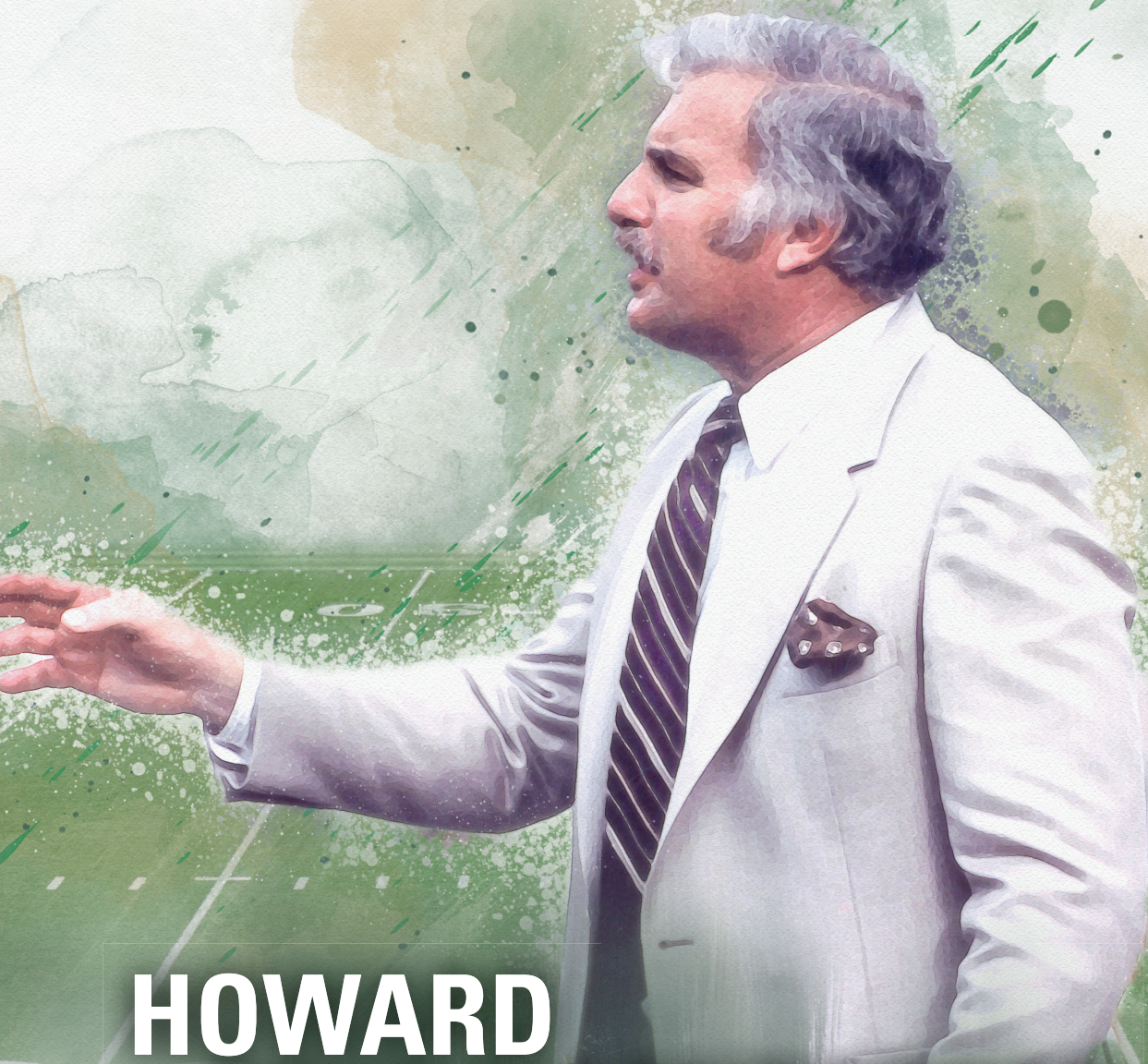


MIAMI

THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MAGAZINE | SPRING 2021



HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER

The University pays tribute to the pioneering coach who built a Hurricanes football dynasty while shaping lives on and off the field.



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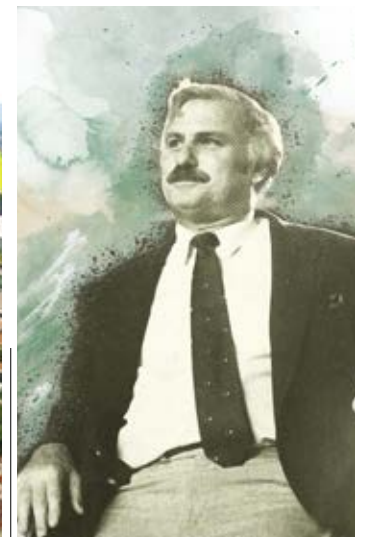
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The University of Miami Magazine

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on the cover



TO HIS PLAYERS, HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER WAS TOUGH, HONEST, AND LOYAL.

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Tracking COVID-19 Variants

University team's research will help determine vaccines' efficacy



Dr. David Andrews, associate professor at the Miller School of Medicine, reviews data with senior medical technologist Ranjini Valiathan, center, and Paola Pagan, executive director of laboratory operations for UHealth.

With new mutations of COVID-19 continuing to emerge, raising concerns about the ability of vaccines to manage them, the University is one of a handful of academic medical centers across the country testing COVID-19 samples for the variants and sequencing them.

“Because of our geographic location, it’s very important for us to develop these capabilities,” says Dr. Stephen D. Nimer, director of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Health System and Miller School of Medicine, who developed the University’s COVID-19 testing program for patients and employees. “If we are able to find other variants, we can then determine whether they are covered by our vaccines and whether they actually cause more severe disease—all of this information is helpful for the world to know.”

Dr. David Andrews, an associate professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Miller School, is leading a collaborative initiative to track and sequence the emerging variants. Early this year, his team began collecting and testing positive COVID-19 samples for the variants from patients at UHealth Tower and Jackson Health System’s three hospitals, along with University faculty and staff members. By mid-March, the team had ramped up its sampling capacity to 200 samples per week. Simultaneously, a fraction of the samples is chosen for genetic sequencing, which takes five days to complete. Miller School faculty members assisted with this effort by the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics (HIHG), a UHealth facility.

“The striking thing is the geographic diversity of the variants—Brazil, California, New York, Saudi Arabia, even one

“The key here is to get everyone vaccinated to get ahead of the curve so that variants such as the Brazilian P1 or others that have properties of immune escape don’t escape.” —Dr. David Andrews



Medical technologist Haider Saleh loads COVID-19 samples into a DNA extraction instrument used to detect the U.K. variant.

that seems to have emerged from Aruba—that our sequencing runs have turned up,” says Andrews, who is also vice chief of pathology for Jackson Health System. “This really reflects the international community that we live in.”

Andrews highlights the value of the collaboration with the Hussman Institute.

“This has progressed to a more sophisticated and powerful level because the cancer core sequencing facility is working with the HIHG, which offers powerful sequencing capacity and additionally the expertise and ability to handle the informatics pipeline,” Andrews says.

University scientists are searching for variants in two ways. After the COVID-19 positive samples are separated, the University’s pathology lab splits each sample in half. One half of the sample goes to the lab of Emmanuel Thomas, M.D. ’07, where he uses targeted PCR testing to determine the origin of

the variant. This operation takes about 24 hours for results.

A third of the COVID-19 positive samples are also taken for genetic sequencing, a more labor-intensive operation done at the Onco-Genomics Shared Resource lab at Sylvester. Led by Sion Williams, a research assistant professor in the Miller School’s Department of Neurology, the team of scientists sequences the samples and feeds them into a global public database to compare against existing variants.

Anthony Griswold from the Miller School’s Department of Human Genetics is also working on accelerating this process so that analysis can be done on campus. Despite the complexity, Nimer, Andrews, and Williams acknowledge that sequencing is a critical part of the effort to combat COVID-19.

“The key here is to get everyone vaccinated to get ahead of the curve so that variants such as the Brazilian P1 or others that have properties of immune escape don’t escape,” says Andrews.

Fauci Discusses Pandemic Lessons, Challenges

The infectious disease expert shares his perceptions about the coronavirus with the Miller School of Medicine community

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, whose career as an infectious disease expert has spanned six U.S. administrations, shared his insights on the evolving coronavirus with a virtual audience of students and faculty members at the Miller School of Medicine’s Department of Medicine’s Grand Rounds, a monthly lecture series that often features outside experts.

As the school’s Hoffman Ratzan Endowed Lecturer, Fauci, the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, offered a 40-minute talk on “COVID-19 in 2021: Lessons Learned and Remaining Challenges.”

Although noting the decline in case numbers, Fauci cautioned that since first being detected in the United States, the virus had surged three times and each

surge had built on the previous one, raising the stakes for hospitals and the overall number of deaths.

“With the appearance of variants, we have to keep an eye on that. And even though, thankfully, we are seeing a diminution in cases, we are not by any means over with this surge,” he told the approximately 1,800 viewers during the February event.

Fauci called the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines the “success story” of the pandemic, a favorable result he attributed to the groundwork laid by vaccine scientists, who during the past decade developed a platform that was quickly customizable.

“Something that would have taken years to do was accomplished in a matter of months,” Fauci remarked.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“This is purely a reflection of scientific advances and the work that was put in for the prior decade for the development of this platform technology.”

President Julio Frenk, a global health expert, welcomed the renowned immunologist as “a towering figure in global health who has safeguarded and relied on the integrity of science, without bending to political pressures.”

Two Worlds Converge

Extended reality (XR) initiative is enhancing ways to live, work, and learn



School of Nursing and Health Studies student Jackie Ferreira wears Magic Leap goggles to develop an application that helps familiarize nurse anesthesia students with a hospital operating room.

Through its new XR Initiative, the University is advancing interdisciplinary efforts to reimagine teaching and learning while supporting students and faculty members who work with extended reality (XR) technology, which explores the interface between physical objects and digital environments.

“We live in an age where technologies are rapidly converging, and new computational environments like XR are thriving in collaborative settings,” says Kim Grinfeder, chair of the Department of Interactive Media in the School of Communication. “As a relatively small campus with a very diverse faculty, the University is uniquely suited for this interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Founded on the premise that immersive environments seamlessly blending the real world with digital information are destined to become the next

pervasive platform for a variety of fields, the initiative is seeding its value in a range of schools and departments.

At the School of Nursing and Health Studies, faculty members and students are developing an application using Magic Leap goggles to teach nurse anesthesia students how to familiarize themselves with the operating room.

“One of the biggest problems novice learners and junior students face when first introduced to the clinical setting is their lack of confidence and familiarity in the operating room environment,” explains Greta Mitzova-Vladinov, D.N.P. ’13, assistant professor of clinical. “Teaching in simulation using XR helps prepare them for the high-risk scenarios they’ll face.”

Dr. Lee Kaplan, director of the UHealth Sports Medicine Institute, is using XR technology to enhance

the patient experience at The Lennar Foundation Medical Center.

Kaplan helped create an application, co-sponsored by the Miami Clinical and Translational Science Institute, that provides patients the opportunity to virtually endure the main aspects of what they will actually experience on their surgery day. The simulation is geared to decrease anxieties and thereby improve results.

The University’s alliance with South Florida-based Magic Leap, founded by Rony Abovitz, B.S.M.E. ’94, M.S.B.E. ’98, is likewise supporting XR research. President Julio Frenk says the partnership is transforming learning and incorporating spatial computing into the University experience.

“Miami is like the Alexandria [Egypt] of the 21st century, a major connector of cultures and influences, and the University is perfectly positioned to advance this exciting, collaborative technology,” he notes.

Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, foresees the University leading the way for implementing this technology in the South Florida community.

“XR technologies provide limitless potential for fostering collaboration between all of our schools and colleges, which will lead to new inventions and enhanced ways to live, learn, and work,” says Duerk.

The XR Initiative is part of the Roadmap to Our New Century, the University’s strategic plan outlining priorities in advance of its centennial in 2025.

“These technologies are both immersive and interactive, giving students access to hands-on learning and letting them experience remote places without the incurred risks or costs. The possibilities are endless,” says Grinfeder.



Visit xr.miami.edu for more information about the University’s XR Initiative and a list of projects.



Elevating Indigenous Perspectives

First-ever course heightens awareness of Native Americans’ rights, issues

Caroline LaPorte, J.D. ’14, has long felt an ingrained responsibility to broaden awareness about Indigenous peoples, an urging rooted in her own history as an immediate descendant of the Little River Band of the Ottawa Indians (Bear Clan) of Manistee, Michigan.

This spring LaPorte manifested that passion, teaching “Introduction to Native and Indigenous Peoples and Perspectives,” a first-ever course at the University that explores the historical injustices and contemporary issues Indigenous people face and the impact

of Native American social justice movements on these issues.

The course is the first step of a broader initiative spurred by a group of faculty and staff members who believe that a new narrative of U.S. history is much needed and who ultimately seek to launch a Native American and Global Indigenous Studies (NAGIS) program at the University.

Their efforts are backed by a University Laboratory for Integrative Knowledge (U-LINK) social equity grant. A first event hosted a virtual

UHealth Gets a New Leader

CEO is a ‘true partner in building bridges’

Joe Echevarria, B.B.A. ’78, was appointed CEO of UHealth–University of Miami Health System and executive vice president for health affairs at the University, a position he had held on an interim basis.

The former CEO and longtime executive of Deloitte LLP will guide UHealth’s comprehensive network, which includes three inpatient hospital facilities and more than 30 outpatient locations in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Collier counties—with more than 1,300 physicians and scientists.

“Joe’s leadership acumen and financial expertise are precisely what the health system needs at this point in its trajectory,” says President Julio Frenk. “During his time as interim CEO, Joe has recruited several key leaders to UHealth and developed transformational plans

to enhance crucial business functions in support of our clinical, education, and research missions.”

The president credits Echevarria’s leadership and stewardship—along with the dedication and sacrifice of UHealth professionals—with enabling the academic health system to successfully navigate the challenges of COVID-19.

“Having a CEO who listens to their team and provides clarity is imperative, and Joe has done that during a very challenging year,” notes Dr. Tanira Ferreira, chief medical officer of the University of Miami Hospital and Clinics.

Dr. Henri Ford, dean of the Miller School of Medicine, says the new CEO is “an outstanding choice” to lead the health system. “Joe Echevarria is a true partner in building bridges to achieve

conversation with Miccosukee environmentalist and educator Betty Osceola, with additional online events taking place throughout the semester.

“We hope to make the Indigenous past and present of South Florida, our hemisphere, and the world a more meaningful realm of scholarly inquiry and social engagement for the entire University community, recognizing the need to support and amplify Native American and Indigenous voices,” says Tracy Devine Guzmán, an associate professor of modern languages and literatures who is co-leading the U-LINK team.

Will Pestle, an anthropology professor who co-directs the NAGIS initiative, said the group was thrilled for LaPorte, a scholar who is well-versed in Native American issues, to join the initiative, since many of the existing University faculty members who study indigenous topics—including himself—are more involved with groups outside of the U.S.



Visit nagis.miami.edu to learn more about the NAGIS initiative.



shared objectives, someone able to bring different people to the table and build consensus,” the dean says.

A graduate of the Miami Herbert Business School, Echevarria is a certified public accountant who served in multiple leadership positions over a 36-year career with Deloitte, the multinational professional services firm. A University trustee for seven years, he retired from Deloitte in 2014 and holds positions on the boards of several companies and organizations.

New Senior Vice Presidents

Whitely and Ugalde appointed to new leadership roles

Patricia A. Whitely, Ed.D. '94, and Aileen Ugalde, J.D. '91, both longtime University leaders renowned in their fields, were promoted in early February to senior vice presidents for the units they have led for a combined 39 years—the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of the General Counsel, respectively.

While the two launched their University careers in distinct eras—Whitely in the 1980s and Ugalde in the 1990s—both garnered a reputation for being forward-thinking leaders who were instrumental in raising the stature of their divisions.

President Julio Frenk recognizes Whitely as among the most accomplished student affairs leaders in the country and celebrates her “outstanding work in managing the student experience through a

pandemic—always prioritizing the well-being and development of our students.”

The president likewise highlights Ugalde’s expertise in helping the University track its strategic goals during the tumultuous pandemic.

“The strength of our operations, which sets us up to emerge from this historic time stronger than ever, relies on the sound legal guidance of our general counsel, Aileen Ugalde, who also served as a longtime secretary to the Board of Trustees,” Frenk says.

Whitely began at the University as a residence coordinator and rose through the ranks to hold such key positions as director of student life and associate director of residence halls before becoming vice president for student affairs in 1997.

Ugalde, initially recruited as a junior attorney on the Medical Campus, has



Patricia A. Whitely, left, and Aileen Ugalde

held a number of posts during the course of her tenure, including vice president for government affairs, assistant to the president, and secretary to the Board of Trustees. She was appointed vice president and general counsel of the University in 2006 and also served as the executive director for the University’s presidential searches in 2000 and 2014.

Inaugural Frost Institute Rises

Construction begins on the Frost Institute for Chemistry and Molecular Science



The first deck of the five-story, 94,000-square-foot Frost Institute for Chemistry and Molecular Science took concrete shape in the beginning of the year, and construction continues apace on the research hub where world-class chemists and molecular scientists will sync ideas with experts from other disciplines to tackle a myriad of global challenges.

Slated to open in the summer of

2022, just east of the McLamore Fountain on Memorial Drive, the institute is the first of a planned group of interdisciplinary research centers that will operate under the Frost Institutes for Science and Engineering umbrella.

“It is hard to overstate the role this building will play in moving discovery science forward,” says Leonidas G. Bachas, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and interim director of both the institute

and Frost Institutes umbrella, who is seeing a dream come true. “Completion is still a year and a half away, but to watch the progress from my window is very gratifying,”

A landmark \$100 million gift in 2017 from longtime benefactors Phillip and Patricia Frost gave flight to the institutes, which are destined to elevate the University’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) endeavors.

Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, notes that the inaugural institute’s location underscores its importance.

“Chemistry and molecular science give rise to everything that we can see and touch, from the air we breathe, to our thoughts, to the objects we use daily—from our cells to our cellphones,” Duerk says. “It’s fitting that the first of the Frost Institutes is rising at the center of the Coral Gables Campus, where it will propel the University’s trajectory as a leader in STEM research, education, and interdisciplinary discovery.”

The Business of Opportunity

School’s virtual lecture series explores leadership in times of crisis

President John F. Kennedy famously noted that the word “crisis” when written in Chinese is composed of two characters, one that represents danger and the other opportunity.

With the onset of the pandemic a year ago, the Miami Herbert Business School honed the focus of its existing speaker series to “leadership in a time of crisis” and shifted the venue from the Storer Auditorium to an online platform. As the pandemic has evolved, a cadre of trailblazing executives—representing an array of sectors, from airlines and ancestry to technology and vaccines—have shared acumen and advice for fostering opportunity in dire straits with a wider audience than ever before.

“As we face one of the greatest challenges to the business community in

our lifetimes, it is invaluable to hear the messages from these global business leaders on important lessons learned during previous crises, as well as on the leadership traits that should guide decision-making today and tomorrow, when we will need to work together to rebound from the impact of this pandemic,” says Dean John Quelch.

Speakers in recent months have included Ajay Banga, CEO of Mastercard; Stephen A. Schwarzman, co-founder of the investment firm Blackstone; Anne Wojcicki, CEO and co-founder of 23&Me; Eric Yuan, Zoom CEO and founder; and Patricia Russo, chair of Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

With travel and cost barriers eliminated, the lecture series has observed a



surge in its registrants and global reach. Before COVID-19, the lecture series drew about 250 people on average from the Miami area; now, in virtual space, an average of 1,000 viewers from more than 30 countries log on.

At the Intersection of Architecture and Race

Professor’s exhibit featured at New York’s MoMA

Germane Barnes’ architectural installation “Spectrum of Blackness,” which celebrates the range of Black cultural identity in Miami through the lens of architecture, formed part of a spring 2021 exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City.

Barnes, assistant professor of architecture, was one of 10 Black architects, designers, and artists selected by the prestigious museum to develop new works for “Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America,” a first-ever, all-Black exhibition that juxtaposes urban space with racism and injustice in the United States.

Barnes adhered to all the COVID-19 precautions and traveled to New York for the opening in late February. “I didn’t want to have any regrets about missing this historic moment within the architecture world,” he says.

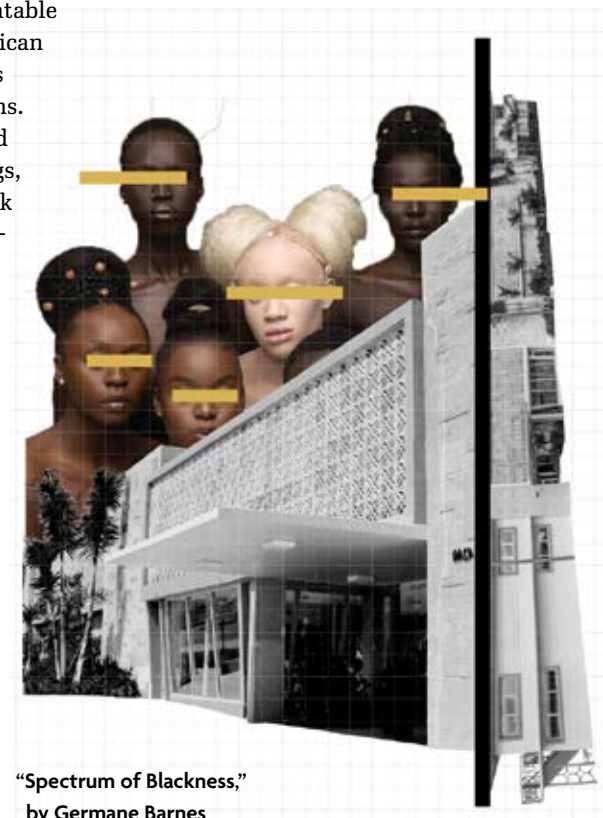
Originally from Chicago, Barnes has explored Black culture themes in exhibits in Miami that featured the traditional use of the front porch and the dining

table. “I try to make my work relatable and to create work that other African Americans who are not architects can still interact with,” he explains.

For this installation, composed of 12 digital collages, two drawings, and a 3-by-5-by-11-foot spice rack sculpture, he chose three lenses—porches, kitchens, and water—to explore Black culture in Miami through items of ethnic familiarity and personal relevance.

While he already had a body of work about porches to draw from, a University provost’s grant, awarded in the fall, prompted his focus on the kitchen as a new topic.

“Developing the exhibit was an opportunity to test a lot of my initial research,” he explains. And he included water as a theme “because you can’t talk of Miami without talking about water, and I’m hyper aware of it.”



“Spectrum of Blackness,” by Germane Barnes

Inaugural Racial Justice Grants Awarded

New program supports student-led research initiatives, service projects, and activities that focus on racial justice and equality

As part of the Racial Justice Pilot Grant Program, 13 student-driven projects that seek to foster equity, inclusion, and racial justice across the University and in the greater South Florida community were selected to receive collective funding of more than \$55,000 in this first year.

The pilot program, coordinated by the Office of Civic and Community Engagement, Multicultural Student Affairs, and the Butler Center for Service and Leadership, serves as a component of the University's 15-point plan that was conceived and implemented following the wave of protests for social justice and the rise of incidents of anti-Black racism across the country last summer.

"The Racial Justice Grant Program allows the creativity, passion, and dedication of our students, faculty, and staff to be put on paper," says Christopher Clarke, director of Multicultural Student Affairs, noting that close to 40 proposals were submitted.

Monique McKenny, a fourth-year doctoral candidate and a graduate assistant to the three coordinating

offices, guided the grant proposal process, which included workshops and informational sessions. The final proposals were selected by faculty and staff members of the Standing Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

President Julio Frenk announced the final 13 grant recipients in a letter to the University community in early April.

Robin Bachin, assistant provost for civic and community engagement, notes that the student teams will collaborate with faculty and staff members and community partners to tackle a broad spectrum of issues.

"It is so exciting to see the breadth of the projects our teams will be developing," says Bachin, who is also a Charlton W. Tebeau associate professor of history. "The projects really reflect the diversity of our academic scholarship and teaching at the University, as well as the vibrancy of our local community."

Grantees will address issues relating to disparities in health and education—strengthening the pipeline of qualified candidates aspiring to higher education, STEM careers, and the arts—as well as the persistent disparities and vulnerabilities that communities of



color face with respect to the impacts of climate change.

Renee Dickens Callan, Ed.D. '18, assistant vice president for student life and co-chair of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, describes the program as a mutually beneficial, hands-on learning experience for students and the community.

"It's my hope that our University continues to foster sustained, meaningful, and cooperative relationships with the greater Miami community," says Callan, "and that each project brings about innovative ideas that inspire others to contribute in whatever way they can to making a difference."



Learn more about the grant program, including a list of recipients, at president.miami.edu/inclusion/racial-justice-pilot-grant-program/index.html.

Live Music Returns

Frost Music Fest '21 puts live music back in the spotlight

With superstar soprano Renée Fleming headlining an eclectic lineup of talented musicians, live music returned to the Coral Gables Campus this spring with a six-hour musical extravaganza: Frost Music Fest '21.

The free outdoor concert was held on the intramural fields in front of a limited live audience of students enrolled in on-campus classes and faculty and staff members cleared to return to campus. COVID-19 safety protocols were enforced. Ten student ensembles, which totaled 180 students, performed an array of musical genres—jazz, rock, Latin, R&B, classical, and more.

Fleming's performance at the concert



was backed by the all-student Frost Symphony Orchestra, led by world-renowned Maestro Gerard Schwarz, and special guest pianist Shelly Berg, the dean of the Frost School of Music.

The Frost Band of the Hour performed, as well as Frost School Grammy- and Latin Grammy-winning faculty members. Singer-songwriter John Splithoff, whose hit singles have netted more than 100 million streams, performed a set with the American Music Ensemble.

Frost Music Fest '21 was also livestreamed, and it offered audience members an opportunity to donate to the Travis Quinn Opportunity Scholarship Fund in tribute to the gifted musician who tragically lost his life.

R+D Update



Graduate student Kristina Babler processes wastewater samples.

Tracking COVID-19 in Wastewater

Last fall, as the University expanded its efforts to detect and stem the spread of COVID-19, Helena Solo-Gabriele, B.S. '87, M.S. '88, professor of environmental engineering and associate dean of research for the College of Engineering, led a project to search for COVID-19 in wastewater.

"Research has shown that people will start excreting the virus in their feces and urine before showing symptoms of COVID-19, so the idea is to use wastewater measurements as an early warning for a potential outbreak," explains Solo-Gabriele.

Her team includes Stephan Schürer, a professor of molecular and cellular pharmacology at the Miller School of Medicine, and Christopher Mason, an associate professor of physiology, biophysics, and computational genomics in computational biomedicine at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City, together with approximately 40 University of Miami students and faculty and staff members.

Last fall, the team began regularly collecting and analyzing wastewater samples from all three campuses. In January, their efforts were bolstered with a two-year, \$5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Erin Kobetz, vice provost for research and scholarship, who has been leading the University's COVID-19 testing, tracking, and tracing efforts, says the new funding will help the team expand its efforts. "It's incredible that this team was able to leverage something they were establishing to support the University's management of COVID-19 for a broader scientific impact."

Language Can Affect Pain

A new University psychology study suggests that the language a bilingual person speaks can affect physical sensations, depending on "the cultural association tied to each vernacular."

Morgan Gianola, M.S. '20, a psychology graduate student; Elizabeth Losin, assistant professor of psychology and director of the Social and Cultural

Neuroscience Lab; and Maria Llabre, professor and associate chair of the Department of Psychology, published "Effects of Language Context and Cultural Identity on the Pain Experience of Spanish-English Bilinguals" in the journal *Affective Science*.

"This study highlights, first, that Hispanic/Latino communities are not monolithic and that the factors affecting bilinguals' psychological and physiological responses to pain can differ across individuals," says Gianola.

Access to All of Us Data

University investigators across all disciplines, following privacy protocols, are now able to access the more than 200,000 health records already compiled as part of the National Institutes of Health All of Us Research Program.

Currently in its third year, the \$2 billion-plus, 10-year initiative aims to collect lifestyle, health, and genetic information from 1 million people of all races, ethnicities, backgrounds, and gender identities living in the United States.

Both the program and the University's Miller School of Medicine—which is leading the program's effort to recruit about 80,000 participants from Florida and Georgia—deemed the existing data of sufficient value to researchers to grant immediate access.

"The Researcher Workbench is a major milestone in fulfilling the promise of the All of Us program, but for now it may be one of the best kept secrets in biomedical research," says Dr. Stephan Züchner, professor and chair of the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Department of Human Genetics and lead principal investigator for the program's Southeast Enrollment Center (SEEC), which also includes the University of Florida, Emory University, and Morehouse School of Medicine.

"What's exciting is that it opens biomedical data access to many qualified investigators, including people in the social sciences, basic sciences, sports, and even the arts—the possibilities are endless," he says.



Dr. Olveen Carrasquillo, professor of public health sciences and chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, who is the SEEC's participant engagement lead, says the most exciting aspect of the program is its success in recruiting minorities, noting that "we've seen really robust and good efforts at assuring they are included."

Student-Athletes Score High in Academics—Again

Thirteen of the University's 17 athletics teams earned at least a 3.0 team GPA last semester and, as a whole, the athletics department posted a 3.09 GPA—marking the 14th consecutive semester that the Hurricanes have notched a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

The football team turned in its best-ever performance off the field, with nine players maintaining a 3.0 GPA for the previous semester and a cumulative 3.0 average throughout the course of their academic careers.

Overall, 29 student-athletes posted at least a 4.0 GPA, while 229 topped the 3.0 mark and 201 earned spots on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll with a GPA of at least 3.2.

Nine student-athletes, including Jose Borregales, D'Eriq King, and Jaelan Phillips from the football team; soccer players Selena Fortich and Tyler Speaks; and rowers Sara Hansen, Taylor Kuligowski, Abigail Schwenger, and Maren Stickley were tapped into the Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership society.

"Our athletics department strives to help our student-athletes excel in all aspects of their college life," says President Julio Frenk, "and I am thrilled to see them continue to meet this level of success in the classroom."

Brothers 'Del' Power the 'Canes

For the baseball 'Canes, one of the best surprises of the season was the

dynamic play of the Del Castillo brothers, Christian "Delly" and younger brother Adrian "Del."

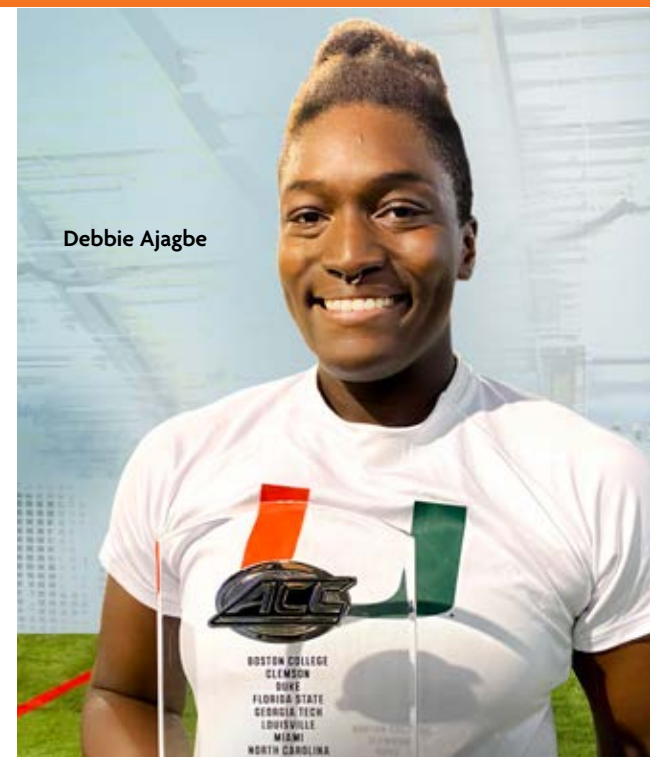
The brothers Del are back playing together for the first time since Christian was 11 and Adrian 9. And, on any given day, one of the two was leading the team in batting average or runs driven in, according to David Villavicencio, associate director of athletics communications.

Adrian, a power-hitting catcher, is a major league prospect who powered the team in a range of offensive stats last year. Yet Christian—who transferred to the University to pursue a graduate degree in biochemistry after starting for three years on Seton Hall's baseball team and earning his undergraduate degree last year—has proven to be the major surprise.

"He's consistently come through in a big spot—it's been awesome and a very positive addition," says Villavicencio.

The chance to come home to Miami, pursue his graduate degree, and play for the Hurricanes he grew up loving offered an opportunity Christian wasn't about to pass up. He balanced the demands of baseball and graduate studies this semester by taking many classes online and having supervisors who offer flexibility for lab and research tasks.

Younger brother Adrian continues powering his way toward a chance at playing in the major leagues. With such a Cinderella season, Christian might adjust his sights as well, yet "he has the opportunity to be really successful outside of sports," notes Villavicencio.



Debbie Ajagbe

Ajagbe Is Back on Track

Despite the forced break from competition caused by the pandemic, track and field star Debbie Ajagbe picked up where she left off, winning both the shot put event and ACC Field MVP in indoor competition again this year and, in the first meet in outdoor competition, shot-putting a personal best 16.37 meters.

"After my performance in the indoors, I'm ready for more," says Ajagbe, a senior. "After everything with the pandemic, I was really happy to see that I've still got it and was able to come back and basically start up where I left off."

Ajagbe grew up in Miami and, prompted by her three older, very athletic siblings, excelled early in track

and field, earning a spot on the varsity team while in seventh grade.

"They would say 'you're not just smart, you could be athletic, too, if you wanted to' and pushed me to play sports—especially basketball," she remembers. "But at the end of the day, I fell in love with track and stuck with it more."

Ajagbe has brought that same spirit to excel on the field and in the classroom to the University. A candidate in the five-year mechanical engineering program, next year she will earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees. And, because of pandemic eligibility, she plans to return for another year of competition.

Event coach Cory Young gets lots of credit from Ajagbe for helping her to improve her technique and

bolster her confidence. And, her long-term goals still include the Olympics, which were postponed to this summer.

"First, I'd like to make it to trials and then maybe to the Olympics," she says. "This year is just a really good collegiate year for me and, regardless of the Olympics, I'll try to make a U.S. team for any of the world championships the following year."

Platform Power

Six University of Miami divers, four men and two women, earned the opportunity to compete in the 2021 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, one of five regional meets.

Senior team captain Zach Cooper led the cadre of divers, taking third overall in the men's platform to notch All-America honors for the third time.

"He was so locked in this whole trip and this whole year," says head diving coach Randy Ableman. "I knew he was going to perform well, and he came through."

In women's competition, Emma Gullstrand and Mia Vallée—making their first trip to the championships—both turned in top-10 finishes on springboard events.

Four Miami divers—Cooper, Vallée, Gullstrand, and Brodie Scapens—earned All-America

recognition this postseason. Jack Matthews was an honorable mention All-America in both springboard events, and Max Flory finished 19th in the men's platform preliminaries.

"They're a hard-working group and really on the right track," says Ableman. "We were good at the conference meet, better at zones, and even better at NCAAs. For the kids who performed, I'm really proud of our results."

Get 'Behind the U'



To hear about the challenges the winners of the first University of Miami Athletics Trailblazer Award faced and the legacies they've seeded, why outside linebackers coach Ishmael Aristide pivoted from a corporate career to college coaching, and how director of recruiting David Cooney approaches his responsibilities in South Florida high schools, tune in to "Behind the U," the official podcast of University of Miami Athletics. Launched in December 2020, the weekly podcast offers a lively series of entertaining and engaging interviews with Hurricanes past and present.



Listen to episodes on Apple, Spotify, and Stitcher, or at miamihurricanes.com/podcast.



Abigail Schwenger



Adrian Del Castillo



Christian Del Castillo

MIAMI ATHLETICS

Content in the Crosshairs

University experts examine initiatives to manage social media content

As Facebook moves to manage the hate speech and misinformation that circulates on its platform and as calls intensify to reform the legislation that grants internet providers immunity for content on their sites, University of Miami scholars survey these and other critical issues impacting the unruly world of social media.

Sam Terilli, chair of the Department of Journalism and Media Management in the School of Communication, and John Newman, associate professor in the School of Law, offer insights on Facebook's Oversight Board, the independent body created to rule on emblematic hate speech, misinformation, and violent content posted on the platform.

Neither professor is optimistic that the board is sufficiently empowered to address the core issues relating to content, and both doubt its ability to manage the avalanche of controversial content produced continuously by Facebook's more than 3 to 4 billion users worldwide.

"Clearly, Facebook has gone to a great deal of trouble—creating an independent endowment for funding [the board], selecting very interesting people from a wide cross section, and even giving the board clear authority to make decisions on its takedowns," Terilli remarks.

"Yet providing an avenue for people who are upset when their posts are taken down is half the problem at best," Terilli adds.

Newman identifies four concerns that could undermine the board's effectiveness: judge selection, case selection, judicial bias, and the court's subject matter jurisdiction. Yet most concerning for Newman, whose core expertise is in antitrust regulation and competition or absence thereof, is Facebook's business model.



"The [business] incentive is not just to design a great product—that's there, too—but to design it to addict people," he says, adding that while the court lacks authority on this issue, the Federal Trade Commission could potentially play a role from a fair competition perspective.

Both Terilli, who practiced law for 30 years, and Newman agree there are no precedents for Facebook to follow.

"There's not anything parallel where a company like Facebook is trying to exert this degree of content moderation while also trying to retain its privileged status under Section 230," Newman says, referencing the provision under the Communication Decency Act (CDA) that grants immunity to service providers for content posted on their sites.

The CDA was enacted in 1996—before social media platforms even existed. Today, a range of parties, from individuals who have been harassed on social media to conservatives charging media bias, have increasingly called for

the reform or repeal of Section 230. A. Michael Froomkin, a School of Law professor with expertise in constitutional and internet law, recognizes that there are noble reasons to protect individuals and certain groups from the mental and verbal abuse that proliferates on the platforms but argues that the protections for free speech outweigh the merits of repeal.

"Section 230 is one of the key reasons why the internet is as useful as it is, and why the United States is the location of choice for major internet content companies," he says.

In contrast, Terilli insists that the internet world is vastly different from when the CDA was enacted.

"It was a reasonable response to the problem as it was understood at that time," he says. "But as with any other law and fast-changing form of technology, we need to take a step back and reevaluate—not for the political reasons that have been articulated—but for the reasons related to protecting people and better serving society."

Faculty Files

Diversity Advocate Opens Minds About Athletic Training

If Kysha Harriell, M.S.Ed. '99, M.S.Ed. '01, Ph.D. '10, were to offer a juggling performance with a hat for each of her University responsibilities, it would surely be a mesmerizing show.

Her titles are many: executive director of the Office of Academic Enhancement; clinical professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences, in the School of Education and Human Development; chair of the Residential Faculty Program; and senior residential faculty in Mahoney Residential College. Additionally, Harriell chairs the Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee of the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA).

"True, I wear a lot of hats, but there's a lot of weird, unique, and cool overlap," she laughs. "And at the center of all those hats are the students—I want to do all I can so everyone feels they have the opportunity to be the best they can and find a job they're passionate about, just like me."

Growing up in Washington, D.C., Harriell enjoyed watching professional football games with her dad, but one game in particular proved most memorable.

A crushing tackle that broke several bones and ended Washington's star quarterback Joe Theismann's football career launched Harriell's own career direction.

"That injury really got me interested in sports medicine and wanting to fix every football player so they wouldn't have to end their career," she says. Years later, while in New Orleans for a NATA conference, she recognized Theismann in the hotel and told him the story. "He was definitely impressed," she remembers.

Harriell arrived at the University in 1997 for a six-month internship in the athletics department. The University had no women's soccer or volleyball teams at the time, but plans to add them were underway. Harriell was so impressive during her internship that she was invited to pursue her graduate work at the University and to become the first athletic trainer for the women's soccer team.

A 'Cane Talk that she gave in November 2019, "Ask the Right Questions: What Athletic Trainers Can Teach Us About Health Care," focusing on health care disparities, helped her realize how much she enjoys teaching.

"I always thought it was



a shame that people often didn't understand their injuries, that no one took time to explain them," she says. "It was important to me to go into teaching to empower people to know more about their injuries and to train athletic trainers to be that type of health care provider who's going to educate their patient."

While gender balance in the field of athletic training has flipped since she began—the percentage of women now surpasses that of men—Harriell focuses today on increasing racial and ethnic diversity, so that more minority youth see the field as a viable career.

And because athletic training is a relatively new profession, having only launched in the 1950s, Harriell says many misunderstand what trainers do and underestimate their importance.

"An athletic trainer is

a licensed and certified health care professional—an emergency medical technician, nurse, and physical therapist combined in one," she explains.

She's excited to have just finished writing two chapters in a soon-to-be-published book on women in leadership positions. And recently, she began focusing on recruiting veterans who have experience with being a medic or in medical services in the military to athletic training.

Whether in the classroom, the residence halls, or the Office of Academic Enhancement, or speaking to groups around the country, a common fabric binds all the hats Harriell wears: passion for educating about her field and an unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. —Michael R. Malone

DCC XI Ignites Global Support to Raise \$6.3 Million

Participants and volunteers virtually and in person supported the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Parts of the 11th annual Dolphins Challenge Cancer (DCC) event on April 10 had to be reimagined to ensure safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the enthusiasm of the thousands of participating supporters of Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center—both virtually and in person—could not have been stronger. Cries of “One team, one fight!” could be heard throughout Hard Rock Stadium much of the day as cyclists, walkers, and runners crossed the finish line, their fundraising efforts bringing in about \$6.3 million, so far.

“The DCC has raised over \$45.5 million over the past 11 years, 100 percent of which goes directly to Sylvester,” says Dr. Stephen D. Nimer, director of Sylvester, who led the 100-mile ride. “Those funds have played a significant role in helping further innovative cancer research.”

The Miami Dolphins made a record-setting \$75 million commitment to fund research at Sylvester, part of the University of Miami Health System and Miller School of Medicine, last



Cyclists in the 35-mile ride line up on the Coral Gables Campus.

November. University President Julio Frenk launched the DCC's 35-mile ride, which left from the University's Coral Gables Campus. Jacqueline Travisano, executive vice president for business and finance and chief operating officer for the University, served as DCC chair for the past two years.

“Last year, the DCC was the last major event we held before the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic,” Frenk told participants.

“Today, it is the first major event as we anticipate an end to the acute health emergency—thanks to the heroic efforts of health care workers and the astounding feat of science that delivered vaccines in less than a year.”

Tom Garfinkel, president and chief executive officer of the Miami Dolphins, opened the 15-mile ride by thanking the cyclists and reminding them that “you don't have to have cancer to fight cancer.”

Laurie Silvers Elected Board of Trustees Chair

The double alumna, attorney, media entrepreneur, and philanthropist has been a trustee for the past 15 years



Media entrepreneur, prominent attorney, and philanthropist Laurie Silvers, A.B. '74, J.D. '77, is the new chair of the University of Miami's Board of Trustees, becoming only the third woman to lead the body that governs one of the top private research institutions in the nation.

Silvers—who has served as a trustee for the past 15 years, chairing several initiatives, including the investments committee—is co-founder of the SyFy

channel. Her meteoric rise in the media industry followed a 10-year career as a communications attorney. She is currently the co-CEO of Hollywood.com, the majority owner of four Florida FM radio stations, and a co-founder and the majority owner of the global esports organization Misfits—which counts the Miami Heat, Orlando Magic, and Cleveland Browns as its minority owners.

Along with her husband, Mitchell Rubenstein, Silvers is a passionate supporter of the School of Law, creating an endowed distinguished professorship and funding student scholarships. The Laurie Silvers and Mitchell Rubenstein Hall, which houses the school's award-winning clinics, is named in their honor.

Other new positions on the board include Manuel “Manny” Kadre, chairman and CEO of MBB Auto Group, and

Johnny C. Taylor Jr., B.S.C. '89, president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, as vice chairs. Geisha Williams, B.S.I.E. '83, and Marvin Shanken, B.B.A. '65, founder and chair of M. Shanken Communications, Inc., are rejoining the board as regular trustees. The board also elected Christopher Chen, M.D. '00, CEO of ChenMed, as alumni trustee, and Landon Coles, the 2021-22 Student Government president, as student trustee.

New ex-officio trustees are Carlos Guzman, B.B.A. '83 (president-elect, Citizens Board), president and chief operating officer of ATM Global Brands, and Maribel Wadsworth, B.S.C. '93 (president-elect of the Alumni Association), president of USA Today Network, president of news at Gannett Media, and publisher of USA Today.

Student Spotlight

Force of Gravity

Sophomore Julian Crosby creates Gravity Magazine to inspire appreciation of Black culture

When Julian Crosby met with officers from the National Association of Black Journalists to strategize for what would become Gravity Magazine, the first publication on campus dedicated to celebrating Black creative essence, he envisioned an outlet for Black students to share their personal narratives while also inspiring all students to better appreciate the many contributions of Black culture to society.

Gravity, an online publication that debuted in August 2020, surfaced in the wake of the unrest related to the killing of George Floyd and the galvanizing impact of the Black Lives Matter movement.

“While this was the timing, I didn't want it to be a product of BLM or to be a marketing gimmick that the school got behind,” says Crosby, a Hammond Scholar, Foote Fellow, and honors student. “There are huge, huge social crusades at the foundation of what we're doing, but I was just trying to foment some type of peace.”

At its core, he explains, “Gravity is a safe space for Black art to thrive, a space where you come to draw, write, paint, or create in a very tense time.

“Ever since I was little, I've always used art as a type of escape—like

quitting my basketball team to perform in the school musical,” he continues. “I've always been a writer and always been into art as a way of expressing myself and venting frustration.”

He grew up in a military family—his dad was an engineer who worked on nuclear submarines—and moved regularly, all over the country before settling for a decade in Jacksonville, Florida, where Crosby went to high school.

Four other siblings—one of them a twin brother—provided lots of companionship. Yet always being the “new kid in town” led to a sense of chaos and, in North Florida, being the “new Black kid,” he says, made him a target.

“Harassment? Jokes? That's daily life and just how it is being Black in America,” he says.

Because the local school was “not a vibe,” his parents transferred Crosby and his brothers to a private school and drove an hour a day to take them. Things got “really heated” there, too, when Crosby made some “pretty insensitive” comments that prompted calls for his suspension by white parents and students at the school.

“I would have been,” he remembers, “except the one Black professor at the school threatened to quit her job if I was suspended.” His sanction was to write a paper about the incident. Crosby wrote eight pages—he is, after all, a writer and storyteller.

“The continual changes of being around so many different types of people and experiencing all different customs and energies definitely composed me into who I am today,” he says. “It's why I love interacting with all sorts of people and love embracing the qualities that make people different.”

He has infused that energy into Gravity.

“Gravity is more of a space, a metaphorical building with blankets and warm food and nice people—a figurative home for people rather than a weapon to end systemic racism,” he explains.

For the time being, he's seeking to secure some new funding to add a printed component to the publication.

“My hope is for Gravity to continue to flourish online and in print,” says Crosby. “I hope it extends beyond the campus to reach a Black student growing up in Rhode Island—or anywhere in the world—who doesn't feel that they fit in,” he adds. “I hope it becomes a catalyzing force within people so they recognize they can write about their own narrative and use art as a form of healing and power.”



Read the latest from thegravitymagazine.com.

Mining the data in science

Launched this year but built on more than a decade of investments in computing infrastructure and expertise, the Institute for Data Science and Computing is positioning the University at the core of the data revolution.

BY MAYA BELL

A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO GLOBAL WARMING, CONCRETE PRODUCTION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH GLAUCOMA, ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF IRREVERSIBLE BLINDNESS IN THE WORLD—

except perhaps at the University of Miami, where two faculty members hope to show how data science and computing can address critical problems in their respective fields.

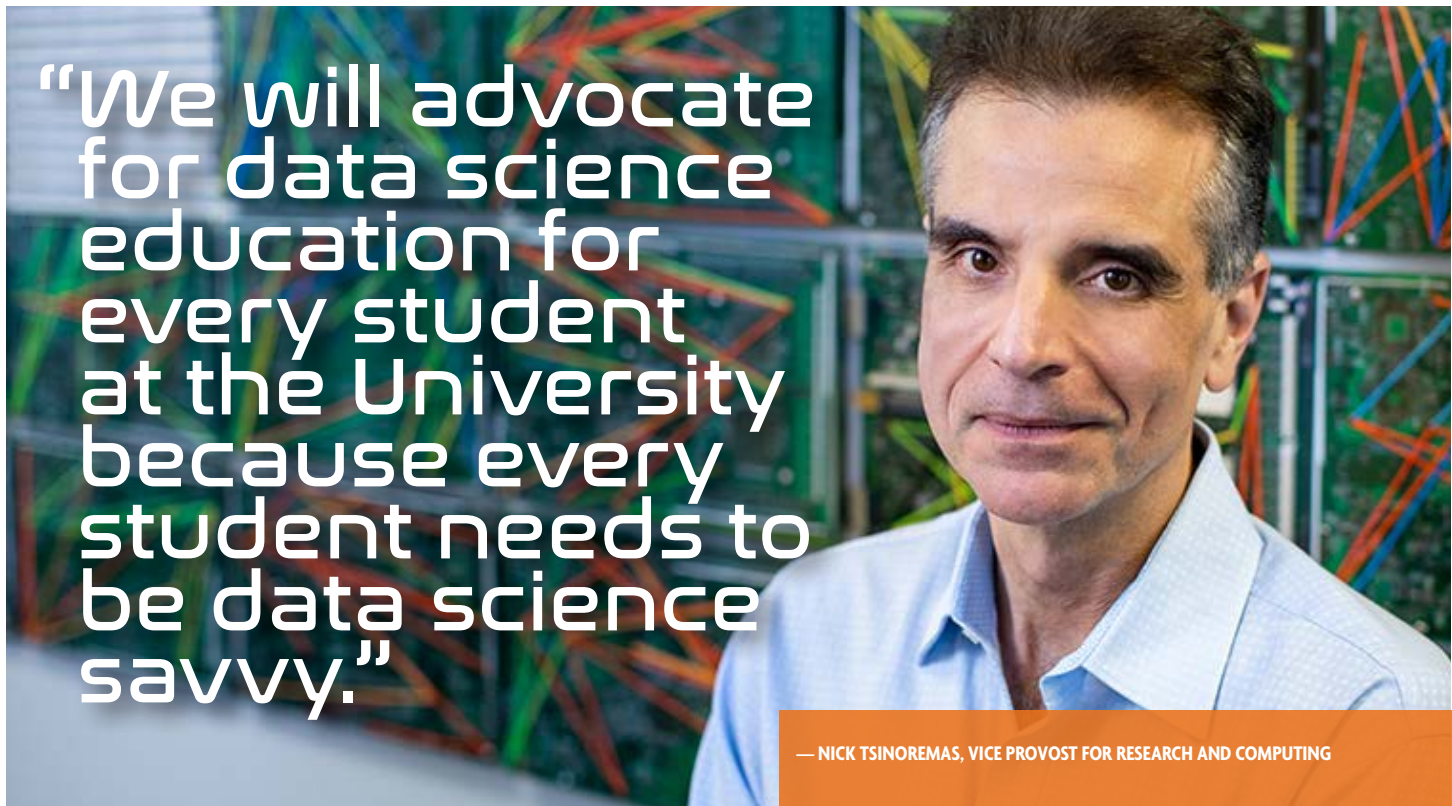
An assistant professor of civil, architectural, and environmental engineering, Luis Ruiz Pestana aims to use machine learning to create the first computer model that simulates how concrete deteriorates over time. His ultimate goal: Develop a more durable microstructure for concrete, enabling bridges, buildings, and highways to last centuries, rather than decades.

An assistant professor of ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Dr. Swarup Swaminathan is using advanced statistical modeling to comb thousands of patients' records for clues that will predict which individuals are at greatest risk for rapidly progressing glaucoma—so sight-saving interventions can begin before it's too late.

Both of their ideas have paradigm-shifting potential but, for now, are budding experiments supported by new interdisciplinary grants from the University's Institute for Data Science and Computing, or IDSC (pronounced i-disk). Formally launched early last year—just before the novel coronavirus pandemic shut down most of the world—IDSC evolved from one of the University's most successful experiments, the Center for Computational Science (CCS), with the ambitious mission to transform the University into a global epicenter of data science through research, education, ethics, and workforce training.

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"Data is everywhere. Everybody creates it, everybody uses it, and every day it grows in volume, velocity, variety, and veracity," says Nick Tsinoiremas, vice provost for research and computing and the founding director of both CCS and IDSC. "The question is, how can we use data as an asset? How can we extract information and gain insights from complex data sets to solve complex problems? And what are our responsibilities? How do we ensure the data is secure? That we are using it ethically? That we do good with it, that we make a difference in our community—and the world?"

When Tsinoiremas, an international leader in computational genomics and bioinformatics, launched CCS in 2007, it was hoped the center would become the hub for the high-performance computing and software engineering needed to elevate the University's problem-solving research. But nobody knew if it would work. After all, the institution had no advanced computing cyber infrastructure, no culture of sharing resources across disciplines or campuses.

"Everyone was putting their own computing power in their closets or under their desks," recalls IDSC deputy director Ben Kirtman, professor and director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, who joined the University and CCS as program director for climate and environmental hazards. "So the whole concept of bringing together resources to produce something greater than the sum of the parts was a new idea. We didn't know if faculty would embrace that."

Thirteen years later, thanks to the University's vision and investments in one of academia's largest centralized

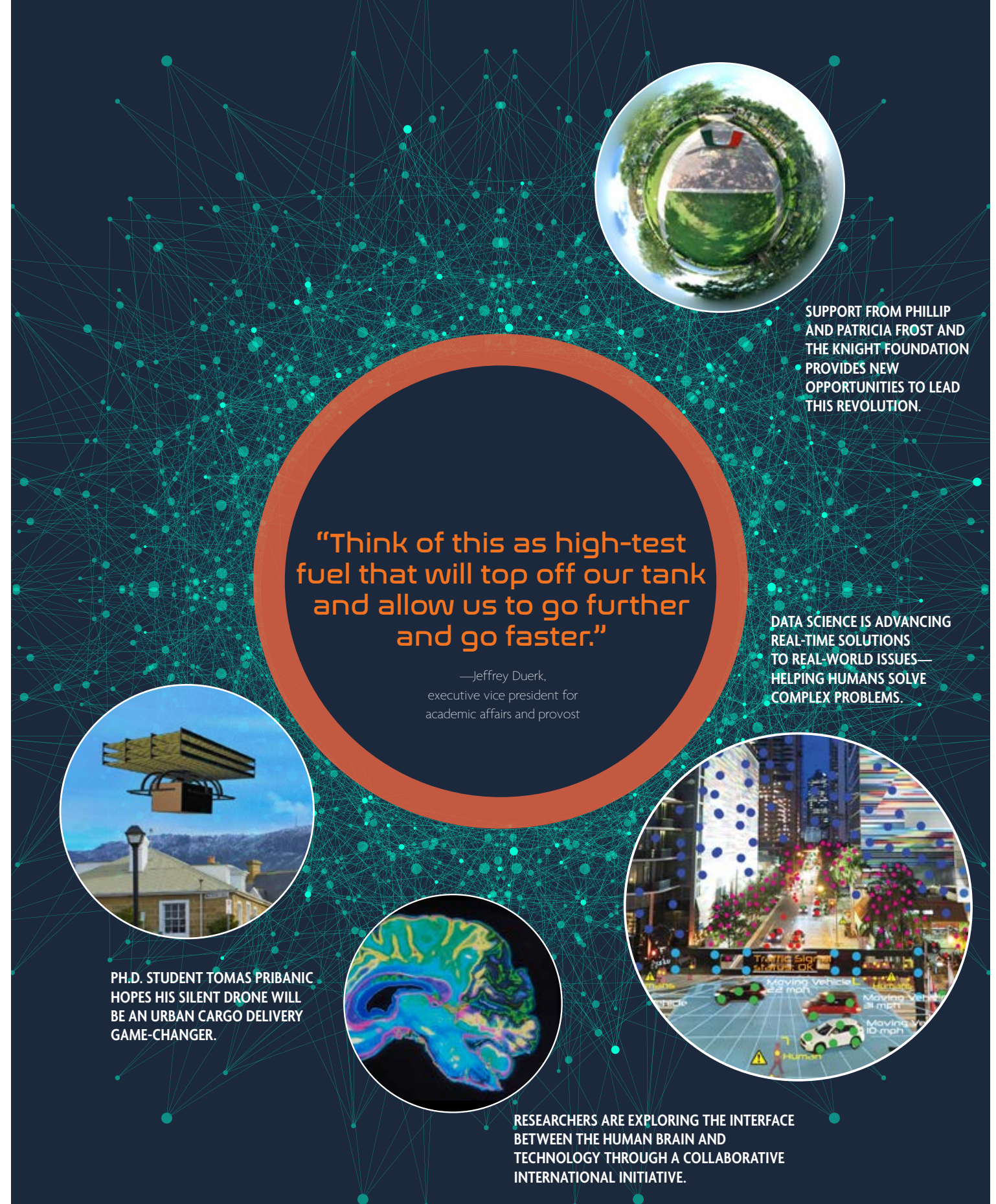
cyber infrastructures and expertise in software applications that support research and data-driven discoveries, CCS's successor is poised to catapult the University into the center of the data revolution and help propel Miami's emergence as an international tech hub.

Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, IDSC launched its new grant program to pair researchers who have big ideas with data scientists, spearheaded education initiatives to meet local workforce needs and promote an understanding of data science among students and the public, and established numerous academic and industry partnerships that are advancing real-time solutions to real-world issues.

—Continued on page 20.

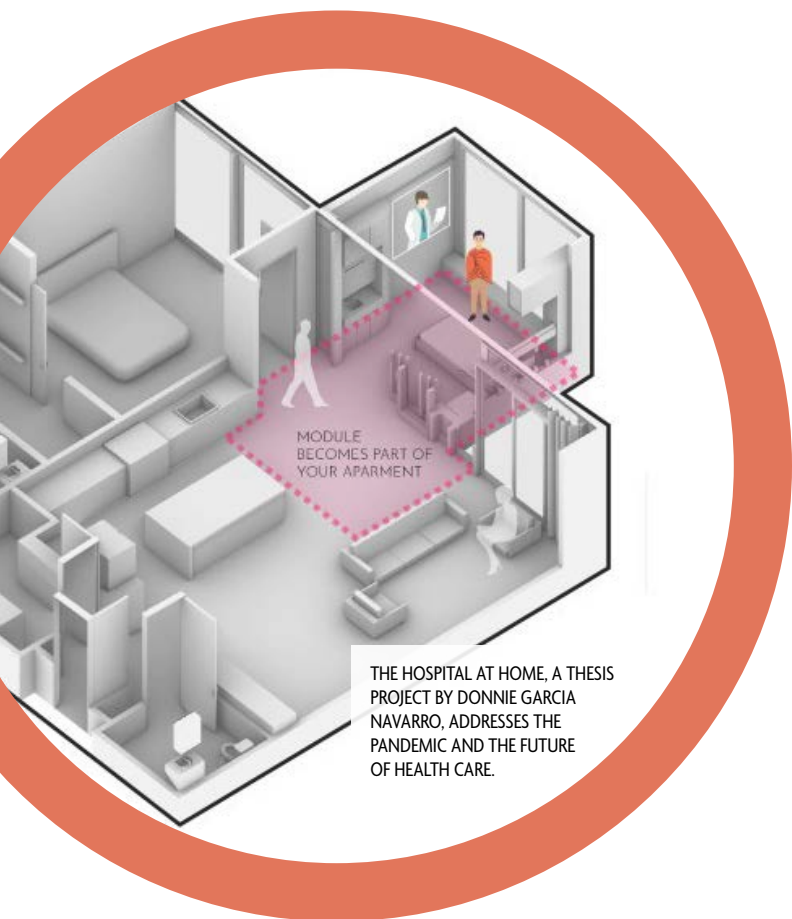


IDSC HAS DEVELOPED A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND COVID-19 EARLY-DETECTION PLATFORM THAT ENABLES LOCAL RESIDENTS TO SELF-REPORT SYMPTOMS AND RESEARCHERS AND DECISION-MAKERS TO VISUALIZE DATA AND IDENTIFY HOT SPOTS.



PH.D. STUDENT TOMAS PRIBANIC HOPES HIS SILENT DRONE WILL BE AN URBAN CARGO DELIVERY GAME-CHANGER.

RESEARCHERS ARE EXPLORING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE HUMAN BRAIN AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE.



It won't be long before everybody will depend on data science to do their work.

Now recruiting the initial endowed faculty chairs, Tsinoemas says they will likely include leading experts in smart homes, smart cities, and digital health, which are key areas of IDSC research, along with programs in earth sciences, data ethics, data visualization, communication, and design. And their addition, he says, will not only draw more renowned technological expertise to the University and the community but also help the institution meet its goal of infusing data science throughout the curriculum and ensure that every student, from music to math majors, graduates with a degree of data-savviness—if not a new master's degree in data science.

In collaboration with various schools and colleges, CCS and IDSC spearheaded the creation of the University's new master's degree in data science, which has tracks in technical data science, data visualization, smart cities, and marine and atmospheric science. Launched last fall with 15 students, the master's degree program attracted more than 50 applicants for this fall.

Also new this fall: the first introductory course in data science for first-year students. Called Data Science for the World, it was developed under the guidance of Mitsunori



IDSC'S COLLABORATION WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC GLOBAL RESEARCH WILL DEVELOP SMART TECHNOLOGY APPS THAT COULD PROMOTE HEALTHY AGING AT HOME.

Ogihara, a professor in the Department of Computer Science and program director for big data analytics and data mining. Now leading IDSC's workforce development and education initiatives, he has long believed that every college graduate should know how to do basic computer programming and data analysis.

"Today, that is a fundamental skill of a college graduate," Ogihara says, "because the more data you have, the better-informed decisions you can make."

But the most vital role of the IDSC chairs will be to bring new ideas and insights to the highly skilled and collaborative data scientists already at the heart of the institute and catalyze research with industry and government partners that will generate a new wave of data-informed practices and solutions to real-world problems—something that is already well underway.

A prime example is IDSC's collaboration with General Electric Global Research to develop smart technology that will promote healthy aging at home—improving quality of life while reducing health care costs. Among the ideas being explored are apps that would remind seniors to take their medications or sensors that would check their vital signs every day and alert them to potential dangers—like a sudden step down into their garage or high levels of pollen or pollutants outside their home.

"The need for these things was obviously accelerated by the pandemic, but it was also driven by the desire of many aging individuals to not move to assisted living facilities

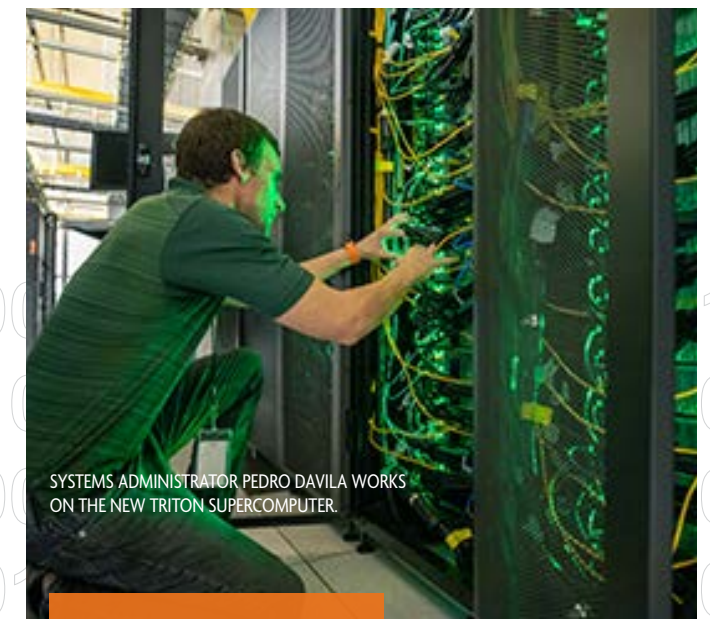
or nursing homes, and, instead, to age gracefully in the comfort of their own homes," notes Yelena Yesha, visiting distinguished professor and IDSC's chief innovation officer who, among many initiatives that capitalize on real-time data, is also collaborating on a blockchain project to detect and track fake news by identifying the source in real time.

Today Tsinoemas is confident that the University's unparalleled infrastructure, which allows real-time analysis, will attract more top talent who can help drive data science research, applications, and training to new heights. Just during the past few years, the University installed Triton, one of the fastest supercomputers in the nation that, customized for the University by IBM, can process artificial intelligence and machine-learning workloads in real time.

The University is also the first to deploy AT&T's 5G+ and multi-access edge computing technology, which will deliver more data from the internet to wireless devices at a faster pace. And, it has invested nearly \$5 million in the University of Miami Laboratory for Integrative Knowledge, a key element of the University's Roadmap to Our Next Century aimed at nurturing the cross-campus collaborations the University envisioned when it recruited Tsinoemas to launch its fledgling "experiment" 13 years ago.

Now, with IDSC's own first round of interdisciplinary grants, early-career researchers like Ruiz Pestana and Swaminathan, who both joined the faculty in 2019, have the opportunity to use IDSC's powerful computation and analytic resources to test their ideas for transforming the production of concrete or identifying patients with aggressive glaucoma—and are eager to become skilled data scientists themselves.

"All of these things that we are funding have potential to be transformative science breakthroughs. Some are going to hit. Some are going to miss. That's the nature of science," says Kirtman, who now leads IDSC's Atmosphere, Ocean, and Earth Science program and predicts that it won't be long before everybody will depend on data science to do their work. "It wouldn't surprise me if there is a button, an app on your phone, that you'll be able to ask certain kinds of questions and is going to use data science to produce the answers." ■



SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR PEDRO DAVILA WORKS ON THE NEW TRITON SUPERCOMPUTER.

BY ROBERT C. JONES JR.



They said it couldn't be done—that a forecast model capable of predicting environmental hazards up to 30 days out was impossible. But Ben Kirtman, who as a teenager became fascinated by the impacts of weather after heavy rains flooded his Southern California home's basement, proved the naysayers wrong.

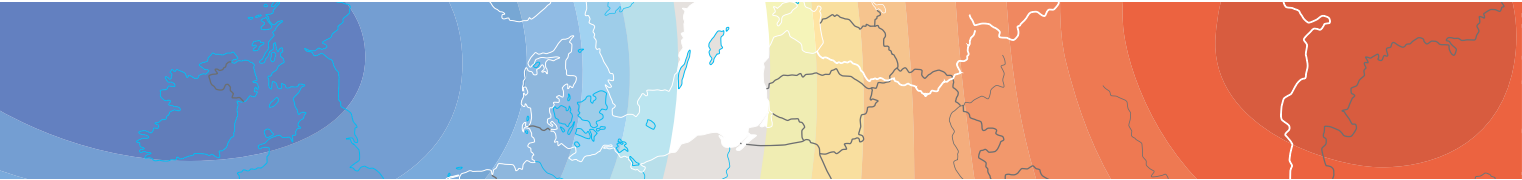
Pooling the powerful resources of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science with entities like NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Kirtman spearheaded the creation of a model that has been every bit the scientific version of a crystal ball when it comes to producing accurate, real-time, and long-range forecasts for a multitude of weather events.

THE SUBSEASONAL EXPERIMENT

SubX

A long-range system spearheaded by Ben Kirtman, a University of Miami atmospheric scientist, is helping to predict weather hazards weeks in advance.





“Heatwaves, floods, droughts, fire, the increased or decreased likelihood of hurricanes—it was designed to predict it all.”

—Ben Kirtman,
atmospheric scientist



Since its rollout four years ago, the Subseasonal Experiment, or SubX for short, has performed remarkably well, accurately predicting a variety of harsh weather events. These include the severe cold wave that hit the midwestern United States and eastern Canada in early 2019, the Fourth of July heat wave that enveloped Alaska later that year (temperatures reached 90 degrees in Anchorage), and the extreme rainfall from Tropical Storm Isaias that drenched the Caribbean and U.S. East Coast in the summer of 2020.

But what makes those forecasts and others so exceptional is the time factor. SubX generated those weather outlooks weeks in advance—and in the case of Isaias, nearly a month before the storm even formed.

Its latest forecasting feat? Early this year, it accurately forecasted nearly a month in advance the collapse of the Arctic polar vortex that brought freezing temperatures, snow, and ice to many parts of the U.S., with Texas being hardest hit.

DIFFERENT FORECAST MODELS ARE THE KEY TO SUBX'S EXCEPTIONAL PRECISION. IN ADDITION TO FORECASTS PRODUCED BY THE ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL, NASA, AND NOAA, SUBX INCORPORATES MODELS FROM THE U.S. NAVY, ENVIRONMENT CANADA, AND THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH.

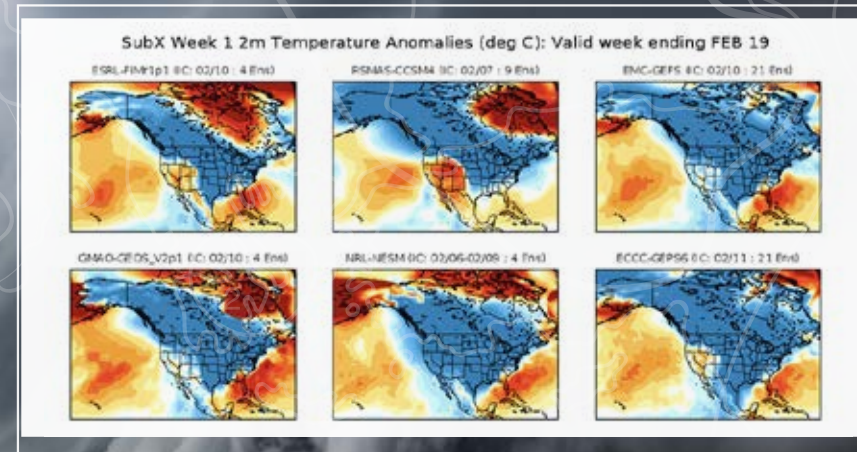


FIGURE COURTESY OF KATHY PERGIN, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

HOW IT WORKS

A plethora of different forecast models is the key to SubX's exceptional precision. In addition to forecasts produced by the Rosenstiel School, NASA, and NOAA, SubX incorporates models from the U.S. Navy, Environment Canada, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research, creating real-time weather outlooks three to four weeks into the future.

“The diversity of tools—in this case, multiple forecasts—is critical,” explains Kirtman, professor and director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies at the Rosenstiel School, as well as deputy director for the University's Institute for Data Science and Computing. “Just like the diversity of ideas in an institution is important to come up with the best solution, the diversity of prediction tools is important here because any one model has biases,” he says. “If we had used only one tool that wasn't very good

at predicting the breakdown of the polar vortex, we would have missed accurately forecasting that event.”

The degree to which those six models will agree varies. In some cases, one model may break from the others, rendering a completely different forecast. “You want to factor in the chance that you might be wrong, and the best way to explore a realistic assessment of the range of possible outcomes is to use a multi-model approach,” Kirtman says.

Five of the six models predicted the 2021 polar vortex breakdown, with the forecast generated by the Rosenstiel School being the most accurate, according to Kirtman. “But there'll be times when our model isn't the best,” he explains. “Sometimes, it's going to be the best. Sometimes it's going to be the worst. Sometimes it's going to be the middle of the pack. That's the strength of the system.”

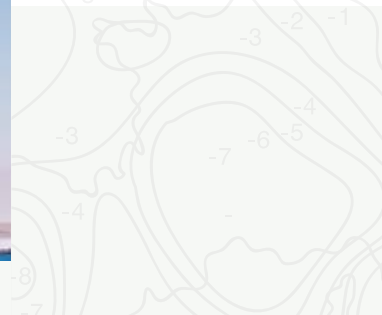
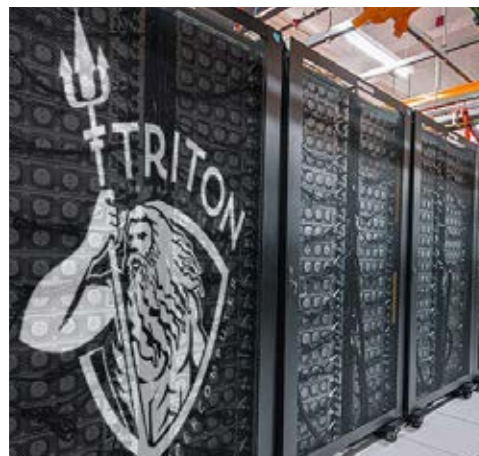
And whether it be one model operating best over the Indian summer monsoon region or another that performs well over Southern California, each has its own strengths and weaknesses, Kirtman notes. “It's also dependent on what time of the year the forecasts are made. If we're in an El Niño or La Niña year, some models may perform better than others,” says the researcher, referring to the periodic changes in Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures that can affect weather around the globe.

Along with atmospheric data, all of the models factor in oceanic conditions. “In the past, we haven't done that,” Kirtman notes.



SUBX SCIENTISTS INCORPORATE INFORMATION CULLED FROM SATELLITE TELEMETRY, WEATHER BALLOONS (BELOW), OCEAN BUOYS, DRONES, AND RADIO SONDES.

THE ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL UTILIZES TRITON, THE SUPER-COMPUTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI INSTITUTE FOR DATA SCIENCE AND COMPUTING, TO BUILD ITS FORECAST.



MODELS POWERED BY SUPERCOMPUTERS

The process by which those models are constructed is grounded in computing. In a comprehensive process of data assimilation, SubX scientists incorporate an abundance of information—culled from satellite telemetry, weather balloons, ocean buoys, drones, and radio sondes—into each of the six models, feeding the data into powerful supercomputers that make the complex computations required to produce the forecasts. “The entire international observing system is leveraged,” Kirtman says.

The Rosenstiel School relies on the power of Triton, the supercomputer of the University of Miami Institute for Data Science and Computing, to build its forecast.

With upgrades of each model occurring at different times, SubX will continuously evolve, Kirtman points out. “Every year or so there’s a new version of a model coming into the system and an old model cycling out. So that leads to constant improvement.”

SubX is not the first forecasting tool to use a multi-model approach. Ten years ago, Kirtman played an instrumental role in developing the North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), a seasonal forecasting system consisting of several different models from a conglomerate of North American-based modeling centers.

But the NMME differs from SubX in the type of models used and the frequency in which they are issued. “The overlap is in the basic concept that the multi-model approach is the best technique for producing well-calibrated, robust estimates of what future weather is going to look like,” says Kirtman. “With the NMME, we’re looking at what’s going to happen six to nine months from now, so the update cycle is much less—once a month, actually. SubX has a much higher frequency of forecasts. We want to know what weeks three and four are going to look like. So we’re updating that forecast every seven days.”

The SubX forecasts are global in nature, and regional and local forecasters can use them to construct more location-specific forecasts for their area, “a detailed outlook of what’s happening over Miami, for example,” Kirtman indicates.

While SubX has been remarkably accurate in forecasting environmental hazards like the collapse of the polar vortex and the subsequent frigid weather that sent Texas plunging into a deep freeze, the project is still experimental and lacks the official NOAA endorsement that’s been bestowed upon the NMME. “SubX data aren’t run through a government computer. So getting people to use it when it doesn’t have that umbrella over it has been a challenge,” Kirtman says. But given the experiment’s success rate, that could and quite probably will change.



NEARLY A MONTH IN ADVANCE, SUBX ACCURATELY FORECASTED THE COLLAPSE OF THE ARCTIC POLAR VORTEX THAT BROUGHT FREEZING TEMPERATURES, SNOW, AND ICE TO MANY PARTS OF THE U.S., WITH TEXAS (ABOVE) BEING HARDEST HIT.

BENEFIT TO SOCIETY

In the hands of emergency managers, utility companies, and corporations, the publicly available SubX data can be a powerful tool, allowing such entities to make critical decisions such as when to stockpile energy resources, insulate pipes, or reposition line workers and bucket trucks. Such entities are already making use of SubX’s publicly available data. But to what extent, Kirtman isn’t sure.

“We know a little bit just based on what they’re asking for. The Air Force once asked for specialized graphics, for example,” Kirtman recalls. “But the way to think about the interaction with users is that it covers an entire range. Some users are very sophisticated. They’ll download our data directly and not tell us anything about what they’re doing and produce all kinds of value-added products. And we encourage that. We like to hear back from them once in a while,” he adds.

“A lot of private sector folks are using it. But they just don’t tell us about it. We try to document how much they’re downloading, but we don’t know how they’re benefiting from it because a lot of what they do is proprietary.”

With SubX being funded by NOAA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, that process, according to Kirtman, “is exactly the way it should happen, driving economic return. We provide the backbone. Whether that be in a particular region or for a particular business sector, they’re driving their decision-making based on the output of our forecasts.”

What Kirtman does know is that people in the energy and agricultural sectors can be very sophisticated in how they’re using SubX data. A public utility company in the Northeast, for example, could learn about a cold-air outbreak that could impact a certain area three to four weeks from now and make the critical decision to move natural gas into that region ahead of the harsh conditions. “Or if they’re a farmer in Florida and know there’s a freeze coming three to four weeks from now, they have plenty of time to pivot in terms of protecting crops,” Kirtman explains.

And therein lies the strength of long-range forecast models like SubX. “The better the forecast, the better the goal that can be achieved when it comes to preemptively closing roads, evacuating people from an area, deploying manpower, or preparing a structure,” says Renato Molina, an assistant

professor of environmental and resource economics at the Rosenstiel School, whose research focuses on everything from conservation to the impact of natural disasters.

The winter weather disaster that hit Texas crippled that state’s power grid and claimed dozens of lives. SubX models began issuing forecasts related to that system back in mid-January, warning that a collapse of the polar vortex—the massive area of cold air spinning high in the atmosphere above the Arctic—would occur in the next three to four weeks. Then, a month later, that prediction held true, when a blast of ultra-cold air from Canada brought the season’s harshest weather to the central United States.

But were Texas officials caught flat-footed? Could lives and critical infrastructure have been saved?

Whether it be insulating pipes and making sure windmills work in cold weather, public utilities typically take measures to mitigate potential risks from severe weather, says David Kelly, a professor of economics in the Miami Herbert Business School, whose many research interests include government policy and the environment as well as adaptation to climate change. “But there’s always the question of whether something is going to be a once-in-a-hundred-year

event that you should be prepared for, or is it a once-in-a-thousand-year event that’s just too remote of a possibility to control for,” Kelly notes. “But most everyone should be aware of weather risks. They should have been prepared for it. And that points to the value of having good long-range forecasts.”

While SubX can help emergency managers and utilities prepare for natural disasters like the brutal winter storm that devastated Texas, “there is a certain amount of pressure on our team to start to seek out people who are interested in using it,” Kirtman says. It is a difficult process to build that kind of trust, but the SubX team seems to be winning over more constituents.

“As scientists, knowing that we’re working on something that’s actually going to help society matters,” he says. “People are making decisions to save lives and protect economic security using the data we produce—and that’s huge.” ■

“People are making decisions to save lives and protect economic security using the data we produce—and that’s huge.”

—Ben Kirtman

ROADMAP TO OUR NEW CENTURY

BY MAYA BELL

New 'North Star' Guides University to Its Centennial

Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, the University of Miami is accelerating innovations, technologies, and initiatives that will lead to a stronger, more resilient institution by 2025.

THE NEW ROOF ON THE FROST INSTITUTE FOR CHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR SCIENCE IS AMONG THE OBVIOUS CHANGES; OTHERS AREN'T AS VISIBLE—unless you peek inside classrooms where professors who hadn't attempted online teaching before are experimenting with extended reality platforms to immerse students in new worlds. As the University of Miami marches toward its centennial in 2025, the institution is emerging from the yearlong tumult inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic on a new and accelerated course envisioned by the Roadmap to Our New Century. Adopted in 2018, the strategic plan guiding the University toward the century mark prophetically states that priorities are driven by "our capacity for resilience and renewal in the face of unprecedented changes affecting our community and all of higher education."

CREWS MAKE PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE FROST INSTITUTE FOR CHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR SCIENCE.

President Julio Frenk says the way faculty, staff, and students navigated and leveraged unforeseen circumstances gives him great confidence that the University is rising to its potential.

"In some areas of endeavor, including remote learning,

telehealth, and telework, we have seen more progress in the past year than we had in the prior decade," Frenk says. "We have witnessed—and will continue to embrace—not only our resiliency in the face of challenges but our ability to truly transform the way we think and interact."

“We are seeing the evolution of a new north star—a new direction on the horizon.”

—Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost



Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, notes the Roadmap’s prescience enabled the University to respond to sudden change and align itself on a new course. “We are seeing the evolution of a new north star—a new direction on the horizon,” he says.

When the novel coronavirus prompted the University to hold classes online following its 2020 spring break, there was no time to pause. There was only urgency to refocus embedded initiatives, allowing the University to sustain its preeminent academic health system and adopt unfamiliar pedagogical methodologies and technologies, all while addressing new societal challenges, advancing interdisciplinary problem-solving, even attracting new top talent. Among them: Pratim Biswas, a renowned aerosol scientist and member of the National Academy of Engineering who assumed the deanship of the College of Engineering in January.

“The happy side of this is we find ourselves well positioned to come out of the pandemic because we didn’t just come to a halt,” says Gregory Shepherd, former dean of the School of Communication who is overseeing the Roadmap as interim vice provost for academic innovation. “In some ways, Zoom facilitated the work because it became easier to come together. We’ve had the great gift of both faculty and staff time devoted to developing projects, and a lot of mutual appreciation has grown from that.”

That was evident in two University-wide initiatives that gained considerable momentum over the past year. The ‘Cane Commitment committee, co-chaired by Robin Bachin, assistant provost for civic and community engagement, and Renee Dickens Callan, Ed.D. ’18, executive director of student life, is exploring how the University can equip every student with the “practical intelligence”—such as the ability to be effective team members and creative problem-solvers—they’ll need to navigate the changing workplace and world.

And the Resilience Academy committee, co-chaired by Rodolphe el-Khoury, dean of the School of Architecture, and Sharan Majumdar, professor of atmospheric sciences at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, began developing the framework for an academic unit that can address the impacts of climate change and other perils.

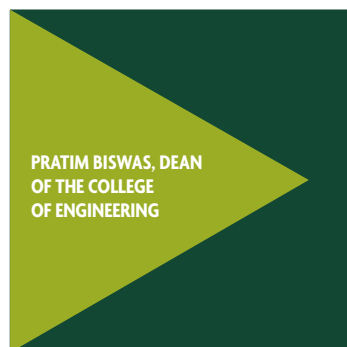
The empowering forces of innovation are perhaps most evident in the priorities aimed at shaping the education revolution. Along with the Division of Continuing and International Education and Academic Technologies, the new Platform for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (PETAL) stepped up with workshops, resources, and a new mentoring program designed to advance the art of teaching and the science of learning in a new world.

To date, 170 faculty members have each completed six PETAL workshops, and more than 540 have taken at least one.

“All of a sudden you had to look at how you teach, what you teach, and the way you teach, which has not been part of our research-focused training,” says Laura Kohn-Wood, dean of the School of Education and Human Development. “What’s so great about PETAL is that it says, ‘We’re going to be excellent in teaching, and we’re going to provide the resources so we can be.’”



LAURA KOHN-WOOD,
DEAN OF THE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION AND
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



PRATIM BISWAS, DEAN
OF THE COLLEGE
OF ENGINEERING



Three new teaching awards, for mentorship, innovation, and experiential learning, will recognize the best of the best.

The University also committed significant resources to its XR Initiative, which already boasts more than 40 extended reality projects aimed at enhancing learning, informing research, and improving clinical and commercial operations. Established last year, it was built with industry partners on the premise that environments that blend the real world with digital information and virtual, augmented, or mixed reality will shape the future of communication, education, health care, and work.

“These technologies are both immersive and interactive, giving our students access to hands-on learning and experiencing remote places without the incurred risks or costs,” says Kim Grinfeder, chair of the Department of Interactive Media in the School of Communication, who spearheads the initiative.

The University’s mission-driven research priorities also gained momentum, some fueled by the emergence of COVID-19 and the growing awareness of the pernicious effects of structural racism.

In response to both challenges, the University of Miami Laboratory for Integrative Knowledge (U-LINK) awarded its first rapid-response grants. Drawing 70 ideas in 10 days, the initial grants supported proposals aimed at broadening the understanding of COVID-19 and mitigating its impacts.

The second set, aimed at advancing dialogue about and solutions for racial inequalities, drew 25 proposals from the most diverse representation of faculty since U-LINK began in 2017 to foster the interdisciplinary collaborations essential to addressing complex problems. Most of the seven winning proposals focused on local disparities, among them the lack of Black students in the University’s own research labs, which has troubled Ashutosh Agarwal.

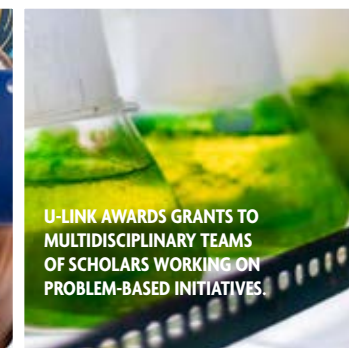
An associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Agarwal spearheaded the Joint Academic Nurtureship for Underrepresented Students (JANUS) to address a known cause: Black students who must work to afford college usually can’t volunteer in a lab to gain the experience they need to pursue advanced degrees and research careers. Now, paid internships with some of the University’s most notable researchers are giving 10 JANUS scholars that experience. In turn, the students are mentoring underprivileged high schoolers who, the hope is, will follow in their footsteps.

The University’s other strategic investments in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) also have made tangible progress since 2017, when longtime benefactors Phillip and Patricia Frost launched the Frost Institutes for Science and Engineering with a \$100 million gift to elevate the University’s STEM endeavors. The inaugural center, the Frost Institute for Chemistry and Molecular Science, broke ground on its five-story wet lab building last October.

Four months later, just before the pandemic brought the world to a standstill, the second Frost center, the Institute for Data Science and Computing (IDSC), attracted a combined \$12 million endowment from the Frosts and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to help transform the University into a global epicenter of data science.



MARIANO COPELLO



IDSC is now positioned to propel Miami’s emergence as a hemispheric innovation hub, which the pandemic also accelerated. Combined with South Florida’s warm weather and lower cost of living, the growing shift to working from home is attracting new tech entrepreneurs, start-ups, and venture capitalists. And they will, no doubt, look for University graduates capable of growing—and growing with—their ventures.

In addition to the University’s new Master of Science in Data Science program, IDSC is spearheading the effort to ensure that every student graduates with a degree of data-savviness.

That’s already happening at the ‘Cane Angel Network, an investment start-up for University-affiliated start-ups. The network was built from scratch by graduate students who, under the guidance of managing director Jeffrey Camp, wrote the manual and vetting process for matching promising start-ups to potential investors.

So far, ‘Cane Angel Network students have brought five companies to potential investors, but because they collect the same information from many others that don’t make the cut, they are looking for patterns that suggest which ventures are likely to be successful—patterns that will grow clearer as the data grows.

With its hands-on learning and drive to mine solutions from ever-increasing reams of data, the network is already following the University’s new north star. Now, Camp foresees a future where more classes will offer similar levels of experiential learning. “At the end of the day, you’re ultimately teaching someone to do something,” he says. “So, getting past the teaching part to the doing part seems like a natural progression.” ■

BY CHRISTY CABRERA CHIRINOS

Howard Schnellenberger led the Miami football program to its first national championship in 1983 and laid the foundation for an unprecedented run of success. He is known not just for the work he did on the field but for the impact he had on the University and in the community.

REMEMBERING A
LEGENDARY COACH

HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER

WHEN HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER ARRIVED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, HE TOOK ONE LOOK AT HIS NEW PLAYERS AND MADE THEM A PROMISE.

“I knew we were on a collision course for the national championship, so I said, ‘Get in there, put your hats on, get your football shoes on, and let’s go practice. Let’s roll. Let’s go work and work and work and, if we do that, we’ll become winners very quickly,’” Schnellenberger recalled in 2019. “And so, it came to be.”

Schnellenberger, who in 1983 led the Hurricanes to their first of five national championships and helped revolutionize college football, died on March 27. He was 87 years old.

At Miami, where Schnellenberger took over as coach in 1979 and laid the foundation for four national championship titles in nine years, the coach is remembered for more than the work he did on the field.

“That first meeting with him changed my life,” says former ‘Canes center Don Bailey Jr., who played for Schnellenberger and is currently the radio analyst for the Miami Hurricanes football team.

“It was a demand, not a negotiation, that we were going to win a national championship. It wasn’t about hoping or believing a fairy tale. We were there for that, and for all of us that he coached, he changed our lives. That first meeting set the course for his history and changed the history of the University of Miami,” Bailey continues.

Schnellenberger was “the face of Hurricanes football,” says Jay Brophy, a former Hurricanes linebacker. “Without him, I don’t know where I’d be. He helped me believe anything was possible if you were willing to work for it. He was the role model for all us young men—tough, strict, and most of all, honest. He was totally loyal to his family and his team and was the best, smartest football coach I ever played for.”

For much of his career as a college coach, Schnellenberger was recognized as a program-building pioneer. Before he took over at Miami in 1979, the team was floundering, and the school had discussed the possibility of either playing at a lower level or eliminating football completely.

Four years later, Schnellenberger’s Hurricanes upended the college football establishment, edging powerhouse Nebraska 31-30 in an Orange Bowl thriller to win the national title.

He brought to Miami a pro-style passing attack he’d honed as the offensive coordinator for the Miami Dolphins during their 1970s glory days and made it a priority to build his roster with players from South Florida, recruiting from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties in a way no program had before.

Today, the bulk of the Hurricanes’ roster still hails from the “State of Miami,” and current head coach Manny Diaz has made it clear that keeping South Florida’s best players at home remains one of his biggest priorities. “I don’t know that there is Miami football without Howard Schnellenberger, not the way we know it,” Diaz says. “It’s hard to imagine the state this program was in when he came here. If you look historically throughout college football, there are the blue bloods, and it’s very, very hard to join that group. Howard Schnellenberger came here, and he took down the establishment... You could talk about the football program, [but] he elevated the entire University to a different status in the country. And the entire Hurricanes community will be forever in debt to him.”

President Julio Frenk emphasizes that Schnellenberger’s legacy far transcends the football field. “His vision,

resiliency, and ability to bring people together continue to inspire us at the University of Miami,” Frenk says. “Our hearts go out to his wife, Beverlee, and all of his loved ones.”

Schnellenberger left Miami to return to his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky—and began revitalizing the football program there. The Cardinals had suffered six straight losing seasons before he arrived. Yet by the time the mustached, booming-voiced coach left, the team had notched a pair of bowl wins, including the program’s first appearance in a New Year’s Day bowl game.

In 1998 Schnellenberger was named the director of football operations at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. He built the program from scratch and became the Owls’ first coach, leading them from FCS status to, eventually, the 2007 Sun Belt Conference title.

In his 27 years as a college coach, Schnellenberger compiled a 158-151-3 record. He was inducted into the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and, on the day of his death, all three of the programs where he left such an indelible mark—Miami, Louisville, and Florida Atlantic—honored him with a series of tributes.

“I always dreaded this day, that the Hurricanes and all of Howard Schnellenberger’s players would be without their coach,” says Bailey. “But then I realized that for everybody who played for him, for everybody who knew him, for everybody who was associated with him, he would always be with us for the rest of our lives.

“It’s easy to talk about his football success, that’s the easy part to see,” Bailey continues. “What you don’t see are literally the thousands of lives that he saved, the thousands of boys he turned into men, the thousands of kids that without his guidance would have gone the wrong way instead of the right way.”

Former ‘Canes defensive lineman Ed Hudak, B.S.C. ’87, M.A.L.S. ’10, now Coral Gables chief of police, especially remembers his former coach’s leadership example.

“When you see the head coach has a cot rolled into the coaches’ locker room because he doesn’t go home during two-a-days, you realize the commitment he has,” Hudak says. “I learned about commitment from him, and I use that lesson every day in my job with the police department.”

Schnellenberger is survived by his wife Beverlee, his sons Timothy and Stuart; his grandchildren Joey, Marcus, and Teather; and his great-grandchildren Tyler, Lacie, and Harper Ann. He was predeceased by his son Stephen and great-grandson Angel. ■

**“THE ENTIRE HURRICANES COMMUNITY
WILL BE FOREVER IN DEBT TO HIM.”**

—Manny Diaz, football head coach

11/27/81 MIAMI: BOB NELSON, LEFT, AND LESTER WILLIAMS, RIGHT, CARRY HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER AFTER THE HURRICANES DEFEATED NOTRE DAME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN 20 YEARS, FINISHING THE SEASON 9-2.

‘Our Story’ Celebrates Black Excellence

Three-day virtual event showcases talent, expertise, and leadership in the Black alumni and student community



Activities and forums focused on building health, education, and wealth among Black alumni.

It was an event like no other, for a time like no other: a three-day virtual celebration of Black excellence featuring notable institutional, student, and alumni leaders—all joined by a common interest in advancing the University of Miami’s commitment to racial justice, diversity, and inclusion—coming together to lead enriching conversations that increase awareness and help ignite change.

Developed by the University of Miami Black Alumni Society (UMBAS), in partnership with the Division of Development and Alumni Relations, “Our Story: Black Excellence” included activities and forums centered on advocacy and on building health, education, and wealth among Black alumni. With the aim of addressing inequities afflicting the lives of Black people within our

society, carefully planned session topics included investing, systemic oppression, confronting injustice, and the cost of racism.

“Participants had the opportunity to learn, engage, and grow through a series of thought-provoking sessions reflecting on the challenges, truths, and triumphs often experienced within the Black community,” says Dorean Gordon Williams, senior director for special constituencies at the University of Miami.

Among the lineup of speakers were leaders who have been at the forefront of efforts to promote racial justice on behalf of the University. These included Donald Spivey, distinguished professor of history and special advisor to the president for racial justice, who opened the celebration with a “state of the U” on diversity and inclusion initiatives;

Laura Kohn-Wood, dean of the School of Education and Human Development, who moderated a discussion on systemic oppression; and Dr. Henri Ford, dean of the Miller School of Medicine, who opened sessions on health topics impacting the community’s growth and longevity.

The event also highlighted the talent and expertise among the community and alumni leadership, including Marilyn Holifield, University of Miami trustee and senior partner at Holland & Knight; Kerlin Blaise, B.B.A. ’97, former Detroit Lions football player; and Nicole Henry, B.S.C. ’00, award-winning American jazz singer.

Two financial executives—Alice Vilma, B.B.A. ’99, alumni trustee and managing director at Morgan Stanley, and David Mullings, B.S. ’00, M.B.A. ’03, chair and CEO of Blue Mahoe Capital Partners—led a conversation on why leadership matters.

They engaged in a conversation with former alumni student leaders, connecting past struggles to present experiences to inspire positive change. Also included in the discussion was Gregory Adams, A.B. ’76, former United Black Students president; Landon Coles, the 2021-22 Student Government president; Ronnie Graham, president of the Black Student Law Association; and Abigail Adeleke, 2020-21 Student Government president.

Led by UMBAS executive leadership, the reunion also provided mentoring and networking opportunities for alumni and students. It reflected months of outreach and planning on behalf of leaders and committee members. Guests were invited to come together, celebrate, and support the work of UMBAS as it amplifies the University’s commitment to engendering a diverse, inclusive, and just culture throughout our institution.

Interactive Kiosk to Honor University’s Black History

The Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazers Experience will feature touch screens that highlight accomplishments of the University’s first Black students in the 1960s and 1970s and recognize subsequent generations that are champions of diversity and inclusion



Johnny C. Taylor Jr.

Prior to his current role as president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Johnny C. Taylor Jr., B.S.C. ’89, helped raise more than \$100 million over eight years at the helm of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, transforming the lives of students at historically Black colleges and universities.

Now, Taylor, who attended the University of Miami as an Isaac Bashevis Singer scholar and has served on the Board of Trustees since 2017, is transforming lives at his alma mater by funding an exhibit that teaches viewers about the impact Black students, faculty, staff, and alumni have had on shaping the University throughout the years after its 1961 desegregation. His gift will create the Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazers Experience, an outdoor kiosk on the Coral Gables Campus with interactive

“My history is deeply embedded in South Florida and in the University of Miami.”

—Johnny C. Taylor Jr.

touch screens displaying content created and curated by the University of Miami Libraries.

“My history is deeply embedded in South Florida and in the University of Miami,” says Taylor. “My grandfather established the first hospital in Broward County to serve African Americans, a tremendously important addition to the community,” he adds. “Today, I want to take a step to celebrate the University of Miami’s first Black students, our trailblazers, and shine a light on the accomplishments of those students and future generations of students who are making a difference in the areas of diversity and inclusion.”

The interactive kiosk experience on the Coral Gables Campus will highlight the past, current, and expected accomplishments of University of Miami Black students who are trailblazers in their own right.

“Johnny Taylor is lifting up stories that are an incredibly important part of the University of Miami’s history,” says Josh Friedman, senior vice president for

the Division of Development and Alumni Relations. “We are extremely grateful to him and his family for making this extraordinary commitment.”

Taylor has grown SHRM to more than 300,000 members in more than 165 countries, impacting 115 million workers. He is a force in government discussions around workplace issues—from sexual harassment to paid leave—and is the chair of the President’s Advisory Board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He also served on the White House American Workforce Policy Advisory Board.

Prior to joining SHRM, Taylor held executive leadership positions in both the not-for-profit and for-profit sectors, including Viacom’s Paramount Pictures, Blockbuster Entertainment Group, and Compass Group USA. He was recently named Professional Society CEO of the Year by CEO Update for fostering workplace innovation, securing a seat at the policy table for human resource professionals and creating more equitable workplaces.

The Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazer Experience grew out of an initiative established by the Black Alumni Society in 2012. Several members, including Denise Mincey-Mills, Phillis E. Tyler, and Antonio Junior—all 1979 graduates—began to unearth the stories and struggles of the first Black students which, until that time, had been buried in the library archives.



Enhanced Lecture Series Amplifies Alumni Voices

Virtual panel discussions feature changemakers exploring hot-button topics



Stu Bloch and Julia Chang Bloch

When alumnus Stu Bloch, A.B. '64, and his wife, Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch, made a gift to establish the Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series in 1995, their aim was to highlight University of Miami alumni who have brought distinction on themselves and their alma mater. By 2019, Stu Bloch was looking to expand the series and bring it to a wider audience

of students, alumni, and friends of the U. With his enthusiastic support, the University transformed the series into a virtual panel discussion of timely, important issues. It highlights dynamic speaker lineups, rich content, and an interactive feature that draws scores of listener questions and comments.

The first of the refreshed series, which examined the role of the media in presidential elections, drew 300 attendees last

October. In March, four alumni of the School of Law gathered virtually for a discussion about the future of the U.S. Supreme Court, the Constitution, and the potential impact on U.S. democracy of recent changes to the court. The discussion was hosted by Devang B. Desai, A.B. '97, J.D. '03, member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees and president of the University of Miami Alumni Association.

Esteemed panelists included Henry Butler, J.D. '82, professor of law and executive director of the Law and Economics Center, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School; Deborah Enix-Ross, J.D. '81, senior advisor, International Dispute Resolution Group, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; Neal Sonnett, A.B. '64, J.D. '67, founder and managing partner, Neal Sonnett, P.A.; and Raquel Rodriguez, A.B. '82, J.D. '85, shareholder, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney.

“Highlighting these changemakers in this new format showcases the depth of intellectual knowledge at the institution and offers a deeper connection to the University of Miami,” says Stu Bloch. “Julia and I are proud to support a program that gives a voice to today’s alumni making a difference in their respective fields.”

Alumni Stay Engaged, Keep Learning

For those longing to relive their University of Miami days, the latest edition of the UM Experience offered that opportunity



In non-pandemic years, the annual Alumni Association’s Audrey R. Finkelstein UM Experience brings hundreds back to campus for lectures on timely topics with distinguished faculty members. For the spring 2021 version, “Class Is Back in Session,” the virtual classroom took center stage and drew alumni from near and far.

Faculty members from a range of disciplines presented thought-provoking lectures showcasing their research. Benjamin Kirtman, from the Rosenstiel School of Marine

and Atmospheric Science, revealed methods for predicting extreme weather events over timescales. David L. Steinberg, from the School of Communication, shared tools for positively affecting listeners and winning arguments. Emmy Award-winning composer Carlos Rafael Rivera (“The Queen’s Gambit”), from the Frost School of Music, spoke about the challenges of composing music for film. And Claudia Townsend, from the Miami Herbert Business School, examined the many and varied psychological influences on our decision-making.

Delivering the keynote address, Laura Kohn-Wood, dean of the School of Education and Human Development, explored recommendations for reducing the stigma of mental illness and introducing social policies to alleviate problems associated with the ailment.

Artist Xavier Cortada, A.B. '86, J.D. '91, M.P.A. '91, was the moderator of the event, which concluded with a special networking opportunity for alumni to meet and speak with featured faculty members.

UM Experience is made possible through a generous endowment created by the late Audrey R. Finkelstein, A.B. '38, whose involvement with the University spanned more than seven decades. The next “Class Is in Session” event will be held online on September 23, 2021, at 10 a.m.

A Reading List By and For 'Canes

Alumni authors publish narratives featuring adventure, activism, and insight

If you are seeking a great read or a compelling tale, look no further than these recently published books by fellow 'Canes.

For an inspiring memoir with a touch of the magical, check out “Sobremesa: A Memoir of Food and Love in Thirteen Courses” by Josephine Caminos Oría, M.A. '02. The book tells the story of Caminos Oría, a C-level career woman turned food entrepreneur, traveling to her family’s homeland of Argentina in search of belonging. There, she discovers love, mystical encounters, and rare family recipes.

“The Lady of Silk and Steel: From Everest to Embassies” by Sue Cobb, J.D. '78, offers adventure. Cobb’s life, recounted in this memoir, includes a childhood on a California farm, graduating law school at 41, becoming a U.S. ambassador, and coming within 900 meters of becoming the first American woman to summit Mount Everest.

Lindsay Dare Shoop, M.S.Ed. '18, penned “Better Great Than Never: Believing It’s Possible Is Where Champions Begin.” Shoop shares her motivational story of transformation—from slacking college student to Olympic gold-winning athlete—to inspire readers.

If you’re looking for fiction, then “One of the Good Ones” by Maika Moulite, M.B.A. '16, and Maritza Moulite explores prejudice and racial justice. The second book by the sister-writer duo tells the story of siblings embarking on a trip to honor their sister, a teen activist killed mysteriously at a social justice rally, and the surprises they encounter.

And if you’re interested in tools for success in business and in life, make



sure to read “The Boardroom Buddha: 5 Universal Principles to Achieve Greater Success and Happiness...Today” by Dean Myers, B.B.A. '80, M.B.A. '81, former global vice president of The Coca-Cola Company.



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on the horizon at the U.*

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as we shine a light on the University of Miami’s
Campaign for Our Next Century.

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For Evan Peskin, right, the passion for helping the hungry began in high school.

Doctor Nourishes Souls with Good Samaritan Meals

A nonprofit, co-founded by a University alumnus, delivers thousands of pounds of perfectly edible but hard-to-sell food weekly from local retailers to the needy.

“In my opinion, eating is one of life’s greatest pleasures,” says Evan Peskin, A.B. ’12, M.D. ’17, M.B.A. ’17, whose passion for nourishing souls began in high school. “And I’ve never been hungry a day in my life,” he adds. “It just feels unfair that other people are, when so much good food is wasted every day—especially in the middle of a pandemic.”

So, it’s no surprise that Peskin and two friends—Jacob Schofield, J.D. ’17, M.B.A. ’17, and Win Rutherford, both Miami lawyers—founded Good Samaritan Meals, a small nonprofit with a big mission: putting good food destined to rot in landfills into the mouths of the hungry.

Good Samaritan’s small but dedicated

army of some 20 volunteers collects between 3,000 and 5,000 pounds of food from local grocery stores, restaurants, and bakeries every week. The volunteers then distribute their haul to such organizations as Lotus House, Camillus House, and Miami Rescue Mission, as well as the community refrigerators that another nonprofit, Buddy System, began installing in food deserts—neighborhoods with limited access to affordable, nutritious food—last summer.

Since then, Buddy System has connected Good Samaritan Meals to some of its most reliable volunteers, like Lily Winter, a University sophomore who’s studying health sciences and plans to be a nurse practitioner.

“It’s not a chore. I really love it,” says Winter, who delivers the boxes she stuffs into her old Land Rover to the community fridge in Coconut Grove and the Miami Rescue Mission. “It makes me happy knowing I am helping someone—even in this small way. I know it’s a tiny dent in a huge problem, but we

need a lot of small dents to make a difference, and in this case, all you need to do it is a car.”

With such volunteers, Peskin could delegate his weekly visit to Mamma Leone Bakery in Miami’s Edgewater neighborhood. But he and his wife, Abby Pooch Peskin, B.S. ’12, whom he met when they were juniors and now works as a child therapist at the University, have grown too fond of owner Giampiero Di Persia and his wife, Benedetta.

“They were the very first people to support us, and to see him makes my day better,” Peskin acknowledges. “If there were more people like them, the world would be a better place.”

For Di Persia the feeling is mutual. “We don’t want good food to go to waste, and we like to feed people in need. But it was too hard for us to do on our own,” Di Persia says. “We are blessed to have someone do the footwork.” —*Maya Bell*



To volunteer, donate food, or learn more, follow Good Samaritan Meals on Facebook or Instagram @goodsamaritanmeals.

“I am thankful for the winding road that got me here.” —Eddie Alvarez



Eddie Alvarez, posing with the Stanley Cup, holds the front page of The Washington Post, which he designed.

Artistic Skills Draw Alumnus to a Successful Career

Eddie Alvarez, B.F.A. ’03, majored in painting and graphic design when he attended the University. He never expected his professional path to take him to his current position as an award-winning newspaper designer and art director at The Washington Post.

But Alvarez now oversees design for the paper’s Arts and Style section, while also juggling breaking news. He even had the honor of designing the front page the day after the Washington Capitals won the 2018 Stanley Cup and when National Guard troops rolled into D.C. ahead of President Joe Biden’s inauguration.

“I never considered newspapers at all,” says Alvarez. “But I am thankful for the winding road that got me here.”

Upon graduating, Alvarez hoped to design branding and logo images. And he did, while working at a nearby advertising firm called The Weinbach Group. Yet, after working in Coral Gables

for a few years, Alvarez was itching to return to the Northeast, closer to extended family and the art hub of New York City. He moved back to New Jersey and started doing freelance graphic design.

A few years later, he began working for the Gannett Corporation to design pages for 15 newspapers in the Northeast. Alvarez had no news experience, but his supervisor noticed Alvarez’s passion for creative design and hired him. Soon, Alvarez was producing the sports pages.

When an opening at The Washington Post came up, a former colleague floated Alvarez’s name. The management liked his eye for design; so in 2015, Alvarez joined the storied newspaper.

Alvarez said the Post’s flexibility has allowed him to tap into his creativity again. He has illustrated graphics, like one of Paul Ryan and former President Donald Trump’s spokeswoman, Kellyanne Conway, while also art directing photo shoots in novel ways and delving into digital and interactive design. When

he had an idea to create a holiday search similar to the popular “Where’s Waldo?” books, it became an annual tradition, where the newspaper’s readers can challenge themselves to find reindeer or gingerbread men in an interactive Christmas puzzle. And for a feature in 2018, he helped create augmented reality experiences of wildlife for the country’s 23 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Alvarez credits his University professors in the studio art program with giving him the foundation that helped him excel. He recalls weekly painting critiques from his peers and his professor, Darby Bannard, as key to helping him develop a thick skin needed for the news business.

“I learned on the fly, so I would often do a lot of things wrong, but I’m not discouraged when I get something wrong,” he says. “And usually, I exceed my own expectations when I get it right.” —*Janette Neuwahl Tannen*



“It was very challenging, but I feel like a much better teacher because of the training I received at Frost,”

—Nerissa Manela

Frost School of Music alumna Nerissa Manela was recently named Rookie Teacher of the Year by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Alumna’s Love for Music Strikes a Chord in Teaching

“I really enjoy making an impact on students’ lives,” says Nerissa Manela, B.M. ’15. “Knowing that a lot of my students aren’t going to grow up and be musicians or teachers is OK. But knowing that I can influence who they become because of the experiences in my classes is really meaningful and motivates me every day.”

The elementary school teacher’s love of music began when she asked her parents for violin lessons at only 6 years old. It was a gift that ultimately helped develop her passion for the arts, which she carries on today as a music teacher at Morningside K-8 Academy in Miami.

And Manela’s drive to impact every student led to her recent selection as Rookie Teacher of the Year by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

“It was such an exciting feeling when I found out I won. I was overwhelmed by the support from all of my colleagues and friends and people I’ve worked with over the years of my career. I’m

very proud to be representing my school and representing music teachers during a particularly stressful year,” she says.

Manela double majored in music education and music therapy at the Frost School of Music.

“It was very challenging, but I feel like a much better teacher because of the training I received at Frost,” she notes. “With a background in music therapy, I have an outlook on social and emotional health and individual well-being that I try to include in my teaching.”

She is thankful for the network that she was able to make at Frost.

“I am still very good friends with my mentor teacher, who introduced me to so many people in the school district. But beyond that, I also made so many close connections with my professors and peers who are in the same field as me today,” she points out. “Having the support network of other teachers, especially during the pandemic, has

really set me up for success in my career.”

Manela explains that the award was motivating and reinforcing because, “The arts are so often the first on the chopping block. And as any arts teacher can tell you, the arts are where all the dots get connected between the English and the social studies and the math and the sciences,” she declares. “It is definitely encouraging to see how others are realizing how much students can achieve in music class.”

She hopes to further her studies in music education and to continue educating the next generations of teachers.

“My professional goals are to get my Ph.D. in music education and eventually be in a position to primarily educate future teachers,” Manela says. “I want to continue making important connections, not only within UM, but within the greater community, so I can create a strong network for my students like I had when I was at the University.”

—Amanda M. Perez

Alumna Manages Rover’s Maneuvers to Mars

The months of careful planning, software simulations, and meticulous troubleshooting had finally come to an end. After a journey of nearly 300 million miles through space, Perseverance—NASA’s most advanced and sophisticated robotic rover ever—was ready to perform the most critical stage of its ambitious mission: landing on Mars.

Any one of a number of things could go wrong during the 1-ton vehicle’s descent and touchdown on the red planet. And as NASA engineer Erisa Hines Stilley, B.S.M.E. ’02, sat at her workstation on the second floor of Building 230 of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, she pondered all the potential pitfalls, knowing that any one of them could doom a mission eight years in the making.

Would the massive supersonic parachute, designed to slow the rover’s descent, deploy? Would the rover land upside down or on a hillside? Stilley and the NASA 2020 entry, descent, and landing (EDL) team she led would just have to wait and see.

Because it can take anywhere from seven to 22 minutes for a radio signal to reach Earth from Mars, Perseverance would already be alive or dead on the Martian surface by the time they learned its fate. “And that was pretty stressful—the waiting,” Stilley says.

Their patience was rewarded. During a 420-second period referred to as “the seven minutes of terror,” Perseverance performed the perilous EDL sequence entirely on its own, successfully landing in the 28-mile Jezero Crater to begin searching for signs of past life.

For Stilley, who fell in love with the space program after a visit to Kennedy Space Center as a child, Perseverance is the most challenging endeavor of her storied NASA career that has seen the University of Miami College of Engineering graduate work on two Mars missions and the Altair lunar lander.

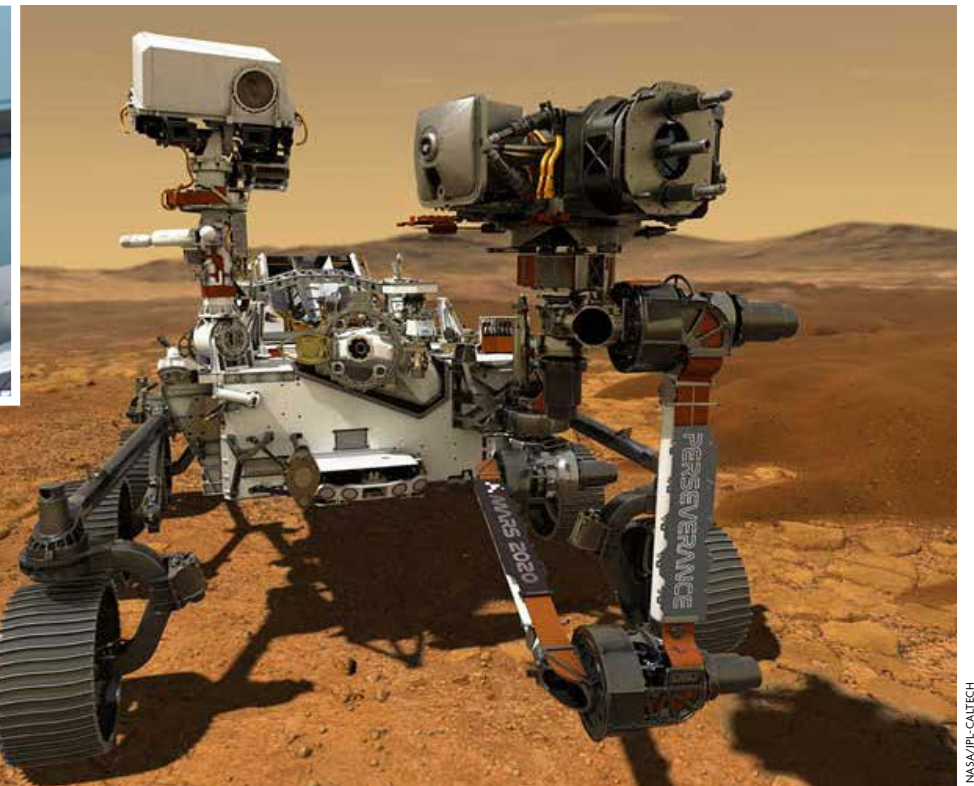
“So much has to go just right,” Stilley says. “Because the physics of Mars is so drastically different, we cannot test our hardware systems fully on Earth. We rely heavily on end-to-end computer simulations, essentially giving the rover an assumption about what its position and velocity will be at a very specific time. It then uses that information as the seed of knowledge to get to the target on the ground that we specified.”

Though the Mars 2020 surface team has now taken over, Stilley and the rest of the EDL team are still keeping busy, poring over Perseverance’s landing data to reconstruct exactly what occurred. “To the extent that it’s important to the next mission, it’s an opportunity to catch mistakes,” she explains.

While Perseverance was her biggest challenge, it was not her favorite NASA project to work on. That distinction belongs to Curiosity, which is still roaming around and exploring the Martian landscape more than eight years after it landed there. For that project, Stilley served as rover planner and driver, working closely with scientists to map out strategic routes and then executing those drives. “EDL is a cool job,” Stilley points out, “but when you’re driving a rover around on Mars, there’s not a lot that can top that. I’ve been in the very enviable and rare position at JPL of having done both, and I try not to take that for granted.” —Robert C. Jones Jr.



NASA engineer Erisa Hines Stilley helped lead the Mars mission to land the sophisticated rover Perseverance on the red planet.



Class Notes

1970s

Tod Aronovitz, J.D. '74, is a 2021 jurisprudence honoree selected by the Florida Anti-Defamation League. He is a nationally recognized trial lawyer specializing in medical malpractice, catastrophic injury, and wrongful death cases.

Magda M. Davis, A.B. '74, J.D. '77, is a former Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress, an immigration lawyer, and the first recipient of the American Immigration Lawyers Association's national Pro Bono Award, as well as being founder of one of the largest immigration law firms in South Florida. She is the author of "Kissing Fidel: A Memoir of Cuban American Terrorism in the United States," which shares the realities of an ordinary citizen being thrown into a world of death threats, mob attacks, and terrorism.

Clarence Burgess Owens, B.S. '75, is the Republican representative for Utah's Fourth Congressional District. He is a former University of Miami and NFL athlete who was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Outstanding College Athletes of America and later into the University of Miami's Hall of Fame and the Orange Bowl Ring of Honor. He is the founder of Second Chance 4 Youth, a Utah-based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping troubled and incarcerated youth.

Raymond A. Belliotti, M.A. '76, Ph.D. '77, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, has published his 23rd book: "Values, Virtues, and Vices, Italian Style: Caesar, Dante, Machiavelli, and Garibaldi."

Robert "Bob" E. Panoff, J.D. '77, LL.M.T. '77, has been selected to serve as the chair of the Small Business/ Self Employed subgroup of the Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council for the 2021 year. His Miami practice specializes in tax litigation and compliance matters.

Edward M. Livingston, J.D. '78, is a partner in Taylor English Duma LLP in the firm's intellectual property practice. Located in Naples, Florida, Livingston has more than 40 years of experience in the field of patent law. He has worked with trademarks, service marks, trade dress, trade secrets, copyrights, franchising, and litigation. He is board certified by the Florida Bar as an expert in intellectual property law.

Donna S. Lundy, M.A. '78, Ph.D. '04, was awarded the Volunteer Award for Excellence in Advocacy by the American

Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) in recognition of her efforts to help make cancer a national priority. A committed volunteer for 24 years, she currently serves on ACS CAN's National Ambassador Team and previously served two years as Florida's lead ambassador.

David M. Hinkes, A.B. '79, facilitates online courses worldwide for Embry-Riddle. A certified coach for anything except health and fitness, he lives in Port Saint Lucie, Florida.

Roderic I. Pettigrew, Ph.D., M.D. '79, received the 2020 Vannevar Bush Award from the National Science Board. He is a founder of EnMed, a unique integrated engineering and medical school initiative of Texas A&M University in collaboration with Houston Methodist Hospital, located in Houston's Texas Medical Center. He is the former director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering for the National Institutes of Health.

1980s

Bradley S. Feuer, B.S. '80, J.D. '90, who serves as chief surgeon of the Florida Highway Patrol, had his article "First Responder Peer Support: An Evidence-Informed Approach" published in the Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology.

Donald N. Watson, J.D. '80, a partner at Gary, Williams, Parenti, Watson, and Gary, P.L.L.C., who has been involved in the practice of law since 1981, retired in January. A native of Elberton, Georgia, Watson was raised in Akron, Ohio, and earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University.

Marlene M. Santos, B.B.A. '81, M.B.A. '84, with almost four decades of experience in customer service, operations, and integration, was appointed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) as executive vice president and chief customer officer. She will be responsible for a broad range of services and teams that support the more than 16 million people that PG&E serves in Northern and Central California.

Humberto H. Ocariz, B.B.A. '83, J.D. '87, joined global law firm Greenberg Traurig, P.A. as a litigation shareholder. Formerly a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, he was selected to serve as an arbitrator for the International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration, and he recently completed service on the

Florida Bar's 11th Circuit Grievance Committee, which he chaired for the last six months of his term.

Frances G. De La Guardia, A.B. '85, is the current president of the Cuban American Bar Association. She is a litigation partner in Holland & Knight's Miami office and has focused much of her pro bono work on providing legal services to residents of Puerto Rico.

Robert J. Becerra, B.B.A. '86, J.D. '90, was elected chair of the Florida Bar International Law Section in June 2020 for 2020-21.

Andrea R. Goldblum, B.S.Ed. '86, wrote a chapter in "Reframing Campus Conflict: Student Conduct Practice Through the Lens of Inclusive Excellence" called "Restorative Justice from Theory to Practice." She was part of the team at the University of Colorado at Boulder that developed the very first restorative justice program at a university in the country in 1998.

Xavier I. Cortada, A.B. '87, M.P.A. '91, J.D. '91, created works of art that portray 10 significant decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States that originated from people, places, and events in Florida. In the book "Painting Constitutional Law," scholars analyze these paintings and the cases depicted. The book explores new connections between contemporary art and constitutional law. Cortada is also the recipient of the 2021 Excellence in Civic Engagement Faculty Award at the University of Miami.

Carlos M. de la Cruz, M.B.A. '87, chairman of the Everglades Foundation, received the President's Distinguished Community Service Award from the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He is a Miami-based entrepreneur and philanthropist who has served on numerous local organization boards and is a vocal advocate for Everglades restoration.

Andrew B. Hellinger, B.B.A. '87, J.D. '90, and **Coralee G. Penabad**, B.B.A. '95, J.D. '98, of Urban-X Group have developed River Landing, consisting of retail, residential, and office space. River Landing creates a vibrant live-work-play urban lifestyle center on the Miami River.

Laird A. Lile, LL.M.E. '87, a board-certified wills, trusts, and estates attorney in Naples, Florida, was appointed by the president of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel to three committees that advise on policy initiatives for the legal profession—the Artificial Intelligence Task Force, Charitable Planning and Exempt Organizations Committee, and Practice Committee.

Johnny C. Taylor Jr., B.S.C. '89, President and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, was named professional Society CEO of the Year by CEO Update for his work toward fostering workplace innovation, securing a seat at the policy table for HR professionals, creating more equitable workplaces, and elevating the HR profession. This year's Association Leadership Awards recognized Taylor's accomplishments, including the Together Forward@Work initiative, a call to action for racial equity in the workplace; providing HR professionals with resources that enabled their organizations to effectively navigate the pandemic; and advancing federal policies that benefit the world of work, workers, and the workplace.

1990s

Donna A. Liberman, A.B. '90, debuted her novel "Shame the Devil," a historical fiction, and most recently, a second novel, titled "The London Monster."

Tiah E. McKinney, A.B. '90, has been appointed to the Detroit Health Department's Public Health Advisory Commission, which advises the Health Department on policy matters. In April, McKinney presented her current health intervention policy research at the 2021 American Educational Research Association's Annual Conference. She is founder and executive director of Detroit-based nonprofit The McKinney Foundation.

Edward G. Robinson, M.M. '90, released his second book, "From Purpose to Fulfillment," which follows his journey when he traveled to Eastern Europe to represent the University and the Frost School of Music. He is a retired educator and school administrator, the author of "From Poverty to Purpose," a professional musician, a songwriter, and the co-creator of READMAN, a superhero for literacy.

Jennifer G. Vellenga, B.F.A. '91, is a professional director, actor, and voiceover artist who launched and hosts "Ditch Your Backup Plan: Stories of Rewarding Careers Between Starving Artist and Celebrity." The podcast includes interviews geared toward students and parents who have little access to professional artists and seek information about the realities of pursuing a career in the arts.

Stephanie A. Arnold, B.S.C. '92, had her debut book and true story, "37 Seconds: Dying Revealed Heaven's Help," become a best-seller. In it she

recounts her harrowing journey and shares her spiritual discoveries during delivery, when she went into cardiac arrest and flatlined for 37 seconds.

Jorge R. Martinez, B.S.C. '92, is the vice president of The Conroy Martinez Group, which is celebrating its 30th year as a global public relations, marketing, and social media firm based in Miami.

Celia L. Alvarez, A.B. '94, M.F.A. '96, M.A. '99, became the editor of the journal Prospectus: A Literary Offering. Alvarez also has a new collection of poetry, "Multiverses," from Finishing Line Press. The collection creates a portal for readers in which the recording of events becomes an event. She has two previous collections of poetry, "Shapeshifting," winner of the 2005 Spire Press Poetry Award, and "The Stones."

Manuel A. Coroalles, B.B.A. '94, M.B.A. '96, was named by SHOOK Research and Forbes as a Best-In-State Wealth Advisor for Florida.

Michelle Diffenderfer, J.D. '95, recently became chair-elect of the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. As chair-elect, she will work on the section's goals and priorities for the upcoming ABA year. Diffenderfer has held various leadership positions within the organization, including section vice-chair, education officer, budget officer, secretary, and executive council member.

Ricardo A. De La Guardia, B.S.A.E. '96, is president and founder of DLG Engineering, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in the design, analysis, and forensic inspections of building envelope systems to help mitigate or assess storm damage in hurricane-prone regions of the country. He released his book "TAP Into Your Potential: How to Think, Act, and Practice Like an Entrepreneur," which focuses on the concepts, mindset, philosophy, and qualities of entrepreneurship.

Devang B. Desai, A.B. '97, J.D. '03, was selected as one of the 2021 class recipients of the highest award the Southern Region, Boy Scouts of America can bestow on an adult volunteer—the Silver Antelope Award by the Regional Silver Antelope Selection Committee, acting through the National Court of Honor.

Brian S. Hamburger, J.D. '98, is an entrepreneur, attorney, consultant, speaker, columnist, and outspoken industry advocate for independent investment advisers. For more than 20 years, he has served at the helm

of the MarketCounsel companies and the Hamburger Law Firm. In 2020, he was named to The IA25: Investment Advisor Magazine's Annual List of the Top Influential People in the Industry. Investment News also named him to its class of Icons and Innovators.

Kathryn D. Rucker Krepp, J.D. '98, convinced Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi to remove her great-great-grandfather Howell Cobb's portrait from the U.S. Capitol. She then lobbied the Coast Guard to ban the Confederate flag from Coast Guard bases. After graduating from the University of Miami, she served on active duty in the Coast Guard as a military lawyer.

Kendra P. Leonard, M.M. '98, is an active musicologist and music theorist who specializes in women and music and music for the screen. Her most recent scholarly book is "Music for the Kingdom of Shadows: Cinema Accompaniment in the Age of Spiritualism."

Trista Sutter, M.S.P.T. '98, was a pediatric physical therapist for four years in Miami before appearing on the first season of "The Bachelor," as the first bachelorette. She also appeared on the first season of "Dancing with the Stars." Sutter started the podcast "Better Etc." last fall, where she hosts celebrities and non-celebrities who share their stories, wisdom, and advice about how we can be better versions of ourselves.

Miriam Y. Soler Ramos, B.S.C. '99, J.D. '02, was named with no opposition as president-elect of the Cuban American Bar Association.

Alice S. Vilma, B.B.A. '99, is the co-head of Morgan Stanley's Multicultural Innovation Lab and co-manages an in-house start-up accelerator that helps women and people of color quickly scale up their businesses and get access to capital from Morgan Stanley and other investors. Vilma is working to solve a systemic funding gap.

2000s

Robert P. Boone, J.D. '00, M.B.A. '00, was promoted to general counsel of the Farm Credit Council, the national trade association for the Farm Credit System, which supports rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services.

David Mullings, B.S. '00, M.B.A. '03, was selected as this year's recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Business Leadership for the 24th AFUW Annual Awards Gala. Fellow awardees include Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley and Cedella Marley.

Hosana Fieber, A.B. '02, has been promoted to chief operating officer, chief financial officer at Tervis. Her duties include leading the manufacturing and supply chain along with oversight of its finance, accounting, IT, engineering, and project management. Fieber started working at Tervis in 2009 in a variety of positions, including financial planning, controller, and a vice president. She is now the company's first female COO.

Jill R. Fox, A.B. '02, is a writer for ParklandTalk.com. Recently, while grieving the loss of both of her parents and observing Clorox wipes flying off shelves, she came up with an idea: Mah Jongg Wipes, a sanitary wipe for Mah Jongg players to keep their game tiles free from germs by using wipes before and after each session of the game.

Josephine C. Oria, M.A. '02, is an Argentine American author whose memoir, "Sobremesa: A Memoir of Food and Love in Thirteen Courses" is available this spring. In her coming-of-age adventure, Oria travels to her family's homeland in search of belonging. Along with her husband, Gastón, she is the founder of "La Dorita Cooks," an all-natural line of dulce de leche products and Pittsburgh's first resource-based kitchen incubator for start-up and early stage food makers.

Erisa K. Hines Stilley, B.S.M.E. '02, worked on the Mars 2020 mission at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory on the Entry, Descent, and Landing team. (Read her Citizen Canes story on page 41.)

José G. Cúneo, M.P.R.A. '03, was promoted principal by Kaufman Rossin, one of the largest independent accounting firms in Florida and top 100 CPA and advisory firms in the U.S. Cúneo provides consulting and expert witness testimony on accounting and general commercial matters, as well as financial fraud, embezzlement, and due diligence matters.

Kourtney Gibson, B.B.A. '03, was elected to the board of Lululemon. She is president of Loop Capital Markets, one of the largest privately held investment banking, brokerage, and advisory firms headquartered in the United States. After joining the company as an intern more than 20 years ago, she has held various roles at the firm, including spearheading its global equity division for more than a decade.

Fara T. Gold, J.D. ‘03, had her article “Investigating and Prosecuting Sexual Misconduct Committed by Law Enforcement: Federal Criminal Jurisdiction” posted by ABA Criminal Justice Section.

Brian W. Fischer, B.B.A. ‘04, J.D. ‘07, was recently promoted to partner at Day Pitney LLP. Fischer represents private equity and venture capital firms, public companies, privately held companies, and emerging growth companies in formation, debt, and equity financings; mergers and acquisitions; strategic joint ventures; technology arrangements; and general corporate matters.

Shakira L. Henderson, B.S. ‘04, Ph.D. ‘15, has been named vice president, research officer for UNC Health, where she will work with groups to develop a system-wide research strategy encompassing translational, basic and clinical research, and support efforts to further develop One UNC Health as a learning health system.

Latanae L. Parker, B.S.C. ‘04, is an associate in Maynard Cooper’s ERISA and Group Insurance Litigation practice in Miami. She focuses on representing life, health, and disability insurers in claim-related litigation. Her experience includes complex and general civil litigation matters in state and federal courts, as well as civil litigation in the areas of property damage and personal injury claims in the representation of insurance carriers and self-insured businesses.

Turner B. Sparks, B.S.C. ‘04, is a world-touring stand-up comedian, based in Brooklyn, New York, who, under normal circumstances, puts on a show at the New York Comedy Club for the Alumni Association. Since the pandemic, Sparks hosts a weekly online stand-up comedy show, and he performs virtually for corporations and organizations.

Hannah Bae, B.S.C. ‘06, was a 2020 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award winner. She is a Korean American freelance journalist and writer living in Brooklyn, New York. Her essays have appeared in Catapult, Slice Magazine, Bitch Media, and Pigeon Pages. She is the recipient of recent fellowships from The Writers’ Colony at Dairy Hollow, Asian American Writers’ Workshop, and the Poynter Institute.

Benjamin S. Everard, A.B. ‘06, produced “Yes Day,” a Netflix movie starring Jennifer Garner.

Andres F. Lavin, B.S.E.E. ‘06, was promoted to the rank of major in the United States Air Force. He is managing space electronic warfare programs directly impacting all services. In 2017,

he served in Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan.

Sheereen E. Middleton, B.B.A. ‘06, is the founder of Middleton Legal and has dedicated 20 percent of her bankruptcy practice to pro bono clients. Middleton was recently recognized by the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service during its Celebrate Pro Bono Week 2020 as the COVID-19 Response Award recipient and for taking more than 10 cases in the 2020 fiscal year.

Darren S. Pearl, B.B.A. ‘06, was hired as principal and head of investor relations at Twin Bridge Capital Partners, where he will lead the firm’s investor relations effort, and be responsible for setting the overall distribution strategy for Twin Bridge investment products and strategies.

Jason D. Antos, M.F.A. ‘07, is the president of the Queens Historical Society in New York City. In 2006, Antos published his first book on the history of Whitestone, one of the oldest suburbs in the city. Since then, he has published six additional books on the parts of history related to Queens. For more than 10 years, he has been a professional journalist and is a member of the city’s press corps, NYP. Antos is currently writing a book on the making of the 1983 TV movie “The Day After.”

Ashley C. Drumm, A.B. ‘07, was elected president of the Palm Beach County chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Previous chapter leadership positions include president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and national delegate. Drumm received the Daily Business Review’s Most Effective Lawyers Award for her innovative strategy and resolution of a mass tort docket and was named to the Florida Rising Stars list by Super Lawyers Magazine in 2019 and 2020. She also maintains an active pro bono practice.

Ryan J. Plotkin, B.S. ‘07, has been named president for M-D Building Products, Inc., a family-owned company that produces a range of residential and commercial weatherization, flooring, caulking, and specialty extrusion products.

Daniel M. Coyle, J.D. ‘08, has been promoted to counsel at Sequor Law. Coyle focuses his practice on bankruptcy, creditors’ rights, secured transactions, collections, executions, asset recovery, and cross-border insolvency, routinely representing financial institutions and other creditors in bankruptcy, federal, and state court litigation.

Brendan M. Merrill, B.S.C. ‘08, is the writer, director, editor, and producer of “MADE IN CHINA” an independent feature-film shot entirely in China. The film has won two awards.

Farah Y. Fourcand, B.S. ‘09, is a neurologist and stroke specialist, training in neurocritical care and neurointerventional surgery in the New York and New Jersey area. Fourcand has worked on the COVID-19 ICU front lines and wrote an educational book, “Pandemic Manifesto: COVID-19 Basic Training From the Frontlines.”

Nathan R. Garrison, A.B. ‘09, is the founder of Sharkbanz, a shark deterrent band that former U.S. President Barack Obama was spotted wearing while he was paddle boarding in Hawaii, and it has been featured in a wide range of media outlets.

Sara R. Gonzalez-Rothi, J.D ‘09, was appointed by President Joe Biden to the White House Council on Environmental Quality and is the senior director for water. She serves as senior counsel on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where she helps develop and advance legislation and oversight relating to ocean, fisheries, weather, climate, clean energy, and other environmental policies.

2010s

Isabel C. Bonilla-Mathe, A.B. ‘10, an associate in the New Orleans office of Phelps Dunbar, was named a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She represents a wide range of health care provider clients in administrative and judicial proceedings, arbitrations, and other alternative dispute resolutions. She also teaches “Fundamentals of Health Care Law” at Tulane University Law School and is an active member of the American Health Lawyers Association.

Rebecca F. Greenfield, B.B.A. ‘10, M.P.H. ‘15, J.D. ‘15, was appointed by Wolfe Pincavage as its newest equity partner. She has advised health systems on best practices for compliance regarding price transparency. Her contributions have positioned the firm as leading experts in matters ranging from managed care contracting and negotiation to revenue cycle consultation and collections and compliance.

Lilian Rodriguez-Baz, A.B. ‘10, joins Bressler as an associate.

Previously, she worked at several South Florida law firms and interned at Fox Latin American Channels, Inc., and at the City of Miami Beach Attorney’s office.

Nyana A. Miller, J.D. ‘11, has been promoted to counsel at Sequor Law, where she focuses on international asset recovery and financial fraud. She has worked on cases brought under Chapter 15 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code on behalf of foreign trustees seeking to take discovery, administer property, and bring claims against third parties. She serves as the Latin America regional director for the International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation.

Eduardo Delgado, M.A. ‘13, director, corporate partnerships—New World Symphony, has been selected to participate in Sphinx LEAD, where he will join a dynamic group of Black and Latinx arts leaders from around the country to participate in a two-year program designed to evolve the industry landscape by empowering the next generation of executive leaders.

Justine S. Green, B.S.Ed. ‘13, Ed.D. ‘19, is an educator, author, and disability advocate who serves as the principal at Tamim Academy in Boca Raton, Florida. Green is the author of “Completely Me,” based on her life, disability, and coming-of-age journey, a powerful story about a little girl who never noticed there was something different about herself until others pointed it out.

Carmen M. Rodriguez, B.S.C. ‘13, is the co-host of the podcast Teikirisi, which celebrates and educates on all things Cuban-American. It publishes every two weeks and streams on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other sources.

Robert A. Formica, A.B. ‘15, U.S. Army captain, took command of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Information Operations Battalion, 1st IO Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in November 2020. The 1st IO Battalion provides analytical, planning, assessment, and training support to Army and joint forces worldwide.

Nerissa R. Manela, B.M. ‘15, was named Rookie Teacher of the Year by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. (Read her Citizen ‘Canes story on page 40.)

Brandon Fields, M.B.A. ‘16, received the “20 Under 40” Leadership Recognition Award. Fields was drafted by the Miami Dolphins in 2007 and played as their starting punter. After retiring from football, he opened Inside the Five, an award-winning brewpub in Sylvania, Ohio. Fields and his wife founded the Brandon and Katie Fields Youth Fitness

Fund and hosted free football and cheer-leading clinics for youth K-6 in Toledo.

Miranda E. Goot, B.S.B.A. ‘16, has been hired by Robinson Bradshaw in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Maika Moulite, M.B.A. ‘16 is a first-year Ph.D. student at Howard University and the author of “One of The Good Ones” and “Dear Haiti, Love Alaine,” which was one of NPR’s Favorite Books of 2019, one of The Today Show’s 12 Best New Books for Fall 2019, and a Parents Choice Foundation award winner.

Lindsey M. Hart, B.B.A. ‘17, created a new card game with her two siblings called The 2020 Game, about all of the

crazy things that have happened in 2020. In the early stages of release, the game sold out on Amazon twice and was featured in a UVA Today article.

Marissa Gudiel, B.Arch. ‘18, has joined SV Design, as an architectural designer. She especially enjoys the schematic design and design development phases of the creative process. She has relocated to Boston from Cape Cod and is excited to explore the North Shore.

Lindsay D. Shoop, M.S.Ed. ‘18, is a coach, author, speaker, and lifelong athlete. She is an Olympic gold medalist, a three-time world champion, five-time World Cup medalist, and a National Rowing Hall of Fame inductee. Author

of “Better Great Than Never,” Shoop focuses on performance optimization and longevity throughout sports and life at host camps, clinics, and workshops for coaches, athletes, and teams of all ages and skill levels.

Alexander Mines, B.S.C. ‘19, has profiled and promoted underground artists from all over the world. For his Fresh Layers Music blog, Mines interviewed artists from countries including Japan, Australia, England, Egypt, Romania, and the United States. While onboarding with Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, Run DMC’s Darryl McDaniels during the pandemic, Mines approached underground music artists to create a virtual music festival.

2020s

Kevin M. Bursaw, M.B.A. ‘20, recently completed (Euro NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training) T6 Pilot Instructor Training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. Assigned to the 459th Flying Training Squadron, Bursaw will be training fighter pilots for the nations of NATO to meet the demands of the ongoing pilot shortage. He was also recently accepted in the Oklahoma State University’s Ed.D. program in Applied Studies in Aviation and Space. ■

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

In Memoriam

1940s

Jack H. Feinstein, B.B.A. ‘45
Patricia F. Ayala, A.B. ‘46
Louis Goodman, A.B. ‘47
Alice W. Dorn, A.B. ‘48
Alicia B. Callander, B.Ed. ‘49
Nancy P. Wardropper, M.A. ‘49

1950s

Joseph P. Barbieri, B.B.A. ‘50
Marge Lee L. Bolton, A.B. ‘50
Joseph M. Carrier, A.B. ‘50
Harold Lieber, B.B.A. ‘50
Arthur E. Neubauer, J.D. ‘50
John P. Sorgini, A.B. ‘50
Eli Timoner, B.B.A. ‘50
Harold R. Alderman, B.S. ‘51
Alphonse J. Camardello, B.M. ‘51
Alfred R. Carapella, B.Ed. ‘51
Lawrence E. Glick, B.B.A. ‘51, J.D. ‘54
William M. Nola, B.S.E.E. ‘51
Norberto Azqueta, B.S.I.E. ‘52
Donald R. Cuming, B.Ed. ‘52
John J. Harrington, A.B. ‘52
Eileen M. Jacobson, A.B. ‘52
Carl D. Kalberer, B.B.A. ‘52
Irving A. Leeds,B.B.A. ‘52
Gilbert Levine, B.B.A. ‘52
Patsy McDonald, B.Ed. ‘52
Richard C. McRoberts, B.B.A. ‘52
Bernard Rosen, A.B. ‘52
Henry E. Van Niel, B.B.A. ‘52
Barbara J. Wilkins, B.B.A. ‘52
Wesley L. Wright, B.B.A. ‘52

Jack C. Bradford, B.Ed. ‘53
Hugh A. Lyon, B.B.A. ‘53
Peter R. Spirer, B.B.A. ‘53
Joseph P. Adamo, B.S.A.E. ‘54
Sy Chadroff, J.D. ‘54
Sheppard L. Masarek, B.S. ‘54
Ronald A. Fitzgerald, A.B. ‘55
Alvin D. Greck, B.B.A. ‘55
Gerald Kogan, B.B.A. ‘55, J.D. ‘55
Arline L. Mayer, A.B. ‘55
Taavo Virkhaus, B.M. ‘55
David T. Berg, B.B.A. ‘56, J.D. ‘63
Fred Frear, B.B.A. ‘56
Helen H. Graham, B.S. ‘56
Barbara Kriston, B.S.N. ‘56
Ronald L. Levitt, A.B. ‘56
Gordon R. Miller, B.S. ‘56
Voss C. Milloway, B.B.A. ‘56
Elwyn L. Moore, B.Ed. ‘56
Milan J. Reban, A.B. ‘56
Iris S. Shafer, B.Ed. ‘56
Anthony J. DiPadova, B.S.A.E. ‘57
Donald B. Johnson, B.Ed. ‘57
Calvin M. Kapp, B.B.A. ‘57
Myron S. Krasny, B.B.A. ‘57, J.D. ‘60
John R. Manteria, B.B.A. ‘57
David V. Russell, B.B.A. ‘57
Dorys S. Sussman, B.Ed. ‘57
Rex W. Allred, B.B.A. ‘58
David B. Booher, M.Ed. ‘58, Ed.D. ‘74
John Pellegrino, M.M. ‘58
William A. Reed, A.B. ‘58
William F. Rein, B.B.A. ‘58

Robert G. Ripic, B.S. ‘58, M.Ed. ‘68
Robert F. Simmons, B.B.A. ‘58
George Thompson, B.B.A. ‘58
Albert M. Collier, B.S. ‘59, M.D. ‘63
Jack C. Donnell, M.Ed. ‘59
George T. Finley, B.B.A. ‘59
Murray Goldman, J.D. ‘59
Nancy R. Haslett, B.S. ‘59
Leo N. Rinaldi, A.B. ‘59, M.A. ‘61
Valeria S. Smith, B.Ed. ‘59, M.Ed. ‘71
Clifton G. Wrestler, B.S.M.E. ‘59

1960s

Richard S. Matta, B.S.Ed. ‘60, B.B.A. ‘61
Brian P. McDonald, B.B.A. ‘60
John K. McDonald, J.D. ‘60
Spiro P. Sallata, B.Ed. ‘60
Albert S. Schlazer, B.Ed. ‘60
Michael L. Solloway, B.S. ‘60, M.D. ‘64
Paul L. Bruder, B.B.A. ‘61
Paul V. Cratin, B.S. ‘61
George R. Conger III, B.B.A. ‘61, M.B.A. ‘65
Desmond S. Elder, A.B. ‘61
Alfred E. Griffin, B.B.A. ‘61
Anthony W. Hemming, A.B. ‘61
William T. Hicks, B.B.A. ‘61
Arthur J. Jusko, B.B.A. ‘61
Maxine P. McArtor, A.B. ‘61
Forrest C. Mobley, B.B.A. ‘61
Howard B. Tisch, B.B.A. ‘61
John T. Webb, B.B.A. ‘61
Clyde R. Balch, M.D. ‘62
Virginia M. Eaton, B.Ed. ‘62
Maurice J. Kutner, B.B.A. ‘62, J.D. ‘65
Allan H. Bell, A.B. ‘63



John L. Green Jr.

John L. Green Jr., who served as chief financial officer and the equivalent of chief operating officer at the University in the 1970s, died in January at the age of 91. Amid serious financial troubles and a dispiriting decade of losses on the gridiron at the time, there was serious talk among administrators and trustees of dropping Hurricanes football. Green, who also oversaw athletics, was confident the U could run a successful program with the right coach. His 1977 hiring of Lou Saban, who instituted a new recruiting network, and Howard Schnellenberger, who in 1983 delivered the first of five national championships, set the stage for a new football dynasty. Green was credited as the “man who saved Miami football.” After leaving the University in 1979, he forged his own storied career in executive academia, which started as a vice president at the University of Georgia in 1968 and culminated with the presidency of Washburn University from 1981 to 1989.

Fred L. Chiarlanza, B.S.A.E. ‘63
Marie P. Day, B.S.N. ‘63
Barbara “Bunny” H. Frey, B.Ed. ‘63
Ronald R. Lein, B.S.C.E. ‘63
William Van Swearingen, A.B. ‘63
Richard A. Wright, M.D. ‘63
Jon W. Armstrong, B.B.A. ‘64
Theresa A. Frese, B.Ed. ‘64, M.Ed. ‘70

Betty J. Koppen, B.Ed. ‘64
Joseph E. McDermott Allen, A.B. ‘64
Jonathan G. Seiberg, A.B. ‘64
Jerome J. Sheldon, M.D. ‘64
Betty J. Thornton, B.Ed. ‘64
Nicholas F. Tsamoutales, J.D. ‘64
Katherine P. Betts, M.Ed. ‘65, Ph.D. ‘67
Joseph E. Hasazi, A.B. ‘65, M.S. ‘69, Ph.D. ‘70

In Memoriam

Anne M. Kleinginna, A.B. '65, M.S. '68
America D. Lliteras, B.S.N. '65
Doreen E. Wiesel, B.Ed. '65
Kenneth L. Beckett, M.D. '66
Daniel J. Carreira, B.Ed. '66, M.Ed. '67
Ronald R. Davis, M.M. '66
Howard A. Kallusch, B.B.A. '66
William L. Kirk, B.S. '66, M.A. '69
Martin D. Kline, A.B. '66
John F. Passonno, A.B. '66
John W. Bates, A.B. '67
Howard L. Kuker, B.B.A. '67, J.D. '71
Chris H. McHugh, B.Ed. '67
Jeffrey P. Paris, A.B. '67, M.Ed. '69
David A. Sonenberg, B.B.A. '67
Richard J. Wiley, J.D. '67
Bonnie B. Crovatin, B.Ed. '68
Paul E. Hartsel, B.Ed. '68
Harold Long, A.B. '68, J.D. '71
Blair B. Stringfellow, J.D. '68
James R. Brindell, J.D. '69
Mark M. Dec, A.B. '69
Louis Fiore, B.S.E.E. '69
Barry J. Flynn, B.B.A. '69
Gregory O. Gray, A.B. '69, J.D. '72
James E. Hardison, A.B. '69
Kathleen P. Moroney, B.S.Ed. '69, M.S.Ed. '71
Joseph Parrino, B.S. '69
Raymond R. Schroeder, J.D. '69

1970s

Linda A. Bruton, M.Ed. '70
Alvin E. Entin, J.D. '70
Andrew I. Gudelsky, B.B.A. '70
Robert J. Haehnle, M.S.O.E. '70
James C. Hanrahan, A.B. '70
Rene P. Larrieu, M.B.A. '70
Jeffrey M. Shields, B.B.A. '70
Richard K. Turner, B.B.A. '70
Francis M. Yeager, B.S.A.E. '70
Ellen D. Wernick, M.Ed. '71
Michael J. Zeto, A.B. '71
Georgie R. Henderson, M.Ed. '72
Howard D. Manten, B.S. '72, M.D. '76
James H. Wakefield, A.B. '72
Marilyn P. Freedman, M.Ed. '73
Edward D. Scura, Ph.D. '73
Mark W. Witt, A.B. '73
Jorge E. Bacardi, B.S.I.E. '74
George A. Maul, Ph.D. '74
Max B. Osceola, A.B. '74
Cheryl J. Robinson, BM '74
Martin D. Springer, M.B.A. '74
Craig Donoff, LL.M.T. '75, LL.M.E. '77

Luis Glaser



The University’s executive vice president and provost from 1986 to 2005, Luis Glaser died in December at the age of 88. Born in Vienna, Austria, he grew up in Mexico City after his family fled their homeland during Nazi occupation. He graduated from the University of Toronto and earned his doctoral degree at Washington University in St. Louis, eventually becoming a professor and chair of biomedical sciences at that institution. During his 19 years at the University of Miami, the University grew and improved exponentially, opening new schools and colleges, creating new academic programs, and increasing its competitive research funding by hundreds of millions of dollars. Glaser, who spoke four languages, also helped to attract and retain exceptional faculty members, recognizing their achievements at the annual ceremony of the Provost’s Award for Scholarly Activity, which started under his watch.

Carlos E. Echeverria, C.L.P. '75
Mary F. Fisher, M.S. '75, Ph.D. '78
Victor P. DeBianchi, B.B.A. '76, J.D. '79
Andrew Degraffenreidt, J.D. '76
Hal L. Kowenski, A.B. '76
Thomas A. Leonard, M.B.A. '76
William J. Meyers, M.Ed. '76
Camilla Noel, C.N.P. '76
Eileen W. Youtie, B.B.A. '76
Scott E. Becker, J.D. '77
Patrick T. McGuinness, J.D. '77
Graham H. Martin, J.D. '78
Ann E. Wallace, B.Ed. '78
Paul S. Curtin, B.G.S. '79
Gary A. Daugherty, J.D. '79, LL.M.T. '80
Samuel R. Weiss, M.B.A. '79

1980s

Leffie M. Carlton, M.D. '80
Michael J. Gandour, M.D. '80
Mario R. Villoch, B.S.M.E. '80, M.D. '87
John A. Foley, A.B. '83, J.D. '88
Anthony F. Alacca, M.B.A. '84
M.B.A. '84
Peter V. Calviera, J.D. '84
Lisa Conti, B.S. '84
Dana M. Levinson, B.S. '84
Sallie C. Quillian, M.S.Ed. '84

Dorothy A. Tully, D.A. '84
James L. Merling, M.A. '85
Carmen Dominguez, M.A. '86
Pedro J. Gomez, '86
George H. Phillips, M.S. '86
Scotty A. Ford, B.Arch. '87
Harry Moulis, M.D. '87
Pamela D. Ransome, J.D. '87
Charles T. Barkman, B.S.E.E. '88
Gary J. Buckman, A.B. '88
Frederick J. Karkowski, M.D. '88
Karon K. Anderson, M.S. '89
Mary A. Swayze, J.D. '89

1990s

Albert S. Arendas, Ed.S. '93
Kecia Scigliuto, M.S.P.T. '93
Damon W. Bethel, A.B. '94
Marcus D. Carey, B.G.S. '94
Christopher J. Cleary, J.D. '95
Nancy L. Costello, Ph.D. '98

2000s

Amita S. Toprani, M.D. '02
Carlos E. Quesada Rodriguez, M.S. '08

2010s

Christopher G. Carlo, J.D. '13
Michael I. Dembrow, B.B.A. '17, M.S.Tx. '18 ■

Gerald Kogan



A former Florida chief justice, Gerald Kogan, B.B.A. '55, J.D. '55, died in March at the age of 87. While a University of Miami student, Kogan served as chief (president) of the Iron Arrow Honor Society and president of the Student Senate. After graduating from law school and serving in the U.S. Army, Kogan was a circuit judge before being appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in 1987, serving as chief justice from 1996 to 1998. While in that role, he created the Fairness Commission to address areas of bias in the court system. Later, as founder of the Alliance for Ethical Government, he led a successful initiative to fight public corruption in Miami-Dade County. The Justice Gerald Kogan Endowed Scholarship Fund at the School of Law, where he taught as an adjunct faculty member, supports law students who demonstrate Kogan’s integrity, scholarship, and devotion to public service.

Harold Long



A champion for the rights of underrepresented students at the University of Miami during the late 1960s and the founder of the institution’s United Black Students organization, Harold Long, A.B. '68, J.D. '71, died in February at the age of 73. A native of Daytona Beach, Florida, Long led a sit-in at then-President Henry King Stanford’s office in 1968 that helped pave the way for increased enrollment, scholarships, and other opportunities for Black students. After graduating from the University of Miami School of Law, Long served as a justice of the peace for the city of Opa-Locka and launched a successful career as a private attorney.

Names recorded as of April 12, 2021. We research each name in the “In Memoriam” section, but errors can occur. Please email any corrections or clarifications to alumni@miami.edu or call 305-284-2872.



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Jodan H. Ledford, M.S. '05
Bryan Lewis, M.B.A. '04
Marilu Marshall, B.B.A. '66, J.D. '69
David Mullings, B.S. '00, M.B.A. '03
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Nilesh K. Parikh, B.B.A. '05
Mark F. Raymond, J.D. '83
Marc A. Risser, B.B.A. '93
Robert D. Rubin, J.D. '84
John A. Ruzich, B.S.C. '96
Douglas J. Weiser, A.B. '78, J.D. '82
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Jose Fernando-Calvo, President, Graduate Student Association
Kelly Malloy, President, Student Bar Association
Henry Olano, President, Miller School of Medicine Student Government
Emma Pontes, President, Marine Science Graduate Student Organization

'Canes Communities

Atlanta Jeremy A. Ladson, B.S.C. '11, atlantacanes@miami.edu
Boston TBA, bostoncanes@miami.edu
Broward County Matthew N. Beekhuizen, B.B.A. '91, browardcountycanes@miami.edu
Charlotte Jason C. Wilson, B.S.C.E. '98, charlottecanes@miami.edu
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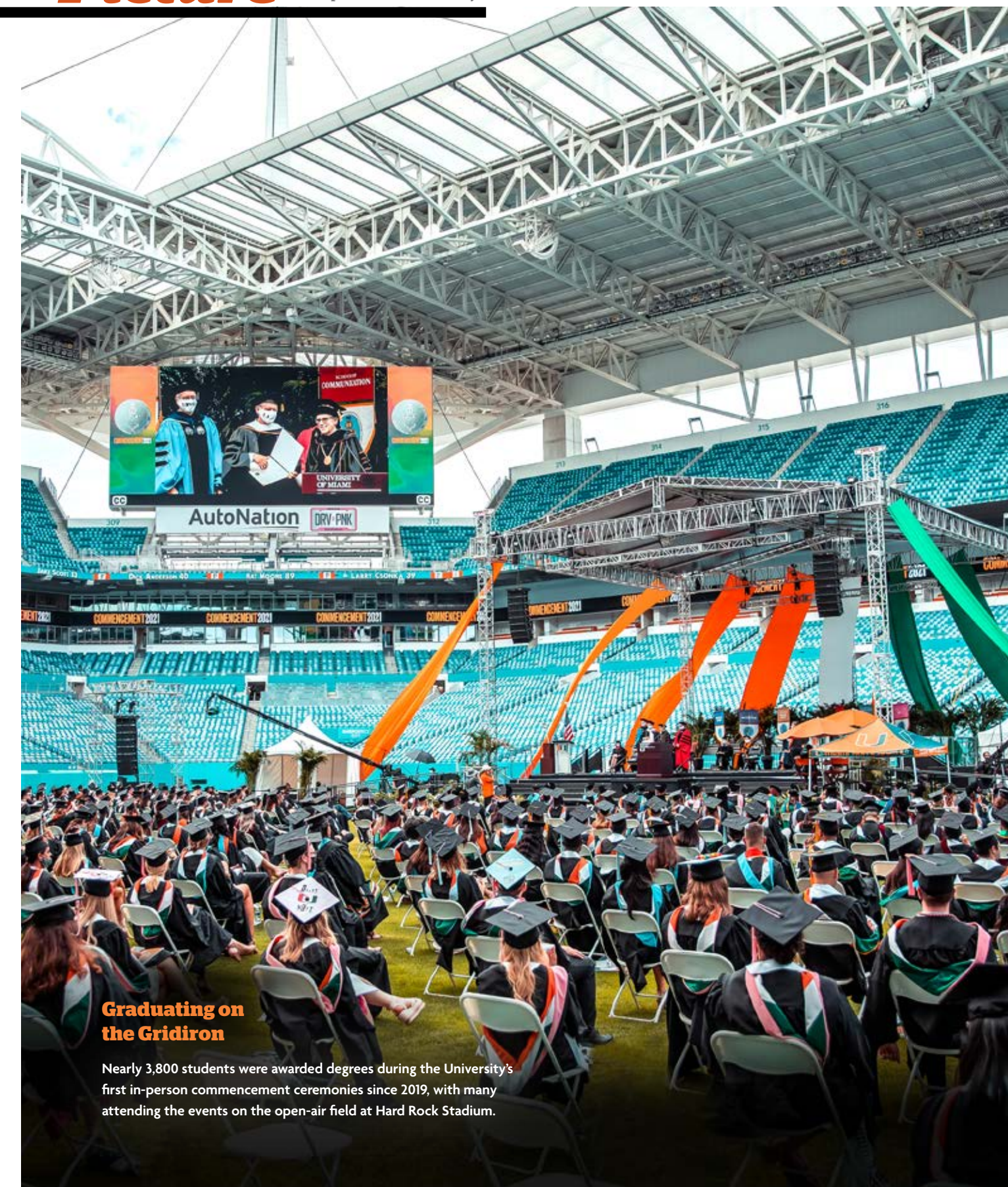


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