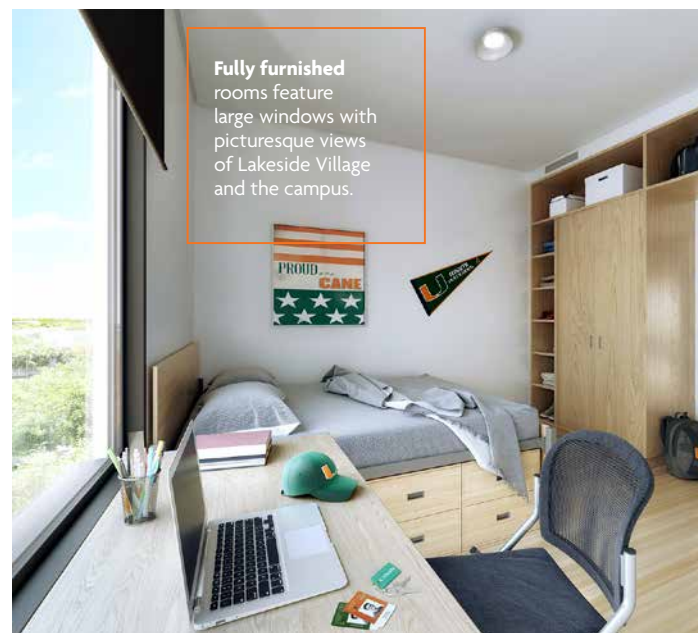
Elevating the living space on 25-foot concrete pillars frees the ground level for gardens.



MODERN, SPACIOUS KITCHENS



OPEN CONCEPT, TWO-STORY LOBBY ATRIUM



Fully furnished rooms feature large windows with picturesque views of Lakeside Village and the campus.

## Dorms: You've come a long way

From the eight-unit women's dormitory on LeJeune and Santander, opened in 1927 and operated by "Mom and Pop Koch," to Lakeside Village and phases of the Housing Facilities Strategic Plan to follow, student housing at the University has come a long way.

Among the most important in terms of supporting student success is the understanding of how students evolve during their time in college.

"There's a ton of change that happens between a student's first and senior years, and this period is the last time where you're going to have that type of change," says Whitely, noting that the University actively seeks to align housing assignments to students' development.

With Lakeside complete, the next phase is Centennial Village, which calls for the replacement of Stanford Residential College with two new residential colleges, followed by the removal of Hecht Residential College, which also will be replaced with two new residential colleges. Phase Three entails the renovation or replacement of both Eaton and Mahoney-Pearson residential colleges.

Smart says the new construction advances the aspirational goals of the University's Roadmap to Our New Century strategic plan. "Certainly, the University has a lot going for it in terms of geography and our diverse community, and this exceptional new housing facility advances our commitment to diversity, sustainability, and excellence by maximizing those natural advantages," Smart says.

His intense involvement over these past eight years—from white paper submission to the first student stepping into Lakeside Village's sunlit atrium and walking up the winding orange staircase—has left a gratifying impression.

"I've developed tremendous respect for our architects, the project manager, the engineers, the hundreds of players who make a project like this work," Smart says. "It's a juggling game getting the most value out of the resources available—and you don't get it all right ever—but I have been awed by what's been accomplished here." ■

phase



Centennial Village is the next phase in the University's plan to modernize campus housing.

Lakeside Village Key Features

**Green roofs**—one of the many features associated with Lakeside Village's LEED Gold certification—reduce and slow water runoff, provide food for pollinator species of animals, and serve to naturally insulate the building.

**The Expo Center**, an open-concept black box space, allows event planners to manipulate the space to use it for art galleries, career fairs, and other events.

**The Pavilion**, a multipurpose room with dividers that lower from the ceiling, will serve as a place for meetings and workshops.

**An outdoor study pad**—the Chef's Table—serves as a collaborative space for learning, recreation, and community events.

**The 200-seat auditorium** with retractable seating, an integrated audio-visual system, catwalk, and dressing room—also a flexible space—will feature performances and theater-type entertainment.

**The bottom floor retail space** offers a range of services: a Smoothie King, a restaurant that makes specialty foods on a waffle iron, a UPS Customer Center (reserved for residential students), and a Golden Touch barbershop.

**An educational hub**, also on the ground level, provides for a classroom with 270 degrees of windows, a training room for student groups or organizations, and a study lounge with priority for Lakeside Village residents.



More information is available at [miami.edu/newstudenthousing](https://miami.edu/newstudenthousing)



# SUMMIT ADDRESSES THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

**With climate change one of the defining issues of this century, the University of Miami held a symposium that examined the link between extreme weather and our changing climate.**

**BY ROBERT C. JONES JR.**



The fires started burning on the planet's smallest continent last September, and nearly a month after the calendar had changed to a new decade, they were still raging. For South Florida's coastal-dwelling residents, it is hurricanes, not fires, that typically cause angst. But the blazes burning in Australia, while more than 10,000 miles away, were cause for concern. Much like increasingly warmer ocean temperatures that are supercharging tropical cyclones, longer and more frequent periods of extreme heat and drought are stoking flames not only in the Land Down Under, but also in many other parts of the world.



That was one of the many harsh realities about global warming revealed to an audience of more than 500 people who gathered inside the University of Miami Watsco Center Fieldhouse on Jan. 24 for the public forum, which closed out the Miami Climate Symposium 2020, a three-day summit that examined the link between extreme weather and climate change.

Merging science and discussion with inquiry, the two-hour forum also provided guests, many of them students concerned about the fate of planet Earth, a sneak peek at CNN anchor Bill Weir’s upcoming environmental special.

“Few challenges are as complex as climate change,” President Julio Frenk said in opening the event, which capped off two days of scientific discussions at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science on Virginia Key—where a dream team of researchers from across the country met to discuss how hurricanes, storm surge, coastal flooding, and other weather phenomena are being exacerbated by a changing climate.

“We are both the producers and the beneficiaries of the knowledge on this topic,” Frenk said, “and we have both a sense of urgency about applying that knowledge to ourselves and also a driving sense of responsibility for helping to save the planet we all share.”

While the inaugural symposium focused on extreme weather, future summits will delve into other areas to provide what Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, called “a holistic picture of the impact of climate change.”

Researchers and scientists from California to Canada and from Pennsylvania to Peru led the two days of rigorous scientific talks, examining everything from tropical cyclones, extreme rainfall, and drought to coastal flooding, heat waves, and fires. Among some of the topics discussed: climate adaptation, extreme seasonal temperatures, improving resilience to the health impacts of sea level rise, flood hazard assessments of the southern U.S., shoreline protection systems, and wildfire adaptation in California.

All told, more than 100 experts participated in the discussions, with University of Miami faculty members representing a fair share of that total. Others came from such distinguished institutions as Columbia University and University of Pennsylvania, and scientific agencies like NOAA and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Also represented were a major power utility, as well as resiliency officers from South Florida municipalities that



Ben Kirtman, professor of atmospheric sciences at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, points out some climate truths facing our planet.



Katharine Mach, associate professor of marine ecosystems and society at the Rosenstiel School, says public participation can play a major role in climate change response.



SUSTAIN generates hurricane-force conditions.



University of Miami President Julio Frenk

“FEW CHALLENGES ARE AS COMPLEX AS CLIMATE CHANGE.”

—President Julio Frenk

are on the front lines of sea level rise. And though their areas of expertise varied, they all had a common message: climate change is not only real, it is having a profound influence on weather patterns around the world.

“This symposium shows that we want to be at the forefront of climate change. We have faculty who are talking about it. So, hopefully, it will inspire students to get involved.” —Raymond Leibensperger III

At the public forum, Ben Kirtman, professor of atmospheric sciences at the Rosenstiel School, laid bare some of the hard climate truths facing our planet. “We’re definitely going to get more rainfall from hurricanes—no question about it, the science is solid,” he said. “It’s also extremely likely that we’re going to see more Category 4 and 5 hurricanes.”

Kirtman’s statement was of paramount importance to Kurt

Hansen, a Rosenstiel School doctoral student who is investigating the predictability of tropical cyclone activity. “This was a good way to get the public as well as other scientists interested in climate change, and I hope we’ll have it next year with an even bigger attendance,” Hansen said.

Other students shared his enthusiasm over the symposium. “It’s critical for UM students to see that we are taking climate change seriously because in Florida there has been a lot of brushing it under the rug,” said Raymond Leibensperger III, a senior studying marine science and applied physics. “This symposium shows that we want to be at the forefront of climate change. We have faculty who are talking about it. So, hopefully, it will inspire students to get involved.”

Weir previewed his special report, “The Road to Change,” which begins at ground zero for climate change, South Florida, where sea level rise has dominated environmental discussions. The CNN anchor also moderated a panel that included University of Miami researchers, local journalists, and government and public utility officials.

During the panel, Kirtman called attention to some of the efforts underway at the Rosenstiel School to solve some of

the mysteries of extreme weather events, most notably, why hurricanes intensify.

“We’ve been improving year over year with getting the track for hurricanes better. But the intensity has turned out to be a really tough nut to crack,” he said, noting that the school’s air-sea interaction tank, SUSTAIN, which generates hurricane-force conditions, could solve the problem.

“SUSTAIN is specifically designed to figure out how that exchange of heat and momentum between the atmosphere and the ocean determines the intensity of storms,” he said. “If we’re able to do the science right, we think we can solve that intensity problem. And it’ll help us understand why we’ll see more Category 4 and 5 storms.”

Public participation, said Katharine Mach, associate professor of marine ecosystems and society at the Rosenstiel School, can play a major role in climate change response. “This is not going to happen from one individual making a choice,” she explained. “It’s about whole societies coming together and changing rapidly, nonlinearly, in ways that we know societies can but haven’t yet done for climate change.” ■





A Miller School clinic helps its patients to

*thrive*

**The THRIVE clinic is a one-stop shop that provides comprehensive health care to victims of human trafficking.**

**BY ROBERT C. JONES JR.**

**THOSE FIRST FEW PATIENTS HAD FALLEN THROUGH THE CRACKS YEARS AGO, AND SHUFFLED** from city to city, seldom knowing precisely where they were or even what day it was. They were someone's daughter, someone's sister. And, like all young girls, they had dreams—to be a schoolteacher, a singer, a scientist. But in what turned out to be a living nightmare, their hopes, along with their innocence, were shattered by human traffickers who used force, fraud, and fear to control them. When JoNell Potter, M.S.N. '87, Ph.D. '03, a University of Miami Miller School of Medicine nurse, encountered the women, they had already been rescued and sheltered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Now, after

years of neglect, they needed medical attention, and DHS asked Potter to provide it. At the time, it didn't seem like a daunting request, certainly nothing that Potter—a professor of clinical obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences—couldn't handle. After all, in the early 1980s, when the HIV/AIDS epidemic emerged in Miami, she was one of the first health care workers on the front lines, helping to design a comprehensive, multidisciplinary model of care that allowed women and children living with HIV to access medical services.

She would quickly learn, however, that these women and others like them that DHS and local law enforcement agencies subsequently brought to her for treatment presented a whole new set of health care challenges beyond the scope of anything her team had in place. "It was not just a matter of performing a simple GYN exam," Potter recalls. "They had experienced trauma, and they had tremendous medical care and mental health needs." Some of the women had suffered broken bones that never healed properly, and, in a few cases, some had been branded with tattoos by their pimps to show ownership.

Even the simplest of tasks were a challenge for them. "They couldn't sit in a waiting room," Potter says. "I would sit next to them, and I could see the anxiety start to mount because there were too many people. And, they had been brainwashed into thinking the traffickers were going to come looking for them. And, if not the traffickers, people who were working for the traffickers."

Potter had already assembled a cadre of providers—nurse practitioners, physicians, and psychologists—who were all willing to help. But what was needed most, she knew, was a dedicated space just for the survivors.

So, she called the county's top prosecutor, Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, B.Ed. '73.

"She advocated on our behalf," Potter says of Fernandez Rundle's efforts. "She made it clear that there was a gap in health care access for these patients and that they desperately needed specialized, trauma-informed health care services."

Shortly thereafter, the Trafficking Healthcare Resources and Intra-Disciplinary Victim Services and Education clinic, or THRIVE, was born.

A collaboration between the Miller School of Medicine and Jackson Health System, the clinic, which Potter, its inaugural director, describes as "a one-stop shop" for human trafficking victims, provides

everything from primary and gynecological care to psychiatric and behavioral health services under one roof. DHS, the Human Trafficking Unit of the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office, and other anti-human trafficking organizations refer victims to the clinic.

But what makes this model one of the first of its kind is the way it administers health care, starting with the way patients are brought in.

There is no waiting area—patients are admitted and discharged inside the examination room. "This isn't the way medicine usually operates," says Panagiota Caralis, B.S. '71, M.D. '75, a professor of medicine at the Miller School and medical director for THRIVE. "You never have a registration, an exam, and a discharge in one place. But it's been done that way in recognition of the sensitivities of these patients."

While most of the patients need care from multiple specialists, THRIVE never requires them to navigate a maze of medical facilities. The providers come to them. And, to avoid re-traumatizing patients, their medical histories are taken only once. "Survivors often cannot remember or do not want to remember," says Potter. "Their stories change over time. They aren't lying. They have blocked out the trauma to survive."

Mental health care is their most critical need, with many of them showing all the classic symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder—flashbacks, nightmares, depression, and suicide attempts.

"We can't just say, 'OK, I'm going to treat your hypertension and send you on your merry way,'" says Caralis, who is also medical director for women veterans health at the Miami Veterans Administration. "The mental health piece is key to having them come back into the community as productive people who are able to function on their own and not fall back because there is no other choice. It's going to take role models and peers to help them make it. And we're looking at a program to try and do that."

Each referral, and successful treatment, is a victory of gargantuan proportions for the THRIVE team, as they have painfully come to realize that even getting survivors

—continued on page 37



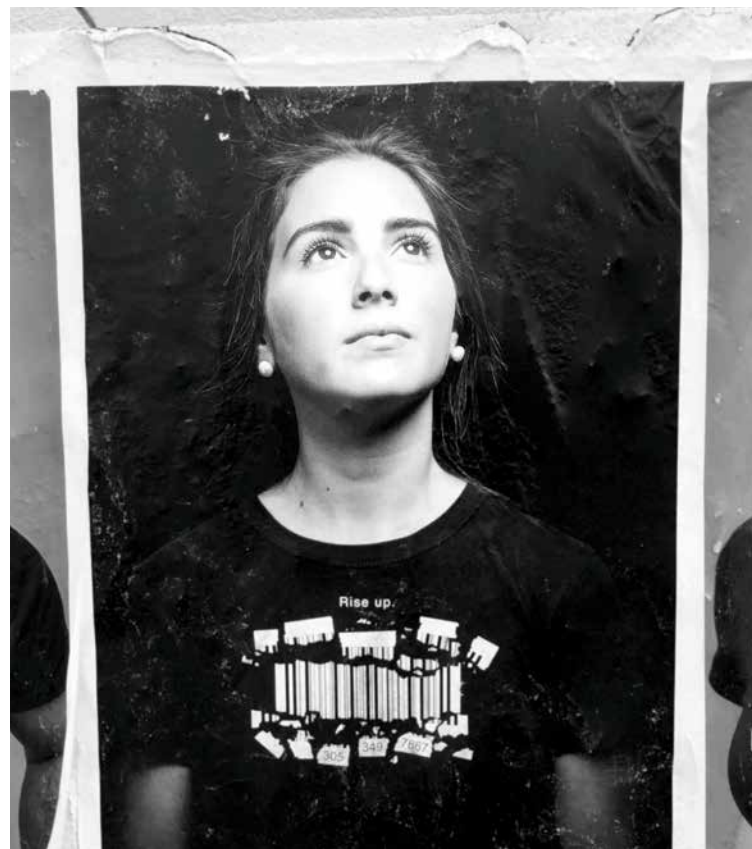
# 56,504

cases of human trafficking reported nationwide since 2007

# 3,737

cases of human trafficking reported in Florida

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Statistics as of June 2019



## From posters to barcodes, Miller School of Medicine students put the spotlight on human trafficking

The first poster went up just after 6 a.m. on Saturday in December; and by day's end, some 3,000 others had been pasted all over Mana Contemporary's Wynwood campus in Miami—on walls, building facades, and light posts.

"If this is what it takes to raise awareness about human trafficking, so be it," says Jazlyn Merida, a second-year University of Miami Miller School of Medicine student, as she affixed a poster to a cement wall.

Merida is part of a medical school student organization formerly known as Code Rise, which has been working since last fall to shine a spotlight on what is believed to be the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world, second only to the lucrative drug trade.

The posters, of which there are 70 different versions, depict people of all ethnic groups and races wearing black T-shirts with a broken barcode on the front—the design serving as a symbolic message to human traffickers, who are known to brand their victims—to show ownership, that no child or adult is for sale.

Some of the people on the posters are actual human trafficking survivors. Others are medical students and residents from all over Miami-Dade County. "But you would never know who was who, just by looking at them," says Miller School medical student Isabella Ferré, M.P.H. '18.

"And that's our point," says Merida. "You would think it's somebody you'd never see on the street or somebody you wouldn't know. But there's really no stereotypical human trafficking victim. It could have been any of us in a different place, a different time, and that's why it's important to raise awareness."

The poster campaign in Wynwood is just one of many efforts undertaken by Merida and Ferré's organization to combat human trafficking. They have also conducted training sessions for health care providers and medical students, teaching them what warning signs to look for in patients who may be victims of human trafficking.

And, during Super Bowl weekend in Miami, they unveiled a temporary tattoo of a broken bar code, featuring it at Super Bowl-related events and on social media outlets, T-shirts, and even umbrellas. The tattoo also contains the national trafficking hotline number, providing what Ferré calls a lifeline for those who might need it.

National human trafficking hotline number

## 1-888-373-7888

—continued from page 35

to walk through the clinic's door hinges on law enforcement's ability to rescue and persuade victims to cooperate. And accomplishing that task, says Fernandez Rundle, can be exceedingly difficult, as many victims are unwilling to cooperate for fear of retaliation at the hands of their traffickers.

Much like Potter was once unaware of the serious health consequences trafficking victims face, Fernandez Rundle's office found itself at a similar disadvantage eight years ago after learning that Florida ranked No. 2 in the nation for human trafficking cases, with Miami one of the primary hotspots.

"So, we set out to learn and understand what it actually was, who and where the victims were, and where in Miami-Dade the predators were," notes Fernandez Rundle.

Her office established a human trafficking unit and a task force made up of police officers from multiple agencies. Soon, their caseload of human trafficking-related cases mushroomed, going from only three in 2012 to more than 600 today.

Fernandez Rundle calls the partnership with THRIVE invaluable, saying the clinic has helped victims heal and become strong enough "to break the emotional chains of their enslavement and be an effective part of a criminal prosecution."

THRIVE physicians, nurses, and social workers, explains Potter, have been able to break those emotional chains by building trust with the victims, employing patient navigators—usually survivors themselves who have reentered the workforce—to chaperone new survivors through each clinical visit.

## One of those patient navigators is Shanika Ampah, a mother of nine.

Sexually abused as a child, Ampah ran away from home at the age of 11 and fell victim to a criminal enterprise that generates global profits of \$150 billion a year—nearly \$100 billion of which comes from commercial sexual exploitation.

"When I was being trafficked, it wasn't a 9-to-5 situation," she says. "The beatings came at 3 in the morning when you didn't make your quota."

At 18, Ampah got pregnant, and that's when things started to turn around. She escaped her pimp, got back into school and became a medical assistant and then a licensed practical nurse, taking a giant step toward becoming independent.

Today, working at THRIVE is her passion. "I can empathize with [the patients], empower them, and let them know that this is just one moment in their lives that shouldn't define them and that they can overcome it," Ampah says.



Shanika Ampah, nurse and patient navigator

JoNell Potter, Miller School clinical professor and director of THRIVE

Latoya Johnson, program director for THRIVE



one moment in their *lives* shouldn't define them —Shanika Ampah

As an outreach coordinator, she visits those streets where she once walked, going into dark alleys to share resources—and her story—with victims. She is street savvy enough to know how to avoid confrontations, fully aware that traffickers and pimps could be watching.

It should not have taken a Super Bowl coming to Miami to shine a spotlight on the problem, Ampah says. "We have Ultra, spring breaks, boat shows, a Memorial Day weekend celebration—human trafficking is here year-round," she adds.

Not all of Potter's battles have been fought advocating for and administering care to survivors. It has also been a fight for funding. While a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime supports some aspects of the clinic, grants do not cover everything—and they don't last forever, leaving the clinic with the challenge of finding additional support to sustain services. So, donations have helped take up the slack.

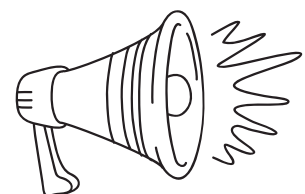
THRIVE is being replicated in at least one other Florida county and in Atlanta, where Juhi Jain, M.D. '15, currently in the second year of a pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at Emory University's Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, is working with a team of physicians to establish a health care and victim services model.

Five years ago, it was Jain who sowed the seeds for what would become THRIVE, when she applied for and received an Arsht Research on Ethics and Community Grant to educate health care professionals about human trafficking through educational seminars.

Potter says THRIVE is succeeding, noting the low recidivism rates among survivors who are treated there.

"Our patients," she says, "are successfully reengineering their lives." ■





BY ASHLEY A. WILLIAMS

# Visit to nation's capital inspires civic-minded undergrads

**The Leadership UMiami program gives students a greater understanding of what community activism really means.**

LONDON COLES KEPT HIS EYES ON THE DOME OF THE U.S. CAPITOL AS HE APPROACHED THE GRASSY LAWN IN FRONT OF the home of the U.S. Congress. Once through the security checkpoint, the sound of ringing bells, signaling the day's opening session, echoed off the white pillars and high marble walls. Coles was thrilled to be enveloped by the history inside. Since he was a child growing up in Tallahassee, Florida, he has been fascinated by American history, learning about everything from the exploits of George Washington during the Revolutionary War to the increase in women and minority participation in government service. It was his love of history and nation that prompted Coles to apply to Leadership UMiami, a program for University of Miami students who seek to hone their critical thinking skills to evoke positive changes at the University and beyond.

“Arguably, the greatest component of this trip was to expect the unexpected.”

—Landon Coles



It was Landon Coles' love of history and nation that prompted him to apply to Leadership UMiami.



The immersive program began in the 2019 fall semester and concluded with the trip to Washington in January.



The group met with U.S. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, D-FL, who then escorted them through the cellar-like underground tunnels, leading them to the historic House Gallery, where they walked through doors and sat in seats overlooking the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Arguably, the greatest component of this trip was to expect the unexpected,” says Coles, a sophomore majoring in political science, referring to the five days he spent in Washington, D.C., as part of the Butler Center for Service and Leadership’s third annual Leadership UMiami program.

“The House floor was reminiscent of a high school social hour, with the representatives speaking loudly and animatedly with allies from near and far,” he says. “The only word to describe this surreal experience is gratitude.”

The immersive program began in the 2019 fall semester and concluded with the trip to Washington in January, where students learned from the vast knowledge of faculty, administrators, elected officials, alumni, and each other. Through in-depth sessions of self-discovery and reflection on the Coral Gables campus to interacting with Miami’s local community leaders and elected officials, the program allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of what community activism and engagement truly means.

“You can’t create change until you know yourself,” says Giovanni Sibilia, a junior in the program.

Andrew Wiemer, director of the Butler Center for Service and Leadership, says the purpose of the trip is to learn how

to create positive social change on topics that each student personally cares about.

Dinora Orozco has embraced the topic of immigration and family separation, and has been following the policies that determine the future of those affected. Her passionate and personal connection to the topic led the senior, who is majoring in political science, to found Lucha Latina, a student organization that works to empower women of Central American descent on campus. She says she likes the work of U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-NY, and was nearly moved to tears when she waved at the group while in the House Gallery.

“It’s people like her who are trying to make a difference that inspires me to be all that I can,” says Orozco.

The trip provided the students an up-close look at the work of D.C.’s decision makers. They explored Capitol Hill, met with leaders from NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, and spoke with Jake Steel, deputy director of the U.S. Department of Education.

Doreen Gustave, a junior and member of the Leadership UMiami 2020 cohort, says she had no clue how much the trajectory of her life would change following her visit to Washington.

“This experience has changed my mindset and has made me be more open-minded,” says Gustave, who added health management policy as a minor during the trip. “Just because I was going down one career path doesn’t mean that’s where I have to stay.”

Because of the Leadership UMiami program, Dianne Stephen, a junior majoring in health science and public health, now has a clearer idea of her future plans. Coming into the program, she didn’t know what to expect, as she is enrolled in a STEM-related program—unlike others in the program who are pursuing political science and related study.

“This experience has motivated me to want to open a company of my own one day,” says Stephen. “I now know that I want to dedicate my time assisting in the nonprofit sector. I would love to open an organization that donates medical supplies to clinics in Haiti.”

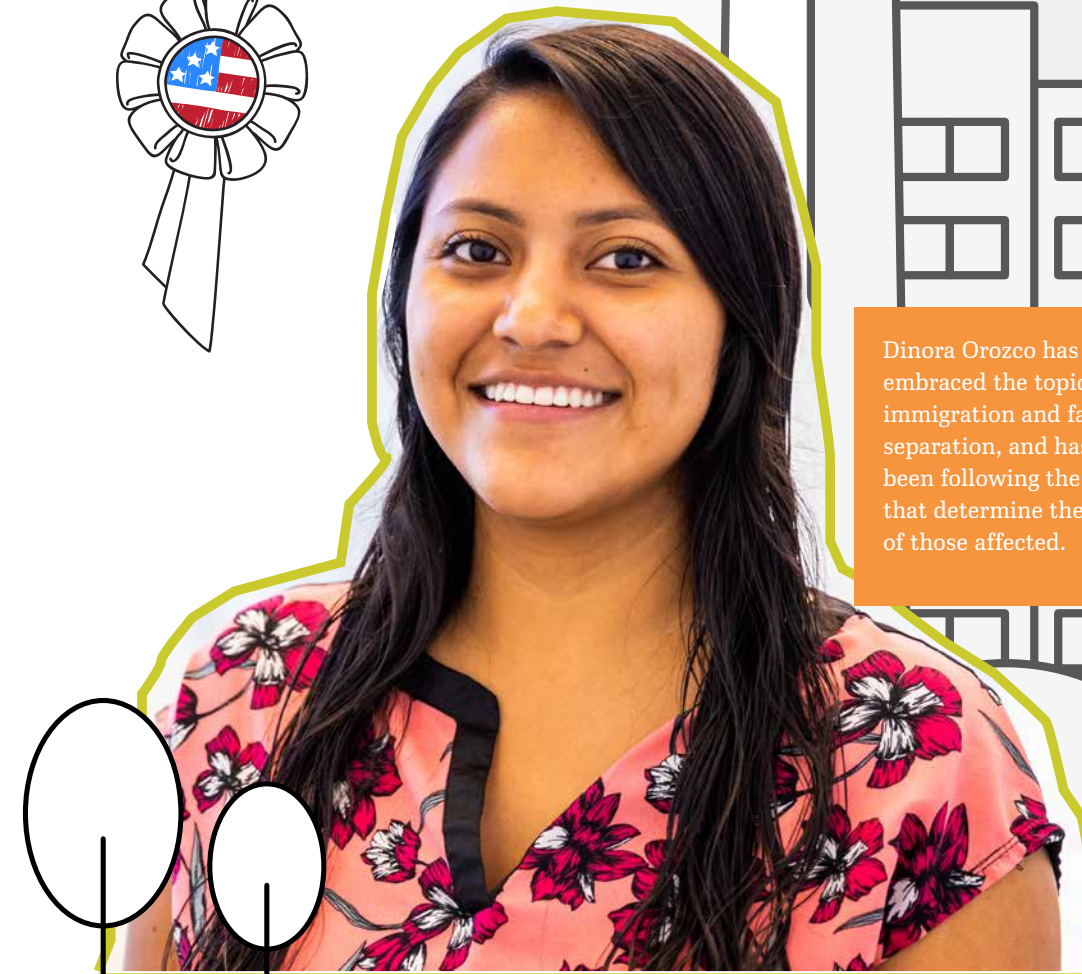
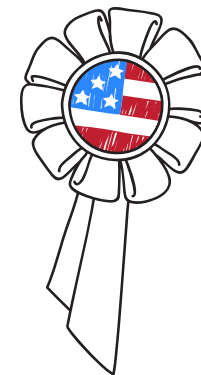
While in D.C., the students also visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture and networked with alumni, including Johnny C. Taylor Jr., B.SC. ’89, president and CEO of Society for Human Resource Management and a member of the University’s Board of Trustees.

For Stephen and others, seeing elected officials and alumni in action has “undeniably empowered” them to use their skills and voice to be future leaders of their communities.

“I am so grateful for this opportunity to explore my interests,” Stephen says. “As a civic scholar, this has truly been an eye-opening experience.” ■

“People who are trying to make a difference inspire me to be all that I can.”

—Dinora Orozco

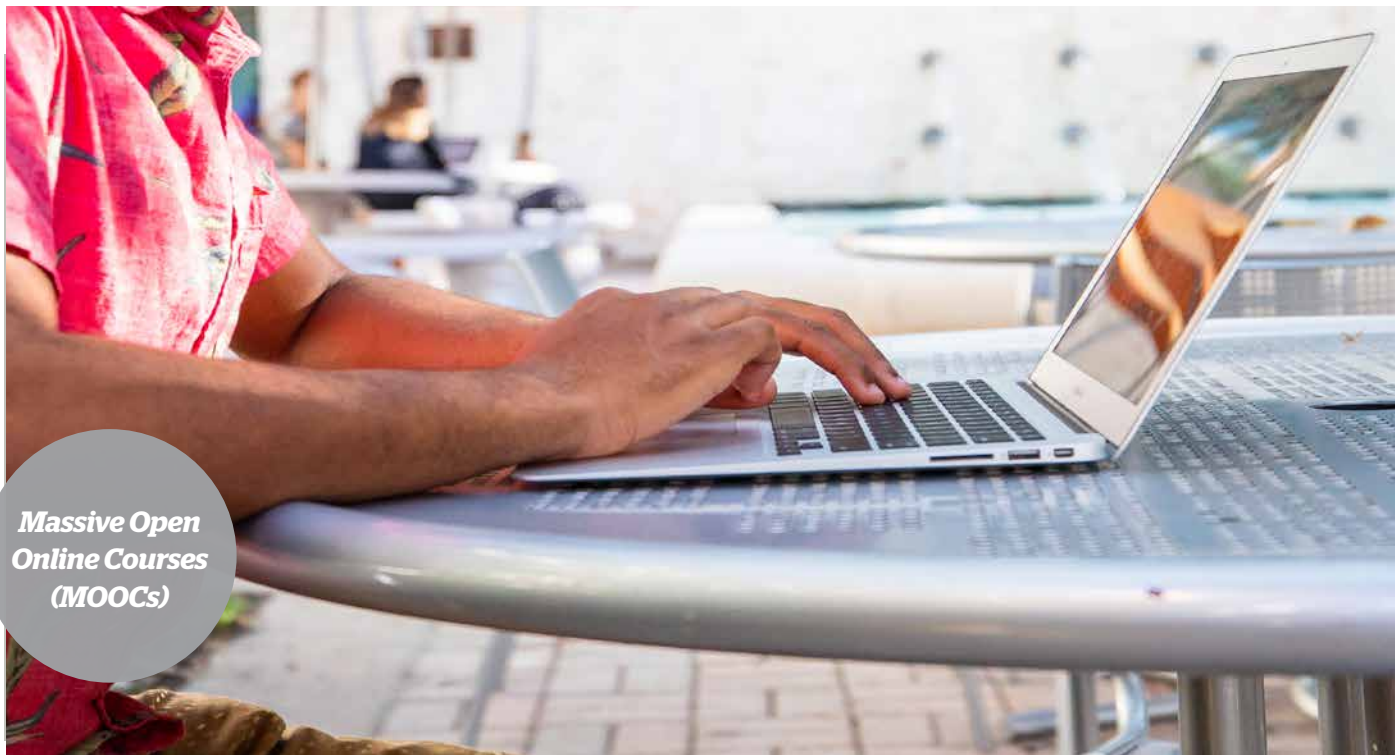


Dinora Orozco has embraced the topic of immigration and family separation, and has been following the policies that determine the future of those affected.



## Nurturing Your Career and Mind for Life

Continue your University of Miami learning through enhanced digital tools



Massive Open  
Online Courses  
(MOOCs)

An exciting new partnership for interdisciplinary learning, Education for Life, opens up modernized online courses and digital tools for University of Miami alumni. The new initiative, a collaboration between the Division of Continuing and International Education and the Office of Engagement, brings resources and in-depth learning programs to alumni, no matter where they are.

“A student’s relationship with the University of Miami does not end with the awarding of a degree,” says President Julio Frenk. “We are excited to shape the future of education by adopting a flexible, open, and holistic approach to learning—one that creates opportunities for lifelong engagement.”

The digital platform provides access to Massive Open Online Courses

“We want to support the goals and aspirations of those who have graduated from UM long into their careers.”

—Sarah Seavey

(MOOCs). More than 1,400 alumni signed up to participate in the first two courses, which launched in February.

Stephanie Acosta-Castro, B.S.Ed. ’08, was one of the first to complete the MOOC

How to Build Relationships: Coaching in Modern Times. As an ESE coach at Coral Park Elementary—a PreK-5 public school within Miami-Dade County Public Schools—Castro found the resource to be critical.

“The coaching course provided relevant information on being a 21st-century leader while proving opportunities to self-reflect through a growth mindset,” Castro says. “The Education for Life courses offered through the UM Alumni Association are a great opportunity to build upon current knowledge while receiving updates and training in relevant practices that leaders are facing in today’s ever-evolving workplace.”

The second MOOC, Cybersecurity: Incident Response and Decision Making, explores the foundational

knowledge of cybersecurity and related areas, helping to prepare leaders who can navigate the challenges presented by cyber incidents. There will be new courses designed around current topics and announced each semester.

In addition to online learning, the University of Miami is focusing on strengthening alumni career services, with new initiatives providing career support and resources to alumni throughout their career journey. Among these is Career Corner, the new alumni career services online platform.

“We want to support the goals and aspirations of those who have graduated from UM long into their careers,” says Sarah Seavey, director of alumni career

services. “It is our mission to build strong connections with our alumni and serve their diverse professional needs to the best of our ability.”

The new Career Corner platform allows alumni of all career phases to easily navigate a range of career development resources, events, and job openings available to the ’Canes network. It also features Cane2Cane, the University’s online mentorship directory that connects students with alumni mentors, launched last fall as part of the interconnected deck of resources.

The site, developed in partnership with uConnect, the leading provider of career services marketing systems for higher education, provides a wealth

of career content curated into industry clusters, allowing users to browse resources related to their career interest and where they are in their careers.

Alumni can now conduct self-directed, customized career development anytime and anywhere. ’Canes at any stage of their career—whether they are actively looking for work or just hoping to strengthen their professional networks or seeking to employ University of Miami alumni—can access the platform.

Visit [alumnicareer.miami.edu](https://alumnicareer.miami.edu) to learn more about Career Corner.

## Meet the CEO

Bojangles’ president and CEO offers professional advice

At age 14, he was fired from his first job—flipping hamburgers at his neighborhood McDonald’s on Southwest 8th Street in Miami. Nearly 30 years later, as an executive for McDonald’s and on his way to Latin America, he saw a magazine ad for the University of Miami’s two-year Master of Science in Professional Management program, taught in Spanish. Always longing to be a ’Cane and to earn a master’s degree, he immediately enrolled in the program. He said that graduating from the program in 2003 “filled both a professional and emotional void.” He also became a face for the program, appearing in the same ad that caught his attention years earlier.

As the featured speaker at a Meet the CEO event held this past spring in Charlotte, North Carolina, Bojangles’ president and CEO Jose Armario, M.S. ’03, covered a range of topics including diversity at the workplace, work-life balance, leadership style, team building, and business ethics. Fellow ’Cane Debra Morgan, B.S.C. ’88, anchor at North Carolina’s WRAL-TV, shared the stage with Armario, interviewing him about his career and lessons learned.



Jose Armario, M.S. ’03, CEO, Bojangles’

His advice to aspiring CEOs: “Be true to who you are, don’t be someone else, learn from others, and take on more than others believe you can. I was always the person who raised my hand to do the job nobody wanted to do,” Armario said. “See the opportunity, not just the challenge. If you’re a little scared, that’s a good thing. If you’re a little timid, a little worried, you’re going to make sure you do it right.”

In 2019, the University of Miami Alumni Association launched Meet the CEO. The program features notable alumni from across the country and introduces them to alumni and friends through an interactive Q&A discussion in their hometown. The CEOs are interviewed by alumni news personalities.



## 'Canes Brewing Success

The craft beer market is on the rise, and these 'Canes have found the right ingredients



Four thriving breweries in the Miami area have University of Miami alumni leading the way—inventing and producing unique brews.

### Beat Culture Brewery and Kitchen

—Dan Espino, A.B. '05

Beat Culture Brewery and Kitchen is a partnership between brothers Dan and Alan Espino and chief brewer, Erik Durr. Dan Espino, city attorney for Miami Springs, worked closely with his family and friends to open the unconventional brewery in the former Eastern Airlines employee lounge. Many of the managing partners are also Hurricane graduates.

Espino, the youngest elected official in the history of Miami Springs, was named “elected official of the year” by the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Alan Espino, who earned his science degree from Florida International University and is trained in microbiology, works alongside Durr brewing batches of beer and concocting original recipes for everything from honey-meats to hot sauce.

### Nightlife Brewing Company

—Juan O’Naghten, B.S. '10, B.B.A. '10

Juan O’Naghten built Nightlife from the ground up. As a former U.S. Army paratrooper, he’s determined to learn all he can about craft beer. O’Naghten worked diligently building his business plan while earning dual degrees in psychology and business. He applauds the support and mentorship of the University’s Launch Pad, which helps students and alumni to start, build, and scale businesses.

For O’Naghten, the brewery is a foray into Miami’s craft beer industry. But this is just the beginning, he admits. His

brewery, located next to Marlins Park, is poised to scale with the growth of the market. Nightlife brews are also stocked at local markets and are poured at more than 200 restaurants.

### The Tank Brewing Company

—Carlos Padron, B.B.A. '86, J.D. '90

Opening in 2017, The Tank Brewing Company was built out of a passion for Miami, cigars, and craft beer. After graduating from the University of Miami School of Law, Carlos Padron joined a law firm in downtown Coral Gables. He established a close friendship with the family affiliated with Plasencia Cigars and built a connection over the years.

As the craft beer scene became more intriguing to Padron, he and his family decided to transform their warehouse space into a modern brewery and tropical oasis in Doral.

Padron says that the craft brewing business is a lot of fun—keeping in tune with the local market, emerging trends, and ways to incorporate Miami style into the brews. For Padron, The Tank is a family business—employing his son, Carlos (Caki) Padron, A.B. '14, as well as his son-in-law and his numerous family friends.

### Unbranded Brewing

—Zachary Swanson, M.A. '15 and Lance Aschliman, Ph.D. '17

The team from Unbranded Brewing Co. identified one of the most opportune areas of Miami to open their craft brewery—Hialeah. Nestled next to the commercial train tracks that helped to build commerce in the area, the warehouse space has been fully transformed to house the largest brewery in the county.

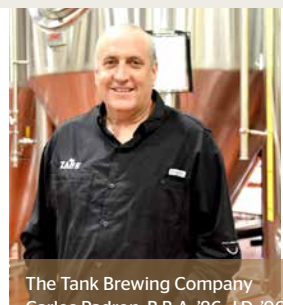
Connecting and forming a friendship while studying philosophy at the U, owner Zachary Swanson and chief brewer Lance Aschliman have crafted the brewery out of simplicity—a love for beer and a call for authenticity. Coined “the original Mavericks,” Swanson’s family history in Texas brings deep ties to operating in an untraditional manner. The bold move to open a brewery in an underutilized part of town is exactly the recipe for success that the pair is seeking.



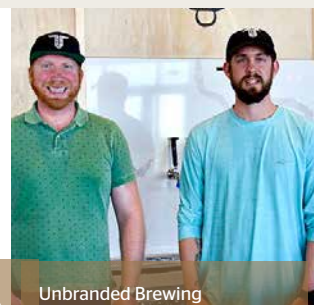
Nightlife Brewing Company  
Juan O’Naghten, B.S. '10, B.B.A. '10



Beat Culture Brewery and Kitchen  
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Unbranded Brewing  
Zachary Swanson, M.A. '15  
and Lance Aschliman, Ph.D. '17

## 'Canes Communities Support Local Students with Scholarships

Money raised helps to provide critical financial aid to deserving undergraduates

**Growing up in Florida, Carolina Carvajalino knew from a young age that she wanted to study at the University of Miami. And, thanks to a new challenge to encourage alumni support of scholarships within the 'Canes Communities, Carvajalino's desire to attend the U is no longer just a dream but a reality.**

“Carvajalino received one of the first eight 'Canes Community Scholarships awarded to current University of Miami students, with each community’s scholarship geared toward an incoming freshman from that respective community.

The support that Carvajalino has received from fellow Broward County 'Canes has exceeded her expectations,



Broward County 'Canes celebrated the highest participation rate by engaging the most donors for the scholarship challenge.

including the connections that she also has made. “As a first-generation university student, the academic and financial relief provided by such a scholarship is truly unmatched,” she says. “To be recognized for such a scholarship is nothing but inspiring to both my parents and me.”

Ken Graff, B.B.A. '98, M.B.A. '03, Broward 'Canes Community president, shares the pride in leading a local community of alumni. “Being part of the U family starts as soon as you are accepted and then never ends,” Graff declares. “Our ability to show that we are here for students from the beginning will help them now and also in the future when they are looking for jobs, mentoring, counseling, or anything else that the local 'Canes Communities can offer.”

“Being recognized and supported by fellow 'Canes accurately portrays the family-orientated environment of the University of Miami,” states Carvajalino. “Receiving support from alumni not

only serves as encouragement but reestablishes the importance of being an avid participant in one’s local community.”

Melanie Martinez McDonald, B.B.A. '07, Palm Beach 'Canes Community leader, is passionate about volunteering and making an impact with students and alumni.

“As Miami Hurricanes, we have an obligation to support the University that molded us into the people we are today,” McDonald states. “As alumni, we should devote time to ensure our alma mater can create a legacy that lives on indefinitely,” she adds. “Knowing that we have the ability to play a small part in helping a deserving UM student realize their dream is heartwarming.”



Visit [alumni.miami.edu](https://alumni.miami.edu) for more information and to support a 'Canes Community Scholarship.





## Alumna Gives Back to Her Adopted Bahamas

From her home in St. Louis, Tara Conway Copper, M.D. '10, watched news reports of Hurricane Dorian barreling across the Atlantic Ocean toward the Bahamas, and a possible Florida landfall.

Her parents, John and Maureen Conway, were hunkered down in Nassau on New Providence Island. Her younger sister, Jena Conway, was in Fort Lauderdale. When Dorian hit the northern islands of the Bahamas and stalled over Grand Bahama Island and Great Abaco Island, battering the islands with winds peaking at 185 mph, huge storm surge, and unpredictable tornadoes, Copper wondered how the people there would survive. "I just couldn't fathom what it must have been like on the ground," she says.

Copper spent a week in the Bahamas in January, helping at the Marsh Harbour Healthcare Clinic in the heart of Great Abaco Island. Copper was the first University of Miami Miller School of Medicine graduate to be part of a rotation of University of Miami physicians spending weeklong stints at the clinic to help doctors there provide treatment to residents returning to the stricken island.

Copper is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and works in the emergency room at the St. Louis Children's Hospital.



Tara Conway Copper, left, poses with Evette Thimothee of Nassau at the Marsh Harbour Healthcare Centre on Great Abaco Island.

Before attending the University of Florida for her undergraduate studies, Copper lived and went to high school in Nassau for two years in the late 1990s, and her parents still call the Bahamas home.

After Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas on Sept. 1, 2019, Copper reached out to her family and friends in Nassau, trying unsuccessfully to find someone who could connect her with volunteer efforts on the ground. "I felt my hands were a little bit tied and that I couldn't find a way in," she acknowledges.

In December, she found the way in when she checked the Miller School Facebook page to get information about her 10-year reunion. There, she saw a post by classmate Elizabeth Greig, M.D. '10, who was asking if anyone was interested in volunteering in Marsh Harbour.

Greig, along with Barth A. Green,

executive dean of global health and community service at the Miller School of Medicine, have spearheaded efforts to help in the Bahamas and had been working closely with the Bahamas Ministry of Health to coordinate resources.

When Copper arrived in Marsh Harbour in January, it was her first visit to the town. She was struck by the devastation on the island, which is facing a Herculean effort to rebuild. "Every single building I have seen was severely damaged," she says. "It just seemed so upside down."

At the Marsh Harbour Healthcare Centre, Copper worked the overnight shift, treating a steady stream of patients for various ailments. Copper admits that her experience at the clinic has been inspiring. Many of her cohorts volunteered for two or three tours of duty. "I'm just in awe of the team and their work ethic," Copper says.

—Peter Howard

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## TV Host and Cancer Survivor Finds New Purpose

Emmy-award winner David Aizer was living the dream.

From hosting Nickelodeon's popular "Slime Time Live" and the "Kids' Choice Award" red carpet show to Disney's "ESPN Club" and even American Idol's online content, Aizer, B.S.C. '96, had built a successful career in broadcast at a young age.

It had been his dream since his days doing the morning announcements as a junior at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. At the University of Miami, Aizer had immersed himself in journalism, serving as sports director for WVUM radio and news anchor for UMTV.

Soon after graduating, Aizer had begun his decades-long career hosting

shows on a variety of networks. "I got to do so many incredible things," he says.

Then came the diagnosis.

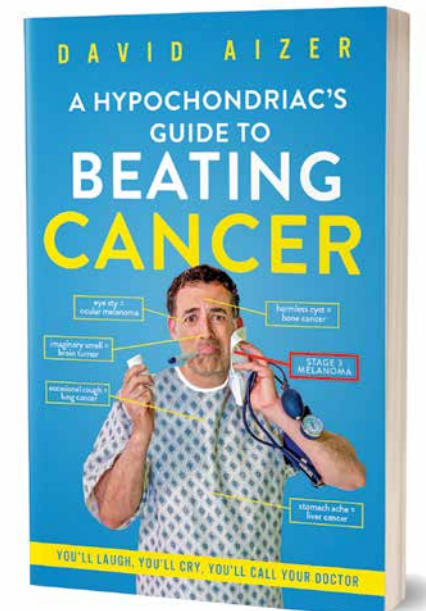
In January 2015, a small mole on Aizer's face was diagnosed as malignant melanoma and later, stage 3 cancer. Thankfully it was caught in time, and after treatment and two surgeries at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, he was cancer free.

But the experience left scars beyond the one he now has on his face.

"It was a wake-up call," he recalls. Being faced with his own mortality made the funny and outgoing TV host take stock of his own life: despite the fun career, he wanted and needed to live a more purposeful life.

He turned to advocacy, becoming an ambassador for Sylvester, the place he says saved his life. He spoke on behalf of organizations like the American Cancer Society and the Melanoma Research Foundation, educating and warning others about the risks of skin cancer.

Aizer even wrote a book. "A Hypochondriac's Guide to Beating



Cancer: You'll Laugh, You'll Cry, You'll Call Your Doctor" is a funny, self-deprecating account of his survival journey. "The goal of this book is to make you laugh," he writes. "More than that, it's to empower you to take ownership of your feelings, whether you're personally going through cancer or know someone who is."





“In the Navy, I was exposed to opportunities and experiences that I never would have had otherwise.”

—John Rotruck

## At Home or Abroad, John Rotruck Is Ready to Serve

This was not a typical mission for the USNS Mercy or its commanding officer, John Rotruck, A.B. ’95, M.D. ’96, M.B.A. ’17.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to spread across the United States, the USNS Mercy, a hospital ship usually deployed abroad, arrived on March 27 in Los Angeles to serve as a relief valve for local hospitals focused on caring for COVID-19 patients. As commanding officer of the ship—which features 1,000 beds, including 80 intensive care units—Rotruck is charged with running the hospital services and overseeing the medical staff, who make up roughly two-thirds of the nearly 1,000 personnel on board.

“Unlike our normal missions, we’re actually here on home soil, treating our fellow Americans,” Rotruck says. “As many of us currently live in San Diego, coming to L.A. is like helping our next-door neighbors.”

But whether he’s serving abroad or at home, the triple ’Cane and member of the Iron Arrow Honor Society says his experience as a Miller School of Medicine student provided him with confidence and steeled him for deployments in Afghanistan, at Walter Reed National Medical Center, and now on the front line of fighting a global pandemic.

Rotruck grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia. His father retired from the Navy and moved the family to Orlando, Florida, where Rotruck attended junior high and high school. He was accepted into the University of Miami’s then-extant Honors Program in Medical Education—two years of undergraduate study toward a biology or chemistry degree, followed

by four years of medical school. He joined the Navy to take advantage of benefits that offset the cost of his degree, intending to fulfill the four-year military commitment and then return to civilian life.

“In the Navy, I was exposed to opportunities and experiences that I never would have had otherwise—and here I am, almost 24 years in and with a few to go,” he said.

On entering the Navy, Rotruck completed his internship in internal medicine, followed by an operational tour with the Marine Corps in Southeast Asia and two tours as a flight surgeon. He then completed his anesthesiology residency and fellowship before serving as the chief of cardiothoracic anesthesiology at the National Naval Medical Center. His deployments later included various tours in Southeast Asia, where he served as general medical officer and senior flight surgeon.

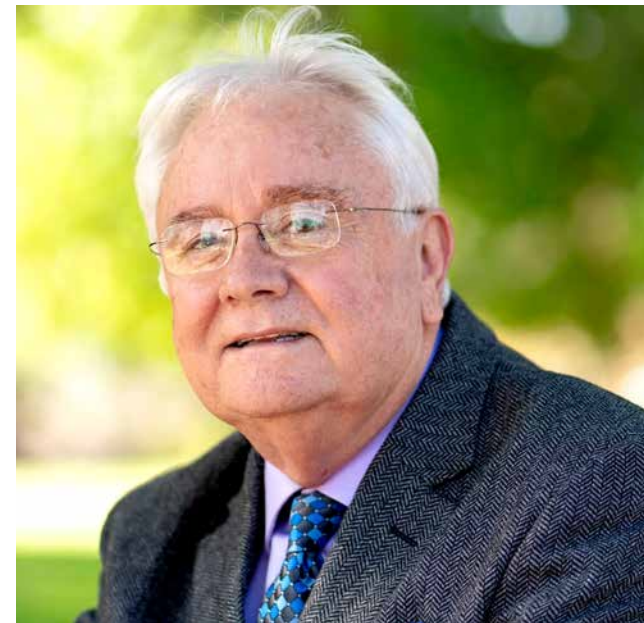
After a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, his colleagues elected him to be the president of the medical staff at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the nation’s largest joint military medical center. Though he was getting plenty of on-the-job training in health care leadership there, Rotruck sensed he needed additional skills to support his new responsibility.

“I needed something more foundational, like an M.B.A.—and the University of Miami was my first choice,” he says. He completed the two-year online program and earned his degree in 2017.

That decision paved the way for more advances at Walter Reed and, ultimately, he was named chief of staff.

“That was the career milestone that enabled me to be selected for commands,” he explains. The USNS Mercy was his top duty choice, and he was appointed its commanding officer in 2018. “I couldn’t have been happier when I was selected,” he says.

“There’s no other job in the military that gives you that much ability to try to develop professional skills and improve people’s lives than being the commanding officer,” Rotruck says. —*Nastasia Boulos and Michael R. Malone*



Cliff Morrison

## Nursing Alumnus Helped Provide Human Touch to AIDS Patients

As the CDC began reporting the first cases of what would later be known as AIDS, national panic quickly spread about what was still a mysterious and deadly illness. On July 25, 1983, a couple of months before the CDC had even identified the main routes of infection, a nurse-led team at San Francisco General Hospital established the first ward to ensure dedicated, holistic care—a human touch—for patients dying from the newly named Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

“I saw patients alone, begging for someone to come assist them. It made me angry.” These words, spoken by Cliff Morrison, M.S.N. ’79, explain why, when his nursing supervisor said something needed to be done, Morrison replied simply, “OK, I’ll do it.” And, he did. Bolstered by an all-volunteer staff, from nurses to janitors, Morrison opened Ward 5B (which ultimately expanded into the larger Ward 5A). In use for the next two decades, the unit served as a model of care for institutions the world over.

Morrison, a psychiatric nurse specialist, eventually left AIDS care to work with developmentally disabled adults. But his formative experience transforming patient care at San Francisco General has returned in vivid detail, thanks to the 2019 release of “5B,” a documentary commissioned by Johnson & Johnson in which Morrison, a School of Nursing and Health Studies alumnus, figures prominently.

“I’ve never been more proud to be a part of something that’s so unbelievable,” says Morrison, who returned to his alma mater in January to share the film about defying the order of the day, fighting fearmongering and bigotry, and advocating for those who don’t have the strength left to

fight for their own care and dignity.

“We decided, if we can’t save these folks, we’re going to touch them,” explains Morrison. Extensive archival footage shows patients at their most vulnerable. As important as taking vitals in “5B” was taking time to listen, stroke an arm, and give a hug. As one emaciated man shares with the nurse at his bedside: “I haven’t been touched in over a year.”

After watching the award-winning film, Morrison’s longtime friend and colleague, Ana Garcia, a social work clinician in the Miller School of Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics, notes that Miami is still the No. 1 place in the United States for prevalence of HIV infection. She asks Morrison what he would tell the next generation of health professionals to keep that torch of patient advocacy going.

“There’s still a lot of work to be done,” agrees Morrison. “I love to be able to say to students, be defiant. Don’t take no for an answer. I never did. ... I’m glad I was defiant. I’m glad I grew up where I did in the rural Panhandle, with everybody telling me I couldn’t do something, and I said, to hell with it. I’m just going to forge ahead. One of the reasons we were able to do what we were doing [is that] I thought we were all dying. I felt like, we have to do something because no one was doing anything,” he adds. “We have nothing to lose. And that’s what I would say to you, you really have nothing to lose.” —*Robin Shear*

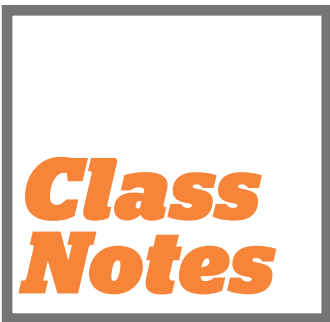


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## 1950s

**Richard M. Lobo**, A.B. '58, is co-vice chair of the board of directors of The Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C., and a member of the Community Advisory Board of WNET/Thirteen in New York City.

## 1960s

**Edward F. Searing**, A.B. '67, received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020. The award honors demonstrated leadership, excellence, and notable accomplishments within the honoree's profession and work experiences.

## 1970s

**Ida O. Abbott**, M.A. '71, is a professional consultant focusing on the power of mentoring relationships to guide, support, and transform professional careers from the beginning of practice through retirement. She has been a leader in the field of talent management, mentoring, sponsorship, and the advancement of women into leadership. Abbott has been elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the College of Law Practice Management. She was a co-founder of the Hastings Leadership Academy for Women and the Professional Development Consortium. Abbott is a sought-after speaker and the author of several seminal books, including "The Lawyers Guide to Mentoring, 2d Edition," "Sponsoring Women: What Men Need to Know," and "Retirement by Design."

**Steven Madoff**, J.D. '79, recently joined the Bona Law Firm as of counsel. Bona Law specializes in antitrust and competition law with a focus on media and entertainment law. Its offices are in La Jolla, California; New York; Detroit; and Minneapolis. Previously, Madoff was executive vice president of business and legal affairs for Paramount Pictures, in Hollywood, California.

**Charles A. Michelson**, B.Arch. '79, M.U.R.P. '81, is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his firm, Saltz Michelson Architects, an award-winning architectural firm providing a full range of architectural and planning services.

## 1980s

**Frederic J. Guerrier**, M.D. '81, was named 2019 FAFF Family Physician of the Year and has multiple recognitions, including Pinellas County Medical Association Physician of the Year and the Liberty Bell Award from the St. Petersburg Bar Foundation. Guerrier has mentored countless medical students, residents, and high school shadows. He has helped educate many health care personnel.

**Mark A. Richt**, B.B.A. '82, was inducted to the 2019 Hall of Champions of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. As an NCAA head football coach, Richt was instrumental in hiring full-time FCA chaplains and has spoken at countless banquets and events for FCA throughout Florida and Georgia.

**Scott F. Atwell**, A.B. '83, was selected as executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Atwells' experience includes leading a 30,000-member organization while working as president and CEO of the Florida State University Alumni Association. Most recently, Atwell was a senior vice president for the worldwide consulting firm Grenzebach Glier and Associates.

**Frederick A. Roberts**, B.S.Ed. '83, is the author of "Artie and Antonio: No work! Just play!" a book that encourages children on the elementary level to value work by doing chores at home. The book also fosters a strong work ethic into adulthood.

**Daniel E. Somers**, J.D. '83, and his wife, Julia, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and welcomed the birth of their fourth grandchild. Somers was ordained as priest in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and serves as priest-in-charge of Saint Andrews Church in Lambertville, New Jersey.

Although not fully retired from the practice of law, he is winding down after 36 years in the profession.

**Linda S. Stein**, B.B.A. '83, J.D. '86, is the administrative judge for the Miami-Dade County Court Civil Division and is the 2020 recipient of the Devorah Judge Award from the Miami Jewish Legal Society.

**Xavier I. Cortada**, A.B. '86, J.D. '91, M.P.A. '91, dedicated "Pinecrest Mangrove Forest: Plan(T) for the Future." Cortada's eco-art intervention, which used seedlings collected by his Plan(T) project volunteers, was planted at Pinecrest Gardens. His new 200-foot-long mural serves as the backdrop for Miami's first urban forest.

**Cheryl S. Godley**, M.M. '86, published her first book, "Four Principles for Facing Lifes Challenges: A Guide for Making Choices that Build Life Satisfaction." Godley is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Casper, Wyoming. While grounded in established psychological literature, with more than 25 years of clinical experience and a lifetime of living with vision loss, Godley's book uses real-life examples and a good deal of humor to provide an easy-to-understand framework for developing effective coping strategies for lifes daily challenges.

**Eileen Vargas**, A.B. '86, released her first book, "Parallels—Surviving the Legacy of Pain" in 2019. She is a 2020 candidate for State Representative District 84 of St. Lucie County, Florida.

**Laird A. Lile**, LL.M.E. '87, a board-certified wills, trusts, and estates attorney, has been elected without opposition to an eighth consecutive term on the Board of Governors for The Florida Bar. Lile is one of two governors elected by members to represent the 20th Judicial Circuit, which includes Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades counties.

**Michael W. Weissberg**, A.B. '89, published an article on the National Institute of Justice website. In "Notes from the field: how grantsmanship can help a tribal police department," he presented the benefits of private-and public-funded grants. Weissberg details the grant application process and shares tips on how to identify solicitations, engage colleagues and the community, and submit grant applications.

**Russell C. Weigel**, J.D. '89, was named by Gov. Ron DeSantis and members of the state cabinet to be Florida's third top financial regulator. Weigel spent 11 years as a federal

Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement attorney, serving in management, investigation, and litigation roles. Weigel also briefly served as a Florida assistant state attorney, pursuing criminal prosecutions, before joining the SEC. Years after working in private practice, Weigel started a firm that represents clients in a variety of securities-related issues.

## 1990s

**Shenita R. Hunt**, B.M. '90, has released two CDs on iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify, titled "Color My World" and "Shenita Hunt Singing Color My World Live," with one original charting at No. 3 on the UK's internet radio charts. She is featured on her holiday single on all instruments, all background and lead vocals, and she arranged and produced the recording.

**James G. Vickaryous**, A.B. '90, won election to the Florida Board of Governors, two-year terms for the 18th Circuit, Seat 1, and was recognized by the Brevard Bar Foundation with the 2019 Community Leaders of the Year award.

**Julie A. Richardson**, B.B.A. '91, was named University of Virginia's (UVA) treasurer. Richardson has been with UVA since 2007 and serves as a senior member of the UVA finance senior leadership team and as managing director for treasury and risk management. She also led the university through a very successful debt offering in 2019, functioning as treasurer.

**Dany Garcia Rienzi**, B.B.A. '92, CEO of Seven Bucks Productions, and founder, CEO, and chairwoman of the Garcia Companies and TGC Management, has taken a minority investment in MeWe, a start-up that positions itself as a social network rival to Facebook. In addition to her investment in MeWe, she has joined the company's advisory board.

**Peter J. Preston**, B.B.A. '92, J.D. '95, left the private practice of law in October 2019 to join CNA Insurance, where he works with a small team to manage and resolve professional liability claims of the highest complexity and severity—including those brought against architects, engineers, attorneys, and accountants.

**Annette M. Sanjurjo-Lizardo**, A.B. '92, published an article that affects the disability community and caregivers. "The Next Step for Inclusion: State CME Requirements on Disabilities" was published in EP Magazine.

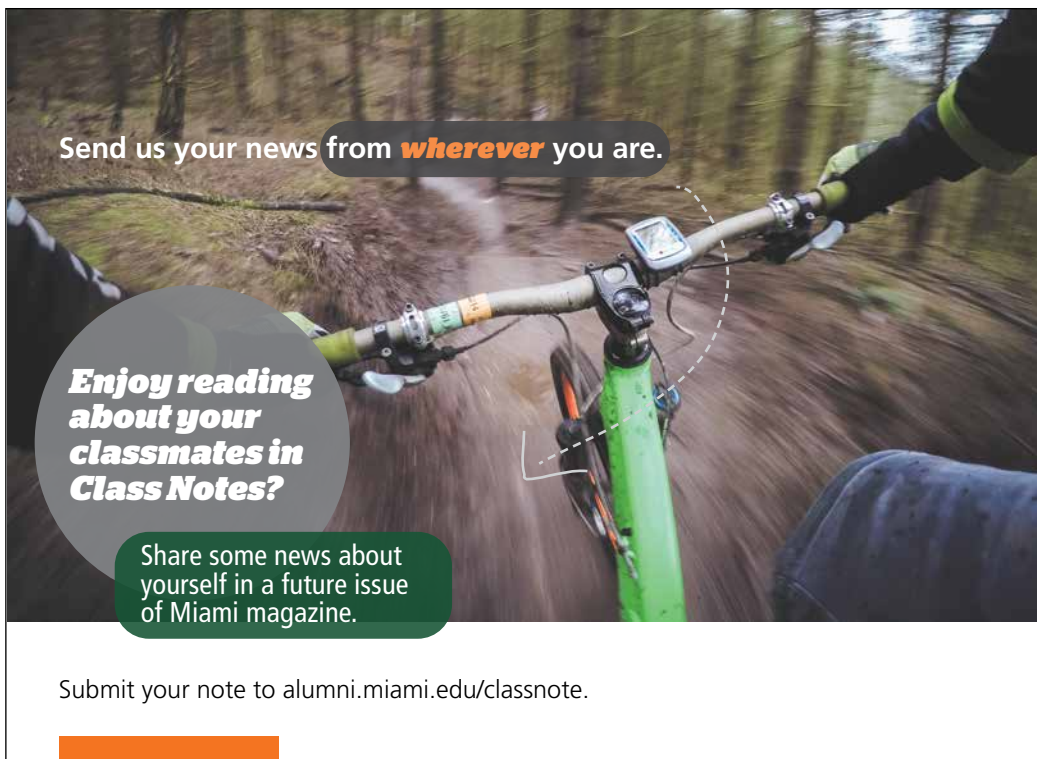
**Carlos E. Lowell**, B.S.M.E. '94, senior vice president and financial advisor for UBS Financial Services' Coral Gables private wealth management office has been named to the 2020 Forbes/SHOOK Best-In-State Wealth Advisors. Lowell began his career working in both Europe and the U.S. in the insurance industry and transitioned into the private wealth management group at Goldman Sachs before moving to Morgan Stanley. By leveraging his diverse experience and obtaining the Certified Financial Planner and Certified Exit Planning designation, Lowell brings an in-depth knowledge of risk management, financial planning, and international business to the clients of The Lowell Group.

**Maribel Perez Wadsworth**, B.S.C. '94, previously USA Today network president, will serve as president of news and will continue to serve as publisher, as a leader selected from the old Gannett and its acquirer, New Media Investment Group.

**Afi S. Johnson-Parris**, B.B.A. '95, is pleased to announce the formation of her new firm, Johnson-Parris Law, which will serve the needs of Guilford County, North Carolina, residents with family law issues ranging from divorce and property division to custody and child support. Johnson-Parris also practices collaborative family law, where informal, private discussions and conferences are used to settle family issues without going to court. She is a board-certified specialist in family law and has taught at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy Family Law Program since 2017. She currently serves as the chair of the family law section for the North Carolina Bar Association and is a former president of the Greensboro Bar Association. Most recently, Johnson-Parris was a 2019 NC Lawyers Weekly Woman of Justice and was featured in the 2020 edition of U.S. News & World Report's Best Lawyers.

**Sean M. Sullivan**, B.S. '98, an accomplished environmental attorney, has joined Robinson Bradshaw's Research Triangle office. He has received accolades from award publications, including Chambers USA, The Best Lawyers in America, North Carolina Super Lawyers, and Business North Carolinas Legal Elite. Sullivan advises clients throughout the country regarding all major federal environmental programs, with emphasis on hazardous waste, Brownfields redevelopment, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and emerging contaminants.

**Bradley R. Johnson**, A.B. '99, M.F.A. '01, was the winner of the 2018 Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize for Poetry



for his collection "Smuggling Elephants Through Airport Security," and was published by MSU Press in 2020. His first full-length poetry collection, "The Happiness Theory," was published in 2013. Johnson's work has appeared in the Atlanta Review, Haydens Ferry Review, J Journal, Nimrod International Journal, Permafrost, Poet Lore, Salamander, The South Carolina Review, and Southern Indiana Review.

## 2000s

**Jacquleen Reyes Hull**, B.S.C. '00, was promoted to assistant vice president for administration at USF Health—where she played an instrumental role in planning and executing the operational transition of the state-of-the-art, USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute to its new, downtown Tampa location in January 2020. Her efforts are now focused on launching the first project management office at USF Health in support of the colleges of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and public health.

**Alena Capra**, B.S.C. '01, was recently named the new host of "SoFlo Home Project," a weekly home design show airing on WPLG Local 10, the Miami ABC affiliate. She is also serving her sixth year as the spokesperson for Coverings, the largest tile and stone exhibition in North America. Capra was named to Kitchen & Bath Design News'

"Top 50 Innovators" list, and she was one of six "Praiseworthy Picks" selected for noteworthy mention in Kitchen & Bath Business Magazine's "Person of the Year" feature. Her interior design firm, Alena Capra Designs, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, serves both local and national clients.

**Jennifer Duval Lindy**, B.B.A. '01, LL.M.T. '08, represents individual, partnership/pass-through, and multinational corporate taxpayers, with a special focus on cross-border and international tax issues in disputes with the IRS. She counsels individuals, multinational entities, accountants, and other tax service providers on complex international tax matters. Duval Lindy was recently elevated to equity status with Chamberlain Hrdlicka, based out of Atlanta, Georgia.

**Martin J. Keane, Jr.**, J.D. '01, has joined Miami-based boutique law firm Mark Migdal & Hayden. Keane was previously an attorney at Genovese Joblove & Battista, P.A., where he represented leading franchise clients such as Burger King, Pollo Campero, Church's Chicken, and Benihana. His litigation work involved trademark protection and intellectual property rights, franchise terminations, discrimination claims, and other disputes. Keane is involved in local organizations, including Children's Home Society and Dade County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Minority Bar Passage Program.

**Maia Aron**, B.B.A. '02, M.B.A. '04, J.D. '05, has joined Miami-based boutique law firm Mark Migdal & Hayden. Aron was previously a complex commercial litigator at Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton. She is a specialist in high-stakes litigation, including securities law violations, and fraud and corporate shareholder disputes, in addition to class actions involving investor fraud, Ponzi schemes, and products liability. Aron currently serves as president of the Jewish National Fund Miami Chapter, chair of Women for Israel, and chair of Access Miami. She is also a member of the American Jewish Committee Miami's Executive Committee, as well as the Miami Young Leadership Board of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces.

**Rachel E. Brill**, B.S.C. '02, was hired by Warner Media sports brand Bleacher Report as senior vice president and general manager of the recently created B/R Studio and will look to build a roster of projects targeting an estimated 200 million millennial and Gen Z fans of B/R. Brill, who had been head of unscripted original programming for Epix, will be based in New York.

**Rachel J. Elsby**, B.S. '02, Ph.D. '08, has been promoted to partner at Akin Gump. Elsby focuses on the representation of clients in intellectual property and patent disputes—often in high-stakes, competitor-versus-competitor litigations and related appeals, including to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Her clients span a broad



range of sectors, particularly biotechnology and the life sciences.

**Francisco Navarro** B.B.A. '02, was selected as the California Interscholastic Federation Oakland Section Commissioner. Navarro is now one of 10 commissioners in the state of California overseeing high school athletics. He has a long track record in Oakland, California, for supporting students; promoting dedication, teamwork, and success through athletics; and uniting the community.

**Leif E. Soreide**, B.B.A. '02, M.B.A. '03, won the 2019 United States Investing Championship. The championship is a real-money competition that gives up-and-coming traders an opportunity to show their talent on the world stage.

**Adrian C. Azer**, J.D. '03, was among the new partner class announced by Haynes and Boone, LLP, for the promotion of partnership of 14 lawyers. Azer is a member of the Insurance Recovery Practice Group in the Washington, D.C., office. He exclusively represents corporate policyholders in a variety of complex insurance coverage matters. His practice focuses on insurance recovery for mass-tort claims, including sexual-abuse, asbestos, and environmental contamination. In addition, he represents policyholders with respect to cybersecurity breaches, government investigations, and disputes over coverage under director and officer insurance coverage.

**John J. LeTellier, Jr.**, M.M. '03, has spent recent years transforming the music education program at North Dakota Valley City State University, where comprehensive music technology is incorporated into the program. LeTellier has designed and built a four-room recording suite and a recording and audio production concentration with all the supporting curriculum.

**Melissa Tapanes-Llahues**, J.D. '03, has a long record of civic service and was one of 13 members appointed to the City of Miami Charter Review and Reform Committee. The Legal 500 has named her a "Recommended Attorney" since 2017. She was named a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers and an "Up and Comer" by Florida Trends Legal Elite. The South Florida Business Journal recognized her professional accomplishments and community leadership with its "40 Under 40" Award. She was recently named partner for the Bercow Radell Fernandez Larkin & Tapanes boutique law firm.

**Jenna G. Edwards**, B.S.C. '04, founded For a Day Foundation (originally Queen for a Day) in 2000, a nonprofit organization creating emotionally therapeutic experiences for seriously ill children by

bringing tea parties, makeovers, and manicures to girls at local children's hospitals. Edwards is celebrating 20 years of success, a feature in People Magazine, and an appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

**Angelica Gonzalez**, M.S.Ed. '05, wrote a faith-based creative journal, "Restored Biblical Journal," to heal those who struggle with eating disorders.

**Anna M. Wiand**, B.B.A. '05, was among the 11 attorneys promoted at GrayRobinson in the field of Alcohol Beverage and Regulated Products in Tampa, Florida.

**Andrew P. Bean**, B.S.C. '06, was selected as a finalist for the 2020 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching at William E. Denver Elementary School in Chicago.

**Bridget J. Halanski**, B.S.C. '06, is the vice president of runway and events for Select Model Management in the United States. Select Model Management is a global network of modeling and talent agencies with locations in Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Los Angeles, London, Stockholm, Paris, and Milan. Halanski has been an agent for more than 15 years.

**Morgan F. Mouchette**, B.A.I.S '06, was elected partner of Blank Rome LLP's firm in New York. Mouchette represents clients in all aspects of matrimonial and family law, including divorce, child custody, property distribution, spousal support, prenuptial agreements, postnuptial agreements, cohabitation agreements, and international child abduction. She also settles complicated custody and high-net-worth financial matters, and she has experience litigating matters in New York Family and Supreme Courts as well as federal courts. Morgan serves as co-chair of BR United, the firm's attorneys of color affinity group and is a member of the New York office's hiring and recruiting committee.

**Frederick L. Moffat**, M.B.A. '09, a retired professor of surgery at the Miller School of Medicine, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who.

**Stephanie M. Chaissan**, J.D. '08, is a member of Berger Singermans dispute resolution team based in Miami. She practices primarily in complex commercial litigation, with a focus on business and construction litigation. Her experience includes commercial and business litigation, including claims arising out of shareholder disputes, business torts, officer and director liability, breaches

of contract, breaches of warranty, construction defects, statutory violations, breaches of fiduciary duty, corporate governance, fraud, real estate, and landlord and tenant disputes.

**Bernardita M. Yunis**, B.L.A. '08, B.S.C. '08, received the Morton A. Bender Teaching Award at George Washington University in Washington. D.C.

**Nathalie B. Galde**, A.B. '09, completed filming a lead role on a web series, "Real American," a supporting role in a feature, "Driftless," and began production as the lead of a feature, "The Pleasure Matrix." She sold out at Second City for La Carne Asada #2: The Seasoning and was featured in a National Ad for TopGolf.

**Aimee V. Leary**, B.B.A. '09, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Greenville, South Carolina, as an associate in the Real Estate Department. Leary counsels clients on real estate transactions, including purchases and sales, financing, refinancing and leasing.

**Amanda K. Sussex**, B.S. '09, feeling inspired by Donna Shalala's United States Healthcare System course at the University of Miami, went on to study health policy, which led her to Washington, D.C., to implement Health Reform under the ACA for Health and Human Services. After nearly seven years in federal and local government building and deploying the health insurance marketplaces across the U.S., she decided to head to San Francisco and delve into health tech with former alumna Carly Winokur at Carrum Health.

**Carly R. Winokur**, B.S.C. '09, went on to study health policy and management while working at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. During graduate school, she realized she wanted to work outside of Washington, D.C.. So Winokur moved to Boston to be an administrator for Harvard's pediatric rheumatology program; completed a fellowship co-writing an Ebola policy; and joined a Boston public health surveillance start-up, Epidemico. After getting married and moving to California, she joined Carrum Health with fellow alumna Amada Sussex.

## 2010s

**Jesse S. Kirkland**, B.Arch. '09, was recently promoted to associate at DAG Architects.

**Jennifer L. Atwood**, B.A.M. '10, is an associate at Husch Blackwell's Omaha office. Atwood, a commercial

litigator, assists clients and legal teams with pretrial matters of due diligence and discovery. She served a clerkship under The Hon. Cheryl R. Zwart, U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska, and is a member of the Robert Van Pelt American Inns of Court.

**Justin D. Kobay**, B.B.A. '11, was featured in The Hollywood Reporter for his work with young talents like "Old Town Road" breakout Lil Nas X and singer-songwriter Lauv. Kobay was named one of Hollywood's Top Business Managers of 2019 for helping A-listers build empires and avoid bad investments.

**Jane E. Pryjmak**, A.B. '11, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Seattle as an associate in the corporate department. Pryjmak advises clients in a variety of corporate matters, including entity choice, business sales and acquisitions, real estate transactions, and seed financings.

**Elizabeth A. Fleischhauer**, B.Arch. '12, is an architect based in Pensacola, Florida, and was recently promoted to associate at Bullock Tice Associates.

**Matthew G. Limones**, M.M. '14, manager of artist and label relations for SoundExchange, was featured on Billboard's 40 Under 40 Roster of Young Executives Shaking Up the Music Business. Limones takes credit and pride in identifying rising stars like Maluma, Bad Bunny, and Karol G early in their careers and ensured that established Latin acts received a greater portion of SoundExchanges' royalty payout.

**Sapir Z. Karli**, M.D. '15, is practicing comprehensive ophthalmology in Hollywood, Florida, where she provides ophthalmic care, including advanced laser cataract surgery. She employs the latest advanced technology intraocular lenses, including multifocal lenses. She also has extensive expertise treating glaucoma with medical management.

**Dominic M. Natalizio**, B.S.B.A. '15 owner of MANTRA, won the alumni track of the Miami Herbert Business School Business Plan competition. MANTRA is taking sustainability to new heights after creating the first-of-its-kind category of apparel it calls EverywhereWear: a line of versatile polos born from recycled plastic bottles and built to go everywhere.

**Christian A. Horn**, B.B.A. '17, joined Cultivian Sandbox Ventures as an associate. He was previously an investment banking analyst at J.P. Morgan in the Power & Alternative Energy group.

**Dylan Price**, B.B.A. '19, released his new song, "So Long Gone," on Spotify and Apple Music in 2020. ■

The University of Miami Alumni Association notes the passing of the following graduates.

## In Memoriam\*

### 1940s

Leslie Mann, B.B.A. '41  
Frieda Cohan Alter, B.B.A. '43  
Anne Zeugner, A.B. '43  
Paul J. Barnhard, B.S. '44  
Catherine W. McGee, A.B. '47, B.Ed. '51, M.Ed. '55  
Harriet Davidow, A.B. '48  
Judith R. Drucker, B.M. '48  
Jesse Pearl, B.M. '48, M.M. '65  
Vincent Joseph Spinelli, A.B. '48  
Eleanor Quartin Sager, A.B. '48 M.Ed. '69  
George J. Yoxall, A.B. '48  
Blanche Tyler August, A.B. '49  
Julian R. Benjamin, J.D. '49  
Anne Goodwin, B.B.A. '49  
Mary Lou Hunt Smethurst, A.B. '49

### 1950s

Paul Coleman Etzel, M.S. '50  
William F. Furr, A.B. '50  
Sydney R. Gordon, B.B.A. '50  
Harry James Hammer, B.S. '50  
James Carroll Henderson, J.D. '50  
Anne R. Jacobs, B.B.A. '50  
John F. Kavanewsky, B.B.A. '50  
William D. McKenna, B.B.A. '50  
John F. Pullo, B.B.A. '50  
Betty Merriam Ward, B.B.A. '50  
Norman R. Wells, B.S. '50  
Louis Cautin, A.B. '51  
Gerald D. Claussen, B.B.A. '51  
Lois Ghen Cail, B.Ed. '51  
Arnold M. Grevior, B.B.A. '51, J.D. '55  
Diane Star Heller, B.Ed. '51, B.S.Ed. '61  
Wilhelmina Lewis Hester, A.B. '51  
Martin Joseph Kabcenell, J.D. '51  
Anthony F. Luparello, B.Ed. '51  
Douglas H. Sandberg, B.S. '51  
William F. Sheen, B.S.C.E. '51, B.S.E.S. '51  
Irwin Sisselman, B.B.A. '51  
John Paul Felton, A.B. '52  
Anne Edward Friberg, B.S.C.E. '52  
Richard J. Cory, J.D. '52

Jacob J. Gold, J.D. '52  
Jack L. Helms, A.B. '52  
Anne J. Hillson, M.S. '52  
Margaret Bell London, B.Ed. '52  
William A. Norfolk, B.B.A. '52  
Franklin Reinstine, J.D. '52  
Gordon E. Simmons, B.B.A. '52  
Frank E. Wills, B.Ed. '52  
Raymond Pierson Cogle, B.S. '53  
Joseph Paul Feinberg, B.B.A. '53  
Jerry S. Herman, A.B. '53, D.F.A. '80  
Ann Lorenzo, B.S. '53  
William Henry Park, J.D. '53  
Lewis P. Reade, B.S.M.E. '53  
Ira H. Segal, B.B.A. '53  
Richard T. Shankweiler, A.B. '53  
Claybourne C. Spencer, J.D. '53  
Philip C. Spickler, A.B. '53  
Stanley Wolfman, B.M. '53, J.D. '58  
Anne Anthony Baxter, B.S.M.E. '54  
Jean Maguire Elmer, A.B. '54  
Salema Joseph Gabriel, J.D. '54  
Barry Leon Garber, J.D. '54  
Joseph Herbert Kaplan, J.D. '54  
Alan R. Katz, B.B.A. '54  
David A. Maxwell, J.D. '54, B.B.A. '54  
Nancy A. McWillie, B.S.N. '54  
Howard E. Roskin, B.B.A. '54 J.D. '61  
Louis John Schneider, B.B.A. '54  
Ernest G. Simon, J.D. '54  
Mary Alice Stanley, M.Ed. '54  
Muriel S. Binns, A.B. '55  
Martha Sue Cole, B.M. '55  
Edward D. Connor, B.B.A. '55  
Thomas J. George, B.B.A. '55  
Kenneth W. Lennox, B.S. '55  
Arthur F. McCormick, J.D. '55  
Raymond St. John Sprague, A.B. '55  
Sally Ann Wasson, B.S. '55  
Louis J. De Carlo, A.B. '56, M.A. '59  
James Russell Forlaw, M.D. '56



### Jerry Herman

Jerry Herman, A.B. '53, D.F.A. '80, is remembered for his brilliant work in theater and his commitment, passion, and inspiration to the University and its students. Herman, the heralded, award-winning Broadway composer who penned uplifting and inspirational musicals like "Hello, Dolly!" and "Mame," and is one of the University of Miami's most

distinguished alumni, passed away December 26 in Miami. He was 88. The composer's brilliant work earned him two Tony Awards for best musical for "Hello Dolly!" and "La Cage aux Folles," and he received two Grammys for "Mame" and "Hello, Dolly!" Over his career he wrote 10 Broadway shows and is considered a legend among his peers for his simple and heartfelt messaging and melodies. "Jerry Herman's talent and creativity left an indelible legacy at the University of Miami, where we will always treasure his many memorable compositions," says President Julio Frenk. The University awarded Herman the Order of Merit in 1971, the Alumnus of Distinction in 1975, and the New York Alumnus of Distinction in 1992. The Jerry Herman Ring Theatre on the Coral Gables campus bears his name.

Edward S. Jaffry, A.B. '56, J.D. '57  
Norman Maurice Kenyon, M.D. '56  
Michael Eng Yau Ong, B.S.C.E. '56  
Stanley Terry Philcox, B.S.A.E. '56  
Martin A. Slavney, B.B.A. '56  
Edwin I. Veil, B.S. '56  
Paul M. Wick, B.B.A. '56  
William Harvey Benefield, B.S.C.E. '57  
Stanley J. Bodner, B.B.A. '57  
John Paul Creighton, B.Ed. '57  
Shirley Vineyard Curtiss, M.M. '57  
Jose R. De Vivero, B.S.A.E. '57  
Norman A. Foschia, B.B.A. '57  
Paul I. Frisch, B.B.A. '57  
Kermit Hutcheson, M.S. '57  
Donald F. Kelley, B.B.A. '57  
James Francis Kiley, B.B.A. '57  
Thomas Hume Laidman, B.B.A. '57  
Charles E. Moffett, A.B. '57  
Charles Morant, B.Ed. '57, M.Ed. '58  
James M. Reasbeck, J.D. '57  
Sarah Lou Wells, M.D. '57  
Anne Louise Bergere, B.S. '58, M.S. '63  
Hunter Brower, A.B. '58  
Earnest Larry Cauthen, B.S. '58  
Sheila Wassenberg King, A.B. '58  
Isaac Marcadis, M.D. '58  
Hubert G. Martinez, M.D. '58  
Barbara Virginia Pryor, M.Ed. '58  
Frank Adam Biringe, B.M. '59, M.M. '71, Ph.D. '74  
Stanley I. Cullen, M.D. '59  
Louis B. Hamada, B.M. '59  
Eugene King Krakaur, B.B.A. '59  
Carol Bass Ring, B.Ed. '59  
Luther L. Sifford, B.B.A. '58

Anne O. Metzler, B.B.A. '59  
Rima R. Spielman, A.B. '59  
**1960s**  
Anne L. Bellman, B.B.A. '60  
Patricia Flotken Bernard, A.B. '60, M.A.L.S. '01  
Roland G. Boyce, B.B.A. '60  
Alvan C. Chaney, B.B.A. '60  
Franklin P. Holman, M.D. '60  
Robert E. Irving, B.B.A. '60  
John B. Julian, B.B.A. '60  
George C. Maloof, B.B.A. '60  
Marvin A. Mermelstein, B.Ed. '60  
Bette Miller, M.M. '60  
Anne W. Scott, B.S.I.E. '60  
Manuel L. Sklaroff, B.B.A. '60  
Jon Alfred Buell, A.B. '61  
John Dimitri Caldwell, B.S.E.E. '61  
Anne Mathewson Connor, B.S.I.E. '61  
Allan I. Friedland, B.B.A. '61  
Paul O. Peacon, B.B.A. '61  
Cynthia Pintzow, B.Ed. '61  
Carl Scheer, J.D. '61  
Sylva Darlene Schnabel, B.Ed. '61  
Anne A. Sepp, B.B.A. '61  
Claude I. Chipley, M.Ed. '62  
Antonio D. Jacomino, B.B.A. '62  
Jerome Conrad Kos, B.B.A. '62  
Thomas Malcolm Muller, B.S. '62  
James Delaney, B.B.A. '63  
Anne Michael Downing, M.Ed. '63  
Elmo E. Moretz, Ed.D. '63  
Paul S. Ossi, B.S.M.E. '63  
Daniel F. Russell, B.S. '63  
Lydia B. Usategui, C.T.P. '63  
Ellen Hellwig Arey, A.B. '64  
Paul T. Greeley, A.B. '64  
Paul Kardos, M.A. '64  
Calmon B. Rosenbaum, B.B.A. '64  
Catherine E. Harvey, B.S.N. '65

William Scott Piper, M.D. '65  
Thomas W. Self, M.D. '65  
John W. Creighton, M.B.A. '66  
Frank P. Drinkwater, A.B. '66  
Donald J. Verity, B.S. '66, M.B.A. '87  
Paul Jerome Kyttle, A.B. '67  
John Richard Peck, M.B.A. '67, J.D. '70  
Michael A. Riehl, M.Ed. '67  
Arnold F. Staloff, B.B.A. '67  
Marc Michael Watson, B.B.A. '67, J.D. '70  
Gary J. Wold, M.S. '67  
Barbara Holland Lidz, B.S. '68  
C. Jeffrey Missonellie, B.S. '68, M.Ed. '73  
Paul Joseph Seaman, B.B.A. '68  
Robert M. Silva, B.M. '68  
Robert B. Turner, A.B. '68  
Glenn D. Wollman, B.S. '68, M.D. '72  
Michael Clifton Albright, A.B. '69  
Paul Charles Fulford, B.S.E.E. '69  
Carole Benkaim Goodman, A.B. '69  
Charles W. Lowrance, A.B. '69  
Paul B. Melnick, A.B. '69  
Richard Martin Turbin, B.S. '69, M.D. '73

### 1970s

David Randolph Chrislip, B.S. '70  
Michael Kenneth Hale, M.D. '70  
David L. Islitzer, B.Ed. '70, M.Ed. '72  
Elsa Lenora Keys, M.Ed. '70  
Edward Francis McGrath, M.A. '70  
Gary Lynn Overland, B.Ed. '70  
Barbara J. Phillips, B.Ed. '70, M.Ed. '77



## In Memoriam



### Norman M. Kenyon

Norman M. Kenyon, M.D. '56, a gifted surgeon, mentor, leader, and communicator, who was president of the University of Miami's first class of graduating medical students, died in April. He was 90. The father of Norma Sue Kenyon, the University's vice provost for innovation and the Miller School of Medicine's chief innovation officer, the elder Kenyon was intensely proud of his ties to the University, which began in 1952 when Florida's first medical school accepted him into its inaugural class of 28—from a pool of 350 applicants. “His passion for medicine

was extraordinary. He loved it, and the U,” says Norma Kenyon. “He was a maestro in the operating theater,” says Dr. Alan Serure, a 1979 graduate of the Miller School who worked with Kenyon. “His hands moved like a conductor of an orchestra.” In addition to his wife, Sue, and Norma, Kenyon is survived by two other daughters, Cynthia Keynon Drake, an exercise physiologist; and Pamela Kenyon, a physician assistant; and five grandchildren.



### Arva Moore Parks

Arva Moore Parks, M.A. '71, a University of Miami trustee who was often the first source to whom people turned when they needed information on the Magic City's rich history, died in May. She was 81. Parks is best known for her writings and books on Florida, Greater Miami, and University history. She also produced films on Miami and Coconut Grove, earning an Emmy Award from the Florida Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Elected to the University's Board of Trustees in 1994, Parks served on various standing committees and as vice chair of the Academic

Affairs Committee. She became a senior trustee in 2009. “Arva had a better understanding of the University's history than anyone else in the room, and so she understood its challenges and success from a perspective that few others understood,” says Hilarie Bass, J.D. '81, chair of the University of Miami Board of Trustees.

S. Robert Rubin, B.B.A. '70  
Robert Scott Stauffer, M.B.A. '70  
Anne Joel Goldstein, B.S. '71  
Dudley Ronald Lumpkin, B.Ed. '71  
Janet T. Netherland-Brown, B.Ed. '71  
Joan B. Paskow, A.B. '71  
Gayle Sock, B.Ed. '71  
Doris Monteith Sharpton, M.Ed. '71  
Leto Virgo Steinbach, B.Ed. '71  
Janet Thomas, A.B. '71  
Ronald O. Uthus, B.B.A. '71  
Peter Casimir Walus, B.Ed. '71  
Walter H. Dozier, A.B. '72  
Alvin L. Friedman, B.Ed. '72  
Esmeralda Cariani Javens, M.A. '72  
William Paul Krupczak, Ed.D. '72  
Thomas John Pettit, B.B.A. '72  
John L. Reid, B.B.A. '72  
Sue Rose Samuels, J.D. '72  
Clarence Walter White, B.B.A. '72  
Robert A. Bendell, B.Ed. '73  
Robert E. Brekelbaum, B.B.A. '73  
Paul R. Cutting, B.S. '73  
Linda R. Katz, Ph.D. '73

George Thomas Watters, B.S. '74  
Linda Walters Byrd, M.M. '75  
Matthew Michael Cohen, M.D. '75  
Kenneth Gellis, B.B.A. '75  
Neal Hoffman, A.B. '75  
Nancy A. O'Hagan Lutsky, A.B. '75  
Richard Kane Pepe, B.S. '75, B.S.N. '78  
Arthur Robert Riccio, J.D. '75  
Beverly Maxine Rosenblum, B.S. '75  
Jerome Lewis Tepps, A.B. '75  
Marjorie C. Thomas, B.M. '75, M.M. '77  
George John Contorakes, A.B. '76  
Richard Tydings Hodges, A.B. '76, J.D. '81  
Richard J. Stone, J.D. '76  
Lois H. Goldberg, B.F.A. '77  
Carey D. Green, B.S. '77, M.D. '81  
Robert F. Leder, B.S. '77  
Andrew R. Meyer, B.B.A. '77  
Sally H. Seay-Taylor, C.N.P. '77  
Robert T. Turowski, B.B.A. '77  
Leon L. Galison, B.B.A. '78  
John F. Mariani, J.D. '78  
Gary Van Kuehl, M.D. '78

### 1980s

Constance P. Whittaker, C.N.P. '80  
Deborah Ann Axilrod, A.B. '81  
Olga B. Garcia-Navarro, A.B. '81  
Vicki Lee Ashkins Lopez, B.F.A. '81  
Michael Curry, M.B.A. '82  
John J. Kakanis, B.B.A. '82  
Linda V. Tager, M.B.A. '82  
Paul Joseph Tansey, B.B.A. '82  
Francis J. Manning, Ph.D. '83  
Michael P. McGovern, B.B.A. '83  
Albert Alfred Ackerman, J.D. '84  
Nancy Lifter Wolin, B.B.A. '84  
Emma Maria Afra, A.B. '85  
Marlene A. Barkley, B.S.N. '85  
Paul T. Rinaman, B.B.A. '87  
Gilbert Saint Jean, M.P.H. '87, Ph.D. '04  
Mary W. Comerford, M.S.P.H. '88  
Anne L. Frassrand, B.S.C. '88  
Eric M. Aguero, B.B.A. '89  
Anne Scupholme, M.P.H. '89

### 1990s

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Judith M. Brooke, B.S.C. '92  
Lyn C. Derez, M.S.Ed. '93

Carlos F. Garcia, B.B.A. '93  
Mary Budd Knowles, Ph.D. '93  
Nancy L. Pado, A.B. '93  
John P. Martin, LL.M.T. '95  
Victoria M. Roberts, M.D. '95  
Inocente T. Lariosa, M.B.A. '96  
Ryan Moseley Snell, A.B. '97

### 2000s

Rebecca P. Calvert, Ed.S. '00  
Cristina Maria Leon, B.S.Ed. '00  
Marta Leigh Macdonald, J.D. '01  
Pamela H. Lazar, J.D. '02  
Thomalyn Ann Epps, J.D. '03  
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Peter Candy Kandu, B.S.N. '07  
Paul Matthew Stayton, B.M. '07  
Alexander Aiello Paley, B.S.A.S.E. '08

### 2010s

Moses Augustin Shumow, Ph.D. '11  
Maxwell S. Mann, B.B.A. '12  
Ian J. Maiolo, J.D. '17  
Joseph P. Cannavo, A.B. '18  
Joanna Christine Jara, B.S.C. '19



\*Names recorded as of April 1, 2020. We research each name in the “In Memoriam” section, but errors can occur. Please email any corrections or clarifications to [alumni@miami.edu](mailto:alumni@miami.edu) or call 305-284-2872.

## Alumni Leadership

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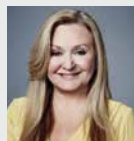
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Micaela N. Stoner, President, Student Alumni Ambassadors

## 'Canes Communities

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**Boston** TBA  
**Brazil** Eduardo Medeiros Vieira, B.B.A. '98, [emv23@miami.edu](mailto:emv23@miami.edu)  
**Broward County** Ken Graff, B.B.A. '98, M.B.A. '03, [k.graff@miami.edu](mailto:k.graff@miami.edu)  
**Charlotte** Jason Wilson, B.S.C.E. '98, [cltcanes@gmail.com](mailto:cltcanes@gmail.com)  
**Chicago** Vickie Horn, B.S. '82, [horn.vickiem@gmail.com](mailto:horn.vickiem@gmail.com)  
**Cincinnati** Marc Bouche, B.Arch. '84, [marc.bouche@hotmail.com](mailto:marc.bouche@hotmail.com)  
**Colombia** Carlos Largacha-Martínez, M.A. '02, Ph.D. '07, [clargacha@yahoo.com](mailto:clargacha@yahoo.com)  
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**New York** Michael Gohari, B.B.A. '11, [michaelgohari@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelgohari@yahoo.com)  
Clarissa Carlucci, B.B.A. '12, [c.carlucci@aol.com](mailto:c.carlucci@aol.com)  
**Orlando** Deborah Moskowitz, B.S.C. '94, [orlandoalumni@gmail.com](mailto:orlandoalumni@gmail.com)  
**Palm Beach County** Melanie Martinez McDonald, B.B.A. '07, [mmcdonald@pursuitwealth.com](mailto:mmcdonald@pursuitwealth.com)  
**Philadelphia** Stephen Bernstein, A.B. '13, [sbernstein44@gmail.com](mailto:sbernstein44@gmail.com)  
**Phoenix** Michael Langley, A.B. '04, [m.langley@umiami.edu](mailto:m.langley@umiami.edu)  
**Raleigh-Durham** Grant Smith, M.I.B.S. '17, [gfs30@miami.edu](mailto:gfs30@miami.edu)  
**San Francisco** Fawn Perazzo, B.S. '98, [f\\_perazzo@yahoo.com](mailto:f_perazzo@yahoo.com)  
**Sarasota** Chris Clayton, B.S.C. '94, [cclayton12@aol.com](mailto:cclayton12@aol.com)  
**Saudi Arabia** Taghreed Al-Saraj, B.F.A.

'99, M.S.Ed. '01, [t.alsaraj@aol.com](mailto:t.alsaraj@aol.com)  
**Seattle** Jordan Louie, '07, [jordanklouie@gmail.com](mailto:jordanklouie@gmail.com)  
**Southwest Florida** Meredith Budd, B.S.M.A.S. '09, [meredithleigh7@gmail.com](mailto:meredithleigh7@gmail.com)  
**Spain** Jaime Escalante, B.B.A. '93, M.B.A. '11, [jescalante2@miami.edu](mailto:jescalante2@miami.edu)  
**Tampa** Zoheb Nensey, A.B. '10, [Zoheb.nensey@gmail.com](mailto:Zoheb.nensey@gmail.com)  
**Washington, D.C.** Matthew Piscitelli, B.S. '14, [mpiscitelli@gwu.law.edu](mailto:mpiscitelli@gwu.law.edu)

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Patricia S. Morgan, B.S. '06, President-Elect

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Robert S. Mann, A.B. '87, M.B.A. '89, President-Elect

#### LGBTQ Alumni Association

Roberto J. Bosch, B.S.M.S. '07, President

Taylot H. Ranbo, B.M. '14, M.A. '17, Vice President

#### Public Health Sciences

Monica M. Bahamon, B.S. '14, President

Stephanie A. Maestri, B.S.P.H. '14, President-Elect

#### UM Sports Hall of Fame

Richard M. Horton, B.S.M.E. '66, President

Mead M. McCabe, M.B.A. '91, President-Elect

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#### College of Engineering

Raul A. Velarde, B.S.E.N.E. '15, M.S.C.E. '15, President

#### Miller School of Medicine

Ana I. Gonzalez, B.S. '81, M.D. '85, President

Alex I. Mechaber, B.S. '90, M.D. '94, President-Elect

#### School of Law

Jason P. Kairalla, B.B.A. '98, J.D. '02, M.B.A. '02, President

Timothy A. Kolaya, B.S.C.E. '00, J.D. '08, President-Elect

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