We Belong

At the University of Miami, we are a community—strong, connected, and united in our celebration of diversity, pursuit of academic excellence, and conviction that each of us has a unique genius to develop and contribute to the world.
At the University of Miami, we are answering the higher calling for higher education—building bridges across boundaries and fostering skilled changemakers whose passion to serve will shape a better future for us all. As I begin my fourth year as president and look back at the past year, I am proud to see that so many of the innovative ideas and initiatives outlined in the Roadmap to Our New Century are taking deeper root and flourishing.

During the 2017-18 academic year, we bolstered our leadership team, deepened our commitment to a culture of belonging where everyone feels valued and adds value, and launched specific efforts to de-segregate educational opportunity and understanding. We expanded educational opportunity for students, ensured that our campuses remain places for open and respectful debate, and supported scholarship that propels knowledge and action about the most consequential challenges of our times.

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Let us never forget that the last school year began with a massive hurricane bearing down on Miami. The storm disrupted operations and forced the evacuation of nearly all of the 31,000 persons who live, learn, and work throughout the U. Our response? As one strong community, we pulled together to restore our campuses to safe and normal operations, and reached out to help neighboring communities recover along with us.

The storm reminded us that natural disasters pose increasing risk with their frequency and ferocity. Yet this past year further revealed that we are living in an era of instability where forces of divisiveness threaten us as well. Our antidote to these challenges has been to fortify the traditional role of a good university: to unite people from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Strong leadership and a dedication to collaborative strategies are key.

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To our already stellar leadership team, we added Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Josh Friedman, Dean of the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine Henri R. Ford, and School of Education and Human Development Dean Ruth W. Wood. Their collective expertise and deep desire to drive important change will surely enhance our team’s efforts.

In this report, we take a look at how and where ‘Canes belong—at the forefront of education; to each other through our willingness to engage in dialogue about our differences; to the community by fostering a more vibrant city and state, and to the hemisphere, where our cutting-edge research and commitment to our neighbors build connections, break down stereotypes, and spur positive change across the Americas.

A technological revolution in learning is sweeping the globe, and we have positioned the University to be at the forefront of this transformative development. The past year we worked toward the goal that University leaders envisioned in 1925—to become a Pan-American institution with close ties to Latin America and the Caribbean. Leaders representing 11 top-rated universities across the Americas convened at UM to sign the first academic agreement spanning the hemisphere. We strengthened our capacity to operationalize the effort, which will address global problems by engaging cultural and intellectual resources across our region and the rest of the world.

With the groundbreaking for the Frost Institutes of Science and Engineering, a facility that will house the intertwined network of institutes aimed at boosting STEM across our campuses, we begin a bold new era to galvanize scientists and students to address big challenges, be they in nano-engineering, smart cities, the environment, data science, or other fields that are shaping the future.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science celebrated its 75th anniversary, a milestone that marked the school’s incredible evolution from small boathouse to a research powerhouse whose groundbreaking discoveries are leading us to deeper understanding of the marine environment and inspiring hope for a sustainable future.

Our Miller School of Medicine was selected by the National Institutes of Health as the lead partner for the Southeast Evaluative Center’s All of Us research initiative—taught with 25M funding for 100 million participants from underrepresented groups and communities.

Among the many U-Mich highlights this past year, Donna Shokat, a genetic researcher at Sylmar Comprehensive Cancer Center, was honored with the prestigious “Pioneer Award” and a $5 million National Institute of Health grant.

Our Rosenstiel Parkview Eye Institute once again raised the nation’s best ophthalmology by US. News & World Report in Best Hospitals edition. This made the 15th year in a row, and the 17th time overall, that Bascom Palmer has achieved this prestigious distinction.

We were again recognized as one of America’s best Employers. This past year, Frost School of Music garnered a range of awards—from Grammys and DownBeats to recognition as a top music business school—and students, graduates, and faculty from across the University have reaped the benefits of these achievements.

In 2017-18 our ‘Canes football team soared to a win season, captured the ACC Coastal Division title, and earned an invitation to the Capital One Orange Bowl. Two of our all-sports programs competed in post-season play. Volleyball won an Olympic bronze and advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Both basketball teams (volleyball) won ACC Player of the Year and Amy Deem was named ACC Outdoor Track and Field Women’s Coach of the Year.

In summary, our endeavors this past year have pursued a bold new course for institutional collaboration. As we look ahead to our centennial in 2025, we can find inspiration in the many ways that we are promoting the open pursuit of knowledge and in our progress toward creating a community where everyone feels that they belong and believes that they can make a difference.

We are one U, and we are answering the higher calling for higher education.

John Fieker
President

Our stellar research programs earned an impressive array of grants and funding, and the generous support of our wonderful community of donors opened new worlds of opportunity at the U. This philanthropic support is highlighted in several of this report’s feature stories and in the timeline.

Overall, our student-athletes earned 64 All ACC honors, nine individual All ACC titles, and 16 All America accolades. Estela Perez-Somarriba (women’s tennis) and Olga Strantzali (women’s tennis) were ACC Player of the Year in their respective sports.

Football head coach Mark Richt was named ACC Coach of the Year and Walter Camp National Coach of the Year, while Randy Ableman was named ACC Coach of the Year in their respective sports. Men’s tennis head coach Mark Clark was named ACC Outdoor Track and Field Men’s Coach of the Year.

Read more in the report about how our student-athletes are embodying the very best in athletics, academic achievement, and a commitment to service.

In 2018, a range of research from Steinman to Sylmar to Rosenstiel to Parkview to Frost School of Music garnered a range of awards—from Grammys and DownBeats to recognition as a top music business school—and students, graduates, and faculty from across the University have reaped the benefits of these achievements.

The University’s Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation, a historic community space transformed into a multipurpose, state-of-the-art facility located within the Otto G. Richter Library, will serve as a hub for academic and cultural exchange, and has become the new home for our Libraries’ Special Collections and University Archives.

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WE BELONG
at the Forefront of Education

Interactive learning, innovation, and shared experience are vital to our educational approach. Our thinking adds value.

We believe that everyone at the U is valued and that each individual can add value to the mission and purpose of such a top-tier university. That belief encourages the strong sense of belonging—that each of us belongs here, and that our voices are heard and celebrated.

The Simulation ‘Supercomputer’

In its first full year of operation, the School of Nursing and Health Studies’ Simulation Hospital is already setting a new bar for health care education through the provision of advanced simulation-based techniques within an innovative, collaborative, and technology-rich environment.

More than a thousand students and hundreds of health care professionals benefited this past year from the Simulation Hospital’s ability to bridge the critical and growing gap between classroom learning and increasingly complex clinical environments.

Nursing student Casey Pierce spent a semester of her clinical studies learning on the newborn simulator dolls. "The simulators can do pretty much anything that a normal newborn can, and there are lots of complications that can happen—fever, jaundice, heart distress, different breathing sounds," Pierce explains. "Anything can go wrong with him, and that’s why they do it: so that we can learn to do different scenarios before going into the hospitals.”

Interactive, Innovative, and Collaborative Health Care Education

The Simulation Hospital serves as a hub for students, health care professionals, first responders, and corporate partners to design, test, and master skills and technologies to transform health care education, research, and practice.

Students are exposed to a range of real-life health care settings across the five floors of the state-of-the-art facility that includes an emergency department, outpatient clinics, labor and delivery suites, a neonatal intensive care unit, operating rooms, a critical care unit, and a fully equipped home health care apartment.
A biomedical engineering student uses a 3D printer to optimize the manufacturing process for a new type of stent. An aerospace engineering student prints a 3D component for a hybrid motor-powered robot. A group of mechanical engineering professors use a series of 3D printers to train their classes projects into reality, creating prototypes for new vegetable cutters, juice extractors, and mobility devices, among many other gadgets.

Not long ago, such additive manufacturing techniques were out of reach for educational institutions and researchers. But with the help of Johnson & Johnson and several other companies, such as HP, 3D printing is changing the landscape of education.

"Additive manufacturing lets you envision what's possible," says Joseph Sendra, worldwide vice president of manufacturing engineering and technology at Johnson & Johnson. "An educational institution interested in giving students the chance to develop their imaginations to soar," he adds. "Johnson & Johnson and our college want to give students the chance to create objects limited only by their imagination."

"This new lab is yet another way to give students the chance to develop their imaginations to soar," says Ashutosh Agarwal, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, "Students in the LAP Lab and other students in the biomedical engineering department are among the first in the country to use laptops as their primary performance instruments to create contemporary masterpieces.

"Imagine someone with excellent production skills who can use laptops as their primary performance instrument to create contemporary masterpieces. We are among the first in the country to use laptops as their primary performance instrument to create contemporary masterpieces."
WE BELONG to Each Other

Over the course of human history, few subjects have proven as “rose like” as religion—to believe or not to believe—given its potential to prick and polarize while offering the possibility for comfort and solace. Might there be a way to frame or approach this powerful domain to yield less prickliness and more fragrance?

Anjan Chakravartty, the University’s new endowed chair for the study of atheism, humanism, and secular ethics, wholeheartedly believes there is. He joined the U officially in summer 2018 to assume the first such chair in the country, and his first course offering this fall, Science and Humanism, explores that very framework.

Christopher Doell, the director of programs of Academic Excellence and senior advisor for residential colleges, heard about the new endowed chair, was impressed by the “bold and forward-thinking” decision, and registered for the course.

“When I was able to tell my story to my group, it allowed me to break through so much of the uncomfortableness I’d been feeling. An experience like this could help a lot of students bridge differences and build solidarity,” says Wilson Mejia, a graduate student and intern in the OIC.

If We Can Talk About It, We Can Learn From It

We build trust and strengthen connections through the willingness to address—not ignore—thorny issues that are often the basis for discord and alienation yet are rarely discussed in society. A range of programs and projects are underway that complement the culture of belonging initiative, which is guided by the Office of Institutional Culture (OIC).

The Intergroup Dialogue follows a well-structured curriculum that generates empathy and understanding of similarity and privilege, and optimizes learning opportunities for students.

New Endowed Chair Demonstrates University’s Commitment to Knowledge Through Deep Inquiry

Our diverse experiences and thoughts bring us closer. We listen and seek to understand.

We are committed to mutually enriching our experiences by celebrating our differences.

Reason, evidence, and observation fuel engaging conversation in courses like Science and Humanism that deepen inquiry and enhance understanding.
"We belong to each other," says Chakravartty, adding that courses are closely involved in the selection of the new endowed chair.

"It's outstanding and a feather in the cap of the University that it took this leadership role," says Chakravartty. "The University of Miami seems like the perfect place where this kind of mandate might flourish, given the wonderful diversity of students who come from many different parts of the world—something that you have to take into account when you're thinking about those kinds of issues."

"The University of Miami is intent on just that: creating a space and that whatever happens in class everyone knows that they are in a safe space."

"Dialogue Across Differences is about locating and understanding where you stand on the learning edge," she says. "But don't take yo your classes better, 'I want to know their reasons why,' she says. "Generally wherever we're challenged, we fall back on 'oh, I don't want to talk about it.' I know that I'll learn a lot in this class, especially from those who are very different."
WE BELONG to the Community

At the University of Miami, we impact and influence Greater Miami, Florida, and the nation.

We play a critical role in helping to foster more vibrant and harmonious communities.

‘Canes Surge to Success—On and Off the Field

Our football ‘Canes were 10 games last year for the first time in 14 years, including wins against rival Florida State and powerhouse Notre Dame. The buzz spread far, fast, and wide and prompted ESPN’s College GameDay to broadcast live on the Coral Gables campus for the first time.

The success for these ‘Canes spread beyond the gridiron: Touchdowns and takeaways were matched by classroom achievement and solid support for community kids and families.

Defensive lineman Demetrius Jackson, a senior political science major, embodies this class of student-athletes with a passion for paying it forward. With support from the U, Jackson launched the Young Men of Tomorrow foundation to help the Overtown community where he grew up.

"Everyone has to try and seek to give a helping hand and make their community better. You can’t just talk about it. You have to try and do something," says Jackson, who was twice voted Hurricanes Community Service Man of the Year.

Making a Difference

We are the University of Miami, located as part of the vision and development of this city. It’s an integral part of our culture and ethos to positively impact the city and the region.

Our focus on performative research demonstrates our commitment to help resolve local and regional challenges. Rising sea level, for example, poses a problem for Miami and for the world, and we offer unparalleled expertise in climate science and urban planning through our Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and our School of Architecture. We strive to be active participants in finding solutions especially suited to Miami.

Our mission is to educate and nurture student changemakers who will go out in the world and make a difference, and their experience begins while here at the U.
WE BELONG TO THE COMMUNITY

And the football team is far from alone in its focus to foster well-rounded student-athletes.

In the classroom, 12 of our programs were recognized for perfect scores of 1,000 in the 2016-17 NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) report. Three multiyear APR scores.

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Hurricane student athletes ranked first among all Division I schools in 2018 in the NCAA Team Works Helper Community Service Competition. Our student-athletes logged close to 3,400 hours of community service.

In one ongoing project, 77 student-athletes acted as pen pals with students at local elementary schools. Overall, student-athletes logged close to 3,400 hours of community service.

The commitment is ingrained in the ‘Canes sports culture. “We did it at the end of their season—when they knew of an opportunity, they seek it out and do it as often as they possibly can,” says Katie Meier, who last year completed her 13th season as head coach of the UM women’s basketball team. “That’s the first day of recruiting, we explain to the players have tremendous humility for the blessings they’ve been given, and therefore they must share.”

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“This is an important opportunity to expand the promise of personalized medicine to all communities,” says Stephanie Züchner, the SEEC’s lead principal investigator who chairs UM’s Department of Human Genetics and co-directs the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics. “This study will begin to collect the data that will enable us to begin to fine-tune therapies for specific health issues and specific populations.”

Enrolling 3 million diverse people in the largest health study ever undertaken by the National Institutes of Health in a dynamic task. UM researchers who positioned the Miller School of Medicine to lead the ambitious All of Us Research Program for the Southeast are compelled by an ethical imperative ensuring that medical breakthroughs benefit all of us.

The commitment is ingrained in the ‘Canes sports culture. “We don’t sit around; when there’s an opportunity, we act on it,” says Meier, whose ‘Canes teams—three co-investigators and 27 research managers, coordinators, and specialists—are poised to contribute to this landmark study. They are athletes, proud members of the community, hardworking students, and role models.

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Closing the Medical Research Gap

Unsurprisingly, the $1.5 billion All of Us program, UM partnered with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to establish the SouthEast Enrollment Center (SEEC), a consortium that will expedite to address this discrepancy. This spring, the center began recruiting about 150,000 of the 3 million people who are traditionally sharing their biomedicale and health data, enabling to generate one of the largest, richest biomedical databases in history—one that researchers will use to take treatments based on a patient’s biology, environment, and lifestyle.

 UM exercises the leading role for the $60 million project to help ensure that medical breakthroughs benefit “All of Us.”
For many students, participating in a clinic provides a competitive edge in the job market and is one of their most rewarding law school experiences.

WE BELONG TO THE COMMUNITY

“"Our clinics give students the opportunity to gain real-world, practical skills with real clients.”

Law School Associate Dean Kele Stewart

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Through Law Clinics, Students Gain Experience

We made a decision to get into this class in a more active way, to not only study the written materials but also to see how these things play out in real scenarios. In that sense, it was something like this experience that is contrary to it. It was in a much more hands-on type of sense, a sense of what comes to actually represent a child who’s going through the system.

Student select from a range of clinics—health, human rights, immigration, legal aid, environmental, children and youth, legal advocacy, and other programs. Students work and meet weekly in class to learn critical legal skills on interviewing, legal writing, and advocacy.

“We can talk about this in class in a theoretical manner, but there’s nothing like this experience that is contrary to it. It was in a much more hands-on type of sense, a sense of what comes to actually represent a child who’s going through the system.”

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Climate change, disease, famine, and political instability are but the bone of the world. Scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical advances that only a few years ago were regarded as the stuff of science fiction are now making such seemingly unreasonable problems solvable.

In May, with the launch of the Frost Institute of Science and Engineering, students will have the opportunity to be engaged across disciplines in innovative research. This year we opened the Frost Institute’s first building, which will house the network of institutes across the University. The Frost Institute’s first building, which will house the network of institutes across the University. The Frost Institute’s first building, which will house the network of institutes across the University.

Era for STEM Research and Education

The University of Miami is already known for excellence in biomedicine, marine sciences, and other fields,” he said. “But continued excellence can be achieved through interdisciplinary STEM research and education. “The Frost Institute’s gift makes that possible, and the impact will be felt not only at the U, but also throughout the greater South Florida community and beyond,” he said.

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President Julio Frenk said that the University needs to act boldly if it is to be a leader in interdisciplinary STEM research and education. “The Frost Institute’s gift makes that possible, and the impact will be felt not only at the U, but also throughout the greater South Florida community and beyond,” he said.

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"We will become a leading institute in the STEM fields, recognized for its research and education. We will continue to expand our research and education in the areas that are most critical for the future of our planet and our society.”

President Julio Frenk
An Imperative for the Americas: Closing the Gap in Palliative Care

The global pain crisis is arguably the most glaring inequity in global health today. Felicia Marie Knaul, professor of public health sciences at the University of Miami’s Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine and director of the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Americas (U-MIA), is a leading voice of a global project representing 25 countries seeking to change that.

Knaul chaired a comprehensive Lancet Commission report that revealed that tens of millions of people who live in low- and middle-income countries and die in severe physical and psychological pain each year could have an easier death if an essential package of palliative care, which includes immediate-release, oral, and injectable morphine, were made available by health systems around the world.

Spearheaded by UM in collaboration with Harvard University, the report was published in one of the world’s leading medical journals, The Lancet.

“This global pain crisis can be remedied quickly and effectively. We have the right tools and knowledge, and the cost of the solution is minimal. Denying this intervention is a moral failing, especially for children and patients at the end of life.”

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WE BELONG TO THE HEMISPHERE

“In the past, palliative care can be rendered quickly and effectively,” says Knaul. “We now have the right tools and knowledge, and the cost of the solution is minimal. Denying this intervention as a moral failing, especially for children and patients at the end of life.”

Early last April, the U, serving as the commission’s host country, convened a global and regional palliative care and society organizations together with researchers and advocates from around the world for the two-day Global Launch Symposium. Attendees included global and regional palliative care civil society organizations together with researchers and advocates from around the world for the two-day Global Launch Symposium. Attendees around the world for the two-day Global Launch Symposium. Attendees around the world for the two-day DeclarAction strategy to implement findings of the report.

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Several specific research issues have generated special interest and interdisciplinary work and management for sustainability from the areas of climate change, and data science and big data from the area of entrepreneurial ecosystems.

In its next step, the working group has set up a platform for students, faculty and researchers to collaborate. In its initial phase, UM is serving as the host or backbone agency, leveraging 11 universities across the hemisphere seeking to join the consortium, “Our next step is to identify champions for these issue areas, one at a time, and then connect to others throughout the consortium,” Dieck-Assad says.

In terms of student mobility and experience, the group is looking to identify courses that could be offered to students across the consortium. UM is the lead university in several of the consortium’s work packages.

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A Hub for Hemispheric and Global Knowledge

The opening in March of the gleaming new Kislak Center, a fantastically community-space transformed into a multipurpose, state-of-the-art facility, revealed a landmark moment in the University’s evolution as a hemispheric university.

“The center, located within the Otto G. Richter Library on the site of the former Brockway Lecture Hall, offers a ground-floor reading room and exhibition gallery for scholarly and cultural exchanges,” says UM Libraries Dean Charles Eckman.

“The center has been chosen as one of the principal venues for the inaugural meeting of the Consortium of Hemispheric Universities. In March, leaders from universities across the Americas penned the agreement in the center. It’s a perfect moment in a room surrounded by aspects of the collection and other artifacts relating to the Americas well located in a hemispheric context,” Eckman says.

“Kislak was the natural setting for the inception of the University’s Hemispheric University Consortium, an agreement in the center. “This is certainly the most important collection the University has acquired in its history, and the most highly assessed in terms of value,” says UM Libraries Dean Charles Eckman. “It puts us in a very different level of libraries in the world, in terms of value, in terms of unique and distinctive holdings.”

In March, leaders from universities across the Americas formed the Hemispheric University Consortium agreement in the center.

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“We viewed some fascinating, richly decorated, amazing pieces relating to the Caribbean—and the 27 pieces we used represent just a small percentage of the enormous wealth and breadth of the collection,” White says.

“We already knew what we were getting in terms of value, but the most recent time Hurricane Irma struck, the collection was up close and personal with sharks.”

As director of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science’s Shark Research and Conservation program, Hammerschlag has gotten up-close and personal with sharks. But it wasn’t the first time Hammerschlag has been in the water to view the thousands of pieces that are coming to UM for class and can bring my students to the center to view. That is precisely what the University has in mind for the inaugural meeting of the Consortium of Hemispheric Universities. In March, leaders from universities across the Americas penned the agreement in the center.

We should be afraid for sharks, not of them. As apex predators, they help maintain healthy marine ecosystems, preserving the fish and other prey populations that are so critical to spurring library engagement, be it partner with consortium members to share knowledge and resources.

The Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation—among the most prestigious collections in the world of rare books, manuscripts, and artifacts relating to the Americas—well located in a hemispheric context, Eckman says.

Hammerschlag’s endowment research fellows identified critical shark habitats, trends in shark movement and health, and providing the scientific basis for influencing sound policy. And all of this while developing and mentoring the next generation of scientists.

Hemispheric research informs public and policymakers

Hemispheric research informs public and policymakers

Deep Dive on Sharks, Revelatory Marine Research Informs Public and Policymakers

In March, the pale marking the school’s 75th anniversary, President Julio Frenk said of the Rosenstiel School, “This research focus of great significance has been essential to improved hurricane forecasts, expanded knowledge of ocean and atmospheric processes, natural disasters and catastrophes, weather and climate change, marine ecosystems and conservation, and much more—with the real-world practical applications it fosters in marine science research that impacts the marine environment.”

Research on sharks, considered a critical barometer of ocean health, is providing an illuminative understanding of interdependent natural systems and offers the process of informing effective policies and regulations that impact the marine environment.

Rosenstiel School researchers, utilizing state-of-the-art technologies and a network of centers and institutes across the country, are tracking shark movements through tagging and acoustics, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Rosenstiel School’s Shark Research and Conservation program.

Researchers are assessing the types of sharks that are living in the world’s oceans and how they are interacting with each other and other marine species. They are monitoring changes in shark populations due to climate change, sea-level rise, marine conservation, and much more with the real-world practical applications it fosters in marine science research that impacts the marine environment.

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

June 2017
Student Housing Village Construction
The first of twelve tallest columns for the 25-acre, state-of-the-art Student Housing Village is completed over a four-week period. The six-campus housing project occupies a 12-acre construction site on the Coral Gables campus.

July
Rare Violin Launches Music Instrument Collection
The Miller family initiates a fund for the School of Music Instrument Collection with a donation used to purchase a 19th-century violin, the Sue Miller Violin, valued at $1.1 million.

First Lady Honored
First Lady Honored Violin and valued at $1.1 million. Guarneri violin, named the Sue Miller Guarneri violin, is purchased with a donation used to purchase a rare, early 18th-century collection with a donation used to purchase a rare, early 18th-century.

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August
Fostering Cultural Engagement
The School of Law’s summer residential program for foster care youth on the Coral Gables campus.

University in Full Recovery Mode
University in Full Recovery Mode 3

September
University in Full Recovery Mode
University in Full Recovery Mode 3

October
Medical Help for Puerto Rico
The Miller School of Medicine mobilizes physicians and supplies to help Puerto Rico’s medical community after the devastation of Hurricane Maria.

Motion Pictures Program
The Reel Thing
The School of Communication Motion Pictures Program is named one of the top 50 film schools in the nation.

University of Miami 2018 President’s Report
The University of Miami is ranked one of the top 50 film schools in the nation.

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University of Miami 2018 President’s Report
November

The Libraries’ Digital Strategies team and university partners launch the Sunshine State Digital Network, and university partners launch the hub for Florida-based collections in the Digital Public Library of America.

December

ACC Change and Orange Bowl Board

Former ACC Commissioner John Swofford serves as chair of the Orange Bowl Board. The ACC Board of Directors approves the two-year extension of the Sunshine State Digital Network.

Speaker Share Wisdom at Fall Commencement

Speakers share wisdom at Fall Commencement. Miami Business School’s Dean Victor F. Gomes speaks. Leslie Alexander, a 1980 School of Law graduate, speaks. Ricardo Almeida, assistant professor of entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration, speaks.

Paranomic Cancer Research Gift

A joint consortium of Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, the UM Center for AIDS Research, and the University of Miami School of Veterinary Medicine, the research program in these areas. A portion of the gift also created the Pancreatic Cancer Research Gift and the Sylvester Pancreatic Center.

The grand opening of the Kislak Center features the debut of an exhibition showcasing materials from Jay I. Kislak’s passion for preserving history and the $30 million gift of his Collection of the Early Americas.

January 2018

First Fruits of Cancer Education Meeting

The Miami Law Investor Rights Clinic, the only arbitration clinic in Florida providing free assistance to small claims investors, reaches the $1 million milestone in cases won.

December 2018

Student Win Public Space Challenge

The Miami Law Investor Rights Clinic recovers $1 million for its clients.

Future Marine Geoscientists

A $4.9 million bequest to endow two faculty chairs in marine geology, makes a $5 million commitment to establish the Sylvester Pancreatic Center.

Students Share Vision at Fall Commencement

The Miami Business School’s Dean Victor F. Gomes speaks. Leslie Alexander, a 1980 School of Law graduate, speaks. Ricardo Almeida, assistant professor of entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration, speaks.
Landmark Gene Therapy

Robert F. Miller and his wife, June Miller, made a $12 million gift to the Department of Neurology at the Miller School of Medicine to create a clinical research endowment that will ensure researchers have the resources in perpetuity to seek out new treatments.

April

Best Ever Pass Rates

The School of Nursing and Health Studies records a 98 percent overall first-time pass rate for nursing student’s students—its best score ever.

New Frost School Building

A groundbreaking ceremony takes place for the Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music Executive Building opens.

Graduate School students compete for Doctoral Students Statewide Competition.

Graduate School students compete for 3MT Competition.

May

Women Are Track and Field Champs

The women’s track and field team is crowned ACC outdoor champions in front of a home crowd at Cobb Stadium.

Architectural Innovation

The School of Architecture is awarded with a $5 million grant to support the Kickstart 2020 initiative.

Stepping Out in the World

A card featuring the graduates at seven commencement ceremonies.

Final Construction for Indoor Practice Facility

Construction nears completion on the 83,000-square-foot 2018 President’s Report

University of Miami

University of Miami
Increase in Total Net Assets Reflects the University’s Commitment to Excellence and Continuous Improvement

The University’s net assets grew by $204.3 million, or 10.2 percent, in fiscal year 2018, driven by investment returns of 9.4 percent, improved operating results, and the continued support from philanthropy.

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The University’s GP strategy is to continue evaluating benchmarks and incorporating further performance drivers, through active management and asset allocation in driving returns, while ensuring that current and future spending are proboscis in enabling the GP to prove fruitful in enabling the GP to improve portfolio positioning, administrative efficiency, and increased liquidity. New and continued momentum in domestic equities and tactical overweight on a relative basis, the GP exceeded the second largest outperformance in the portfolio. The portfolio’s 5.5 percent equity/ 40 percent fixed income portfolio helped drive excess returns given strong performance across strategies. The total portfolio benchmark only narrowly eluded the target portfolio. For the year, the GP exceeded its 5 percent target. We continue to invest in asset classes and manage where we are conviction that the long-term results will be optimal for the University.

Endowment Growth Pool Tops $1 Billion with Strong Returns and Generous Philanthropy

Building on the success strategy implemented in fiscal year 2017, the University of Miami Endowment Growth Pool (GP) posted another year of strong results. The portfolio is managed with the goal of maximizing long-term risk-adjusted returns, while maintaining a streamlined fee profile. Highlights for the year include:

- The endowment crossed the $1 billion mark for the first time in its history.
- Generous philanthropic support and investment returns.
- 7.9 percent net investment returns.
- Continued momentum in domestic equities and tactical overweight in international equities fueled outperformance.
- 5.5 percent equity/ 40 percent fixed income portfolio helped drive excess returns given strong performance across strategies. The total portfolio benchmark only narrowly eluded the target portfolio. For the year, the GP exceeded its 5 percent target. We continue to invest in asset classes and manage where we are conviction that the long-term results will be optimal for the University.

On a relative basis, the GP outperformed the peer equity/ equity fixed income and fixed income/ equity benchmark with strong performance across strategies. The total portfolio benchmark only narrowly eluded the GP, yielding 9.65 percent. We believe that this was due to high levels of client demand for new, uncorrelated and non-office assets. The GP’s strategy is to continue evaluating benchmarks and incorporating further performance drivers, through active management and asset allocation in driving returns, while ensuring that current and future spending are proboscis in enabling the GP to prove fruitful in enabling the GP to improve portfolio positioning, administrative efficiency, and increased liquidity. New and continued momentum in domestic equities and tactical overweight.

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