

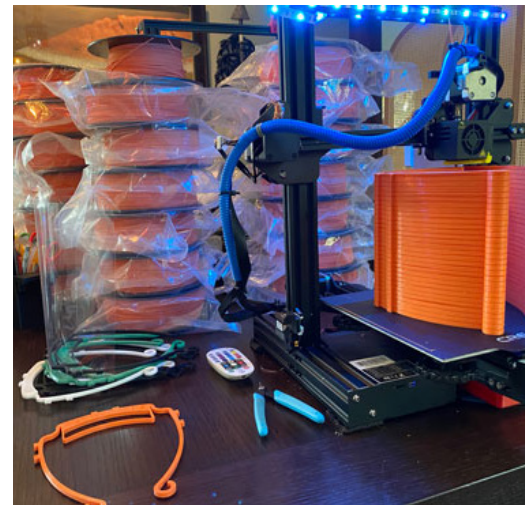
IMPACT

PHILANTHROPY NEWS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



Answering the call: University community steps forward with ingenuity and compassion in the face of COVID-19



Left: Dipen J. Parekh, chief clinical officer and chief operating officer, UHealth – the University of Miami Health System – has helped to direct the University’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Right: Personal protective equipment produced by a 3D printer.

Ever since the Great Miami Hurricane of 1926 threatened to wipe out the University of Miami a year after its charter, the story of this institution has been one of resilience and renewal. The COVID-19 pandemic, for all its hardships, has again showcased the invincible spirit that has defined the U throughout its 95-year history.

While much is still unknown and challenging days lie ahead, we take this opportunity to shine a light on how the University of Miami community has come together to care for one another, our community, and the world around us during these unprecedented times.

Expertise triggers swift response

Drawing on his expertise as one of the world’s foremost

public health experts and his experience with previous pandemics, President Julio Frenk and a University emergency task force began planning for the potential coronavirus crisis before the outbreak had even reached the United States.

Once the pandemic was declared, the University was well on its way to implementing measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff. In just a matter of days, the U shut down the Coral Gables and Marine campuses to all but a handful of students who could not return home, classes transitioned to online instruction, and remote work became the business norm.

At the same time, UHealth – the University of Miami Health System – and the Leonard M. Miller

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PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

In the past weeks and months, as the coronavirus pandemic has transformed life as we knew it, the University of Miami community has come together in a characteristic spirit of unity and humanity to help others. From every area of the University and beyond are stories of dedicated 'Canes lending a hand, called in countless ways to assist those affected by the virus and those at the vanguard of the fight against it.



These inspiring and humbling stories resonate uniquely within the Division of Development and Alumni Relations. The spirit of interconnectedness that motivates those everyday heroes is at the heart of philanthropic giving, and the core of our mission. While we have had to adapt and rethink how we work, communicate and engage with our constituents in the face of COVID-19, our mission remains unchanged and our passion for fulfilling it undiminished.

During this chapter of our history, we celebrate the many victories, both large and small, that are made possible by our family of donors. And we believe that, true to our legacy of resilience and determination, 'Canes will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever and eager to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Thank you for all you do for the U, and my best wishes for your health and safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joshua M. Friedman'.

Joshua M. Friedman, CFRE

Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

UM community gives and receives support in wide-ranging response to COVID-19

School of Medicine ramped up their emergency capacity and prepared themselves to care for an influx of COVID-19 patients. Quickly realizing the potential for new financial adversities and increased health care needs, the University activated [The U Responds](#), offering those wanting to help a direct way to support student needs, accelerate research, and enhance patient care.

Funders focus on research

As the academic side transitioned to online classes, University researchers and clinicians pivoted to address the science of COVID-19, fast-tracking projects involving potential vaccines, tests and treatments, innovative mental health therapies, and more. Several innovative projects captured the attention of generous funders, including:

The North America's Building Trades Unions donated \$3 million to the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation to advance the work of an international team of scientists led by Camillo Ricordi, director of the Diabetes Research Institute and Cell Transplant Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The team received authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for a 24-patient clinical trial to test the use of umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells to block the life-threatening lung inflammation that accompanies severe cases of COVID-19.

To accelerate early detection of the coronavirus, the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation continued its support of Miller School of Medicine biomedical researcher Sylvia Daunert and her team's efforts to finalize a

point-of-care diagnostic test. The rapid test, which is under review by the FDA, uses a simple throat swab to deliver on-the-spot results on a paper strip, and is designed to enable cost-effective manufacturing for mass production and use around the world—something Daunert's lab has done before.

'Canes on the frontlines

At home and abroad, 'Canes surged to the forefront in the war against coronavirus. Among them:

Andrea Leiner, M.S.N. '19, a family nurse practitioner pursuing her post-master's certification in acute care at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, is providing primary care for asylum seekers living in crowded tents at the Mexican border, to mitigate the rising threat of COVID-19 in this vulnerable population.



Andrea Leiner, M.S.N. '19, provides primary care at the Mexican border; Jeffrey Eberhardt finished his degree while serving COVID-19 patients in New York City.

John Rotruck, A.B. '95, M.D. '96, M.B.A. '17, commanding officer of the USNS Mercy, is responsible for running the hospital ship and overseeing its nearly 700-person medical staff. He spent the last two

months in Los Angeles where the ship served as a relief valve for local hospitals.

Daniela Martinez, B.S. '11, an obstetrics and gynecology resident at a hospital in Madrid, is helping women cope as they navigate pregnancy and childbirth in the time of COVID-19.

Jeffrey Eberhardt, a mechanical engineering major who served as a medical sergeant in the U.S. Army Special Forces, finished his degree remotely while serving COVID-19 patients in New York City.

Aaron Mittel, M.D. '12, a critical care anesthesiologist at Columbia University Medical Center in New York, is treating COVID-19 patients. While his primary role is clinical care, he has also been involved in the logistical side of the department's response and was instrumental in developing



alternatives to "traditional" ventilation, including using one ventilator for multiple patients in an effort to save lives.

Deanna Bova, B.S.N. '15, is grateful for the full-scale "zombie

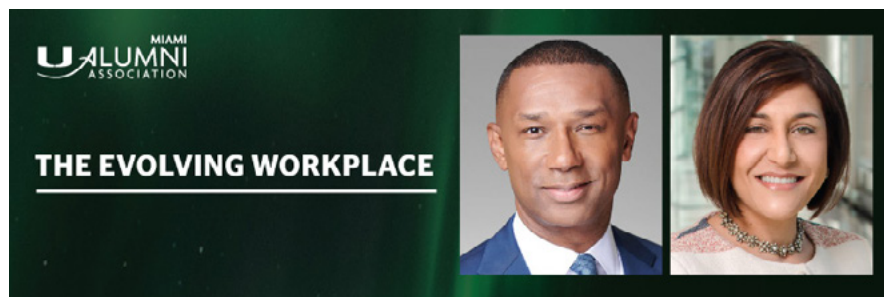
apocalypse” pandemic simulation she took part in before graduating from the School of Nursing and Health Studies five years ago. “Goes to show how ahead of the curve [the simulation hospital faculty] and UM are,” said Bova, a critical care nurse at a New York City hospital. “I appreciate the preparedness you provided us as I become a frontliner in this pandemic.”

We’re in this together

People within and outside the University community stepped up to help as well.

Gary Shaw, B.E.D. ’69, and his wife, Judy, acquired and donated 200 face shields. “For me, it’s about the U first,” said Shaw. “They gave me an opportunity in life, and I want to give back.”

Sam Garson, B.S. ’05, a science teacher on San Juan Island, Washington, partnered with a local engineering company and used his school’s 3D printers to make face shields for first responders



As part of the University’s expanded digital offerings, Trustee Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., B.S.C. ’89, president and chief executive officer of the Society for Human Resource Management, hosted a webinar on changes in the workplace as a result of COVID-19; Maribel Wadsworth, B.S.C. ’93, moderated.

Foundation to provide meals to 1,500 employees at UHealth, while ’Cane parents Jenny and Jeffrey Binder donated 280 gallons of much-needed hand sanitizer.

The Sacred Space founder Karla Dascal set up a fundraising page and mobilized part of her team at Plant Miami, The Sacred Space Miami, and Paradise Farms to bring healthful immunity-boosting meals to local frontline health care professionals.

The Dr. Brandt Foundation, through its annual #SayILoveYou

ensued during the Honor Your Doctor and Celebrate a Nurse campaigns as well as support for medical supplies and patient care through the [UHealth Emergency Fund](#).

With the Class of 2020 commencement postponed until December, alumni and friends showed their support through the ’Canes Tassel Challenge, sending a note of encouragement and a commemorative tassel to each of the 4,500 spring graduates. The campaign raised funds to support students and included a special

“We owe it to everyone who is undergoing the sacrifices, and to all the people who will have died, not to relinquish our responsibility... [the challenge] will be faced successfully. I am very confident.”

and medical professionals in his community, while also continuing to teach virtually.

The Miami Marlins stepped up to the plate by covering the cost of meals for approximately 1,500 UHealth staff members. The team also donated 1,000 pieces of clothing, including jerseys and uniform pants, to make masks for health care workers.

Three-time ’Cane parents Tracey and Bruce Berkowitz made a gift through their charitable Fairholme

campaign, raised funds to provide additional personal protective equipment for health care workers.

As part of a broad University initiative, the School of Architecture, the School of Nursing and Health Studies, and the College of Engineering collaborated, sharing their experience, maker spaces and 3D printers to fabricate devices and PPE for medical personnel.

An outpouring of gratitude for health care professionals, including donations and personal messages

challenge to encourage alumni participation from the Classes of 1970-2019. University of Miami Alumni Association Alumni Board President Kourtney Gibson, B.B.A. ’03, personally contributed \$100,000 in scholarship support.

Also moved by the new financial hardships some students were facing as a result of COVID-19, the University of Miami’s Citizens Board made a \$300,000 donation to create a scholarship fund for students with the greatest financial

need, with preference given to students from Florida.

Engaging virtually

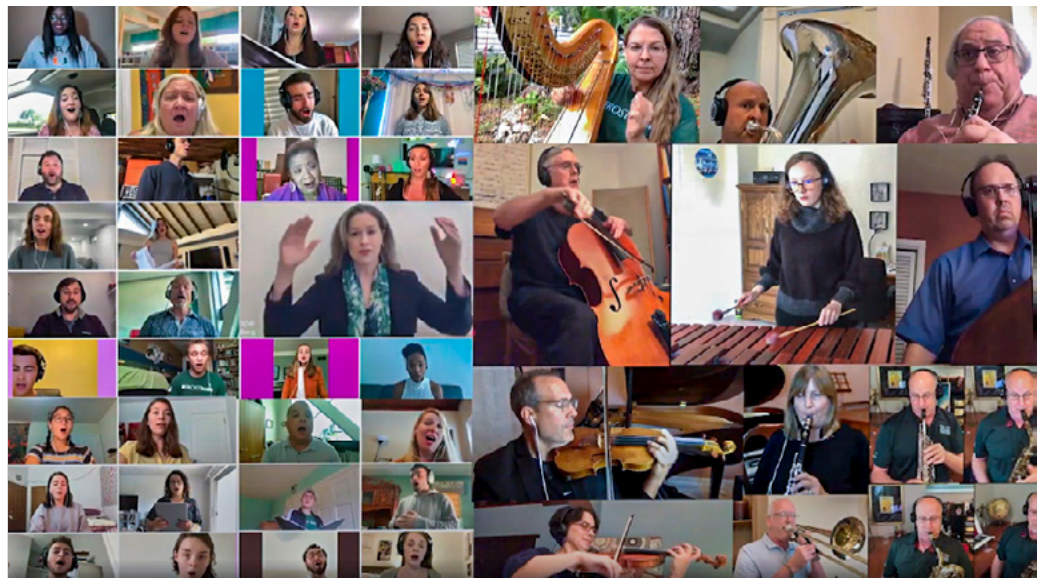
With campuses closed, events canceled, and physical distancing in full force, the University connected with donors and alumni through a wide range of new digital programming. The University of Miami Patti and Allan Herbert Business School moved its popular lecture series online as the Virtual Distinguished Leaders Lecture Series, and the School of Law offered a three-part webinar series on civil and human rights, public health, financial stability, and privacy issues around the pandemic.

The School of Education and Human Development provided parents with tips for supporting their children's learning amid school closures. During a series of virtual Earth Week activities, panelists from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science addressed how the response to COVID-19 may hold lessons for future responses to the climate crisis.

Through a new ["In the Know" virtual town hall series](#), experts from UHealth and the Miller School of Medicine provided up-to-date information and launched online question and answer sessions about COVID-19, as well as a range of other important health topics.

The Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas, led by Felicia Marie Knaul, launched a database that tracks public policy response and mitigation efforts to the coronavirus in Latin America, providing detailed information to its government leaders.

Online cultural experiences flourished. The Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music began presenting virtual concerts and rebroadcasts of previous performances. Dean Shelton Berg and his wife, Julia, wrote an original composition, "A Time for Hope," and engaged 66 musicians from the Frost School's student body, alumni, Grammy-winning faculty, and staff to record their parts from around the world for a group performance of the song.



The Lowe Art Museum premiered Lowe on the Go, weekly digital dispatches about works of art from its collections; University librarians recommended books to read while sheltering in place; and the School of Communication's Cosford Cinema website made several excellent films available to stream for free.

To stay connected with alumni and donors, the Division of Development and Alumni Relations created digital content and communications, from free online courses to new virtual engagement events like Coffee with a 'Cane and 'Canes Games to business-related webinars designed for small business

owners, 'Canes Biz partners, and a four-part Summer Skill-up series to help 'Canes looking for employment.

Looking ahead: Lessons to be learned

"We will get through this, just as we've gotten through every pandemic," Frenk said. "But once we get through it, we would be foolish to assume that this was the last one. There will be another one; and if we

let our guard down, we will again incur the same disruption and cost we are suffering now.

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

For more information about UHealth and the Miller School of Medicine's COVID-19 response, visit bit.ly/COVID-Special-Report.

Alumnus' planned gift will support English scholarships

The University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences has received a planned gift to create the Drs. Henry and Francine Sikorski Endowed Scholarship Fund in English.

Henry Sikorski, A.B. '70, and his wife, Francine D. Sikorski, of Garden City, New York, made a generous \$1 million bequest to provide scholarship support for UM students majoring in English.

The gift will provide life-changing opportunities through vital scholarships to undergraduate students in the Department of English. The couple hopes the scholarships will encourage future students to pursue their dreams while gaining equal access to higher education.

"As educators our entire lives, and as the first generation of our respective families to complete a college degree, my wife and I believe in the value and power of higher education to change lives," said Sikorski.

Sikorski credits positive experiences at the University with motivating him to pursue his graduate studies.

"I received an excellent education at the University of Miami. I was taught to think critically and to analyze literature thoroughly... I became a more skilled communicator and a stronger writer."

In his career at Farmingdale State College (SUNY), Sikorski progressed from tenured full professor into administration, eventually serving as vice president and chief development officer. Now retired from full-time service, Sikorski stays busy as an adjunct professor of composition and literature at Nassau Community

College on Long Island, where his wife has been a professor for 26 years.



An endowed English scholarship fund at the College of Arts and Sciences will bear the names of Francine D. and Henry Sikorski, A.B. '70.

"While teaching my introduction to literature classes, I often remember myself as an undergraduate, and how I was inspired by the English faculty at the U to pursue a career in academia. My work as a professor of English literature and composition has been the result of my classroom experiences at the U over 50 years ago," he said.

The Sikorskis chose to create their gift through a charitable bequest, a popular option as it

can be designated in a will or trust, a bank or retirement account, or even a life insurance policy. An easy and flexible way to make a planned gift, a bequest allows the donor to retain control over assets during their lifetime, while making a lasting impact on the University's future and yielding returns for students, faculty and the entire community.

Sikorski expects the bequest to be "transformational in that it will empower students to complete their studies, to become scholars, researchers and, most significantly, inspirational teachers.

"My wife and I are convinced that our bequest to the University of Miami will be one of the best investments in the futures of others we will ever make."

To explore gift strategies that will meet your financial needs and philanthropic goals, or to learn more about the benefits of making a charitable bequest, please visit miami.giftlegacy.com or contact Kyle Paige, executive director, estate and gift planning, at kpaige@miami.edu or 305-284-2266.

CARES Act expands tax deductions for giving

The recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Stability Act contains provisions intended to encourage philanthropy in this calendar year. Charitable giving incentives include:

- expanded tax deductions that

benefit both individuals who itemize and those who do not,

- a temporary lifting of the cap on annual contributions, and
- more flexibility for 403(b) distributions and repayments.

The CARES Act can help

you support innovation, research, community service, patient care and more at the University of Miami during this critical time.

For more information on charitable giving incentives at the University of Miami, email j.scibek@miami.edu.

New interactive media department gets jump start with endowed gift from alumnus



Associate professor Kim Grinfeder and student Chelsea Lovell explore interactive media technologies.

A website that lists domestic political protests by state, issue and frequency; a digital reporting system that tracks incidents in nursing homes to assist health care providers; and a colorful website with illustrations and linear graphs that dissect poems by quantifying the use of certain words and indicating the poem's positive or negative bent.

These are just a handful of the innovative student projects from the University of Miami School of Communication's Interactive Media Program, which has received a major donation from alumnus Fabio Ribeiro, M.F.A. '17. The gift will establish the Ribeiro Innovation Endowed Program Fund, bringing industry leaders to campus to speak with students and forming workshops where students can hone their skills.

Ribeiro, who works for Neptuno Fund Ltd., a technical venture company, thinks that providing students with practical advice from people in the industry is crucial for their professional growth. He already

had two finance degrees when he took the IMP, and he credits the program with helping him bridge the "gap between business and technology.

"The program helped me get a grasp on new technologies," said Ribeiro. "Now, when I am with a client, I can talk technology at their

"The program helped me get a grasp on new technologies. Now, when I am with a client, I can talk technology at their same level."

same level. It helped me understand what they are doing, but it also helps me get their respect."

Launched in 2013, the IMP offers four areas of instruction—game design, data visualization, user experience, and interactive storytelling—and is soon to become a full-fledged department.

The program has grown in popularity, fueled by changes in communication and the rapid rise of digital media, and draws students

who want to become product and game designers, design researchers and web developers, and those who want to use their digital skills in business, journalism, health and the nonprofit sector.

After a conversation with Karin Wilkins, dean of the School of Communication, Ribeiro was impressed with her forward-looking view of the journalism world and decided to donate \$158,000 to an endowed program fund.

Ribeiro's gift "is significant in recognizing the importance of our newly established Interactive Media Department, formally in place in fall 2020," said Wilkins. "We understand that interactive and digital technologies are transforming how we live our lives, and that we must ensure ethics and accountability through our educational programs, along with inspiring creative and critical approaches in our pedagogy."

Kim Grinfeder, associate professor at the school and director of the Interactive Media Program, agrees.

"The internet changed everything, and students need basic fluency in technology to succeed in today's world," he said. "Interactive technologies have affected every aspect of our lives, with far-reaching and long-lasting cultural and educational impacts... Everything is data-driven now, and I feel we are

Vocal scholarship supports future opera artists

This year, the Georgina Dieter Dennis Foundation, Inc., continued its scholarship support of voice students at the Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music—with a virtual twist.



Adding a personal touch in keeping with social distancing measures, Ron Schagrin, president of the foundation, “handed” the \$50,000 check to Frost School Dean Shelton G. Berg via Zoom.

In a Facebook post showing the check presentation, Dean Berg wrote, “It is amazing how challenging times bring out the best in people. I have much gratitude to Ron Schagrin and the Georgina Dieter Dennis Foundation for continuing to support young opera artists in the Frost School of Music when it is needed most. It was a first for us, a Zoom check presentation!”

Since 2012, the Georgina Dieter Dennis Foundation Scholarship Fund has helped budding opera singers at the Frost School pursue their studies. The scholarship is awarded to students who graduate from a Florida high school and enroll in vocal studies courses.

Schagrin, a commercial real estate broker, met Georgina Dieter Dennis when she had retired to Fort Lauderdale following a glittering career as an opera singer and vaudeville entertainer.

Grateful for the voice training and educational opportunities that had contributed to her success, Dennis

wanted to pay it forward and assist aspiring singers with their music education. Schagrin helped Dennis establish the foundation and, following her death in 2006, committed to administer its work.

The foundation keeps Dennis’ name alive—and helps to advance one of the University’s most important priorities—by providing vital scholarship support to talented students. Schagrin relates that the foundation is pleased with the caliber of the Frost School student musicians who receive the scholarship support.

“Having personally known Georgina Dieter Dennis, it warms my heart to know that her memory, her passion for music and her desire to enrich the opportunities for young voices, lives on through the scholarship foundation she established before her passing,” Schagrin said.



100 Talents—halfway to our centennial goal

Thanks to our donors’ visionary generosity, we have reached the halfway mark toward our goal of funding at least 100 new endowed faculty positions by our centennial in 2025. This bold objective is a key element of the University of Miami’s strategic plan, Roadmap to Our New Century.

The 50 new endowed chairs that have been created span academic disciplines and research areas throughout the institution, from music and marine geology to bankruptcy and biomedical engineering, and from cancer research and immunotherapy to modern languages and marketing.

Increasing the number of endowed academic chairs

across all faculty ranks is essential for the University to continue to attract, retain and recognize excellence in research, scholarship, policy, practice, and artistic creation. This will help build a base of faculty talent that enriches the academic environment, which in turn attracts excellent students, which in turn helps attract great faculty, creating a perpetual virtuous circle that enhances the University prestige.

As we prepare the U for its next century as an advanced comprehensive research university that serves our local, national, hemispheric, and global communities, these endowed positions will underpin our ongoing achievements.

The time is now: Celebration of Women's Athletics

As the keynote speaker at the University of Miami's Celebration of Women's Athletics, Jill Ellis, the winningest coach in U.S. soccer history, delivered a message of empowerment.

"I think more and more, especially being part of last summer, with the power of this women's team and the platform that we have to champion women, I think the time is now," she said, alluding to current issues ranging from equal pay to the Time's Up movement.

Her words struck a particular chord for the 11 female student-athletes who were honored during this annual celebration for their excellence on and off the field.

Ellis, honored as 2019 FIFA Coach of the Year, spoke of her experiences and those of her players on the U.S. Women's National Team during last summer's World Cup tournament, and of the added pressure, scrutiny and double standards that female athletes face.

"You've got all these things saying, 'Women, don't just find your voice. Be vocal. Be a voice,' and I think the message to young people is, don't just take what's given to

you. Ask for more. Expect more of yourself and of that around you. You have to be bold," said Ellis.

Ellis encouraged the honorees to "realize the power within themselves as elite athletes, that they have already experienced so much, they already have so many inner qualities to now take out into that big old world.

"It should be about more than having gratitude. That's part of it, but we should want to have seats at the table. We should want to be paid equally. We should want to have these things, and that's why I think it's so important to have those conversations.," she said.

The 11 young women recognized have already exhibited their drive to pursue excellence. They included two reigning national champions and several student-athletes who have won Atlantic Coast Conference titles—one while becoming a registered nurse, another who worked with children in Vietnam to promote higher education and physical fitness, and another who is pursuing a mechanical engineering degree and studying Japanese—all while remaining in good academic standing.

Jennifer Strawley, deputy director



Jill Ellis, former head coach of the World Cup champion U.S. Women's National Team, throws up the U.

of athletics and chief operating officer, expressed her confidence that the honorees will continue to make their own unique impact.

"To be able to see the growth and impact of an event like this, where we can celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our student-athletes, is really special," Strawley said.

"When you hear their stories and what they've accomplished, you're just totally moved by who they are as people... You know they're going to make a difference in our world."



Student-athletes with Athletic Director Blake James and Jennifer Strawley, deputy director of athletics and chief operating officer

Dolphins Cancer Challenge X draws record numbers



Tom Garfinkel, vice chairman, president and chief executive officer of the Miami Dolphins and Hard Rock Stadium, congratulates DCC X participants, who raised vital funds for cancer research at Sylvester.

On a cool, sunny Saturday morning, a record 6,000 participants and volunteers showed up at locations across South Florida to ride, walk, run, or volunteer at the 10th annual Dolphins Cancer Challenge. About 20 percent of the participants represented Team Hurricanes—employees, donors, and other members of the University of Miami family.

and friends. More than 230 cancer survivors also took part in the day's events. One of them was Vivian Mechaber, whose entire family gathered for the 5K run/walk.

"I said, for this race I'm going to be well enough to walk myself. And here I am! I want to tell people who have cancer not to give up," Mechaber said, expressing gratitude for her doctors at Sylvester.

Foundation's signature health impact initiative, to improve people's lives through financial support for innovative cancer research at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Since its inception, the DCC has raised more than \$32.5 million, donating 100 percent of participant-raised funds to Sylvester, South Florida's only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center.

Some DCC participants, like Travisano, rode, ran, or walked in honor of family

"Thanks to the Miami Dolphins and DCC, this extraordinary 10-year partnership has raised millions of dollars for vital research and treatment while also bringing together the entire community in the fight against cancer." —Jacqueline Travisano

Jacqueline Travisano, executive vice president for business and finance and chief operating officer of the University, was chair of the DCC Committee and Team Hurricanes lead.

"Good morning, cancer fighters! We are so grateful to each and every one of you," Travisano said in welcoming the enthusiastic crowd. "The funds that we raise matter—they matter to our patients, they matter to our doctors, and they matter to our future."

Now the largest fundraising event in the NFL, the DCC was founded in 2010 as the Miami Dolphins

Leadership from across UHealth – the University of Miami Health System – and the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine participated in the DCC.

"This is a wonderful event for patients that we all touch," said Eduardo C. Alfonso, M.D., director of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. "These are cancer patients, and no matter what specialty, what research, or what level of education you participate in, cancer is the leading disease that we all confront."

At the afternoon closing ceremony, UM President Julio Frenk thanked participants, family members and

University of Miami Trustee Stuart Miller pedals alongside other cyclists through Miami's Health District as part of the DCC's Hurricane Hundred ride.

volunteers for their support. "As the proud husband of a breast cancer survivor, this event means a great deal to me," he said. "Together, we have created a spirit of community around our cherished goal: giving patients the gift of life and freedom from the pain and suffering that comes from fighting cancer."

Sylvester Director Stephen D. Nimer, M.D., took the stage after completing the 100-mile cycling course, known as the Hurricane Hundred.

"We are so grateful for this incredible partnership with the Miami Dolphins," he told the crowd. "With the support of our community, we have been able to cure an



ever-increasing number of patients with cancer over the past 10 years and develop new, more effective approaches to preventing cancer.

"We look forward to even more cancer breakthroughs as a result of the funds raised through the Dolphins Cancer Challenge."

Alumnus helps engineering students create innovative prototype



Engineering graduate student Vanessa Benzecry spearheaded the "iDock" project.

After decades of giving, including a generous recent gift to the Master of Science in Construction Management program and the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, Alan Sirkin, B.S.C.E. '67, has found a novel way to support his alma mater.

Sirkin and his wife, Alicia, are allowing students at the University of Miami College of Engineering to use their bayfront home in Coconut Grove for research on resilient concrete marine applications.

The Sirkins' original boat dock, built in 1986, had been destroyed by Hurricane Andrew; the rebuilt dock was demolished by Hurricane Irma. When Antonio

Nanni, professor and chair of civil, architectural, and environmental engineering, told him about an innovative dock he and his graduate students had designed, Sirkin, who is also a Citizens Board member, agreed to have it installed as a prototype.

"So many of the seawalls that were built 20, 30 and 40 years ago are starting to fall apart, so it makes no sense to keep rebuilding with the same materials that over time will fall apart," Sirkin said. "This is the way the industry is trending."

Working with Nanni, a team of graduate students used inventive materials and newer, sustainable construction methods to build the dock behind the Sirkins' home.

Its pilings and deck slabs are made of a concrete, called Seacon, that was mixed with seawater rather than freshwater, conserving a valuable and scarce resource. Instead of steel rebars within the concrete, the team used fiber-reinforced rebars that can withstand seawater's corrosive effects, are lighter and stronger, and do not conduct electricity.

Nanni and his students plan to test a scaled-down replica of the dock in the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science's hurricane simulator laboratory.

The new dock has a life expectancy of 75 years.

"It will last a lifetime," said Sirkin.

The photos below capture moments from some of the University of Miami's in-person events—all of which took place before social distancing measures began.

Bojangles' CEO shares business insights

The University of Miami Alumni Association's Meet the CEO event in Charlotte, North Carolina, featured Jose Armario, M.S. '03, director, chief executive officer and president of Bojangles', Inc. Ten-time Emmy Award winner Debra Morgan, B.S.C. '88, led a candid conversation with Armario, who has over 38 years of senior-level leadership experience and achievements.



Medical Alumni gather for weekend of networking and friendship

A record number of alumni returned to the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine for Medical Alumni Weekend 2020. Attendees enjoyed student-led tours, continuing medical education courses with faculty members, special class receptions, and the Reunions Banquet, which drew hundreds of guests.



New Lois Pope Center at Bascom Palmer opens

Ribbon-cutting marked the opening of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute's new Lois Pope Center for Retinal and Macular Degeneration Research. Pope's \$12 million gift, the largest in Bascom Palmer's history, was made in her late mother's honor to support breakthrough research and clinical treatment. (Pictured: Edward Abraham, M.D., President Frenk, Lois Pope, Eduardo C. Alfonso, M.D., director of Bascom Palmer, and Ronald G. Stone, B.B.A. '73, Bascom Palmer Board of Overseers)



Alumni and former player donates new scoreboard

University of Miami Athletics dedicated the state-of-the-art Boich Family Scoreboard at the Neil Schiff Tennis Center with a ceremony honoring former men's tennis student-athlete and philanthropist Wayne M. Boich, B.B.A. '99, and his family. The Daktronics board is one of the largest high-resolution video displays at any U.S. collegiate tennis facility. (Pictured: Sebastian, President Frenk, Paige Yaroshuk-Tews, women's tennis head coach Cynthia and Wayne Boich, and Aljosa Piric, men's tennis head coach)

Rosenstiel School dedicates new scientific dive pool

The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science dedicated its new Scientific Dive Training Facility, called The Splash, which will make UM the first university to offer scientific freediving in accordance with new PADI standards for research. Major funding for the project was provided by the Miller and Saiontz families, Colleen and Richard Fain, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd., and Diane and Chris Towle. (Pictured: Steven J. Saiontz, MBA '83, M.P.S. '13, Paola Saiontz, President Frenk, Leslie Miller Saiontz and Dean Roni Avissar)



Naming of fitness room honors former Wellness Center director

The Patti and Allan Herbert Wellness Center dedicated the Norman C. Parsons, Jr. Fitness Room, named for the center's former executive director. Parsons and his family announced a \$50,000 contribution to the Norman C. Parsons, Jr. Family Student Development Endowed Fund before the unveiling of a plaque emblazoned with his words: "You get an education at the University of Miami, but you get a life at the Herbert Wellness Center."



Annual luncheon celebration connects scholars and donors

Students from across the University shared their stories and appreciation at the 13th Annual Scholarship Donor Recognition Luncheon, which recognized donors for their generosity and student recipients for their accomplishments. The event highlighted the power of scholarships to transform the lives of both students and donors. (Pictured: Hilarie Bass, J.D. '81, chair of the University of Miami's Board of Trustees, and students Landon Coles, Vilet Torrez and Ezra Remer)



Scharfs honor Dr. Abreu at private dinner

Bonnie and Gary Scharf hosted a dinner to celebrate 2019 Sherman Prize recipient Maria T. Abreu, B.S. '87, M.D. '90, professor of medicine and microbiology and immunology. The award recognizes Abreu's research and achievements in the fight to overcome Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and the event raised funds for the Crohn's and Colitis Center.

Schools and Colleges

ARCHITECTURE

Fabrication Lab's first robotic arm builds collaboration, innovation

Thanks to a generous gift from W. Robert (Bob) Miller, B.S.A.E. '77, and his wife, Cathy, the University of Miami School of Architecture has acquired UM's first robotic arm.

Housed in the Fabrication Lab in the new Thomas P. Murphy Design Studio Building, the large-format Kuka KR240-R2700 fabrication machine is the largest at any South Florida academic institution.



The robotic arm will play a vital part in the School of Architecture's programs and facilitate new interdisciplinary research.

The arrival of the robotic arm makes the school's resources more competitive with those of other top-tier architecture programs and increases the opportunities available to architecture students interested in fabrication, robotics, automation, coding, and manufacturing.

Allowing for the production

and fabrication of complex geometrical parts, the machine will also enable a wide range of interdisciplinary research for students and faculty across UM schools and colleges.

The machine was used in the first of a new sequence of upper-level studios focused on digital and robotic fabrication techniques and sponsored by two of the school's industry partners: ShopClass, a technology company focused on the future of robotics in the building construction industry, and Grupo Arca, a leading global supplier of high-quality natural and technological materials.

ATHLETICS

Former 'Canes baseball player makes gift to upgrade facilities

'Canes baseball alumnus Thomas R. Adams, B.B.A. '57, has made a landmark donation toward the Hurricanes' Baseball Facility Enhancement Campaign—the largest gift to date to University of Miami baseball by a former player.

In recognition of the \$1 million gift, the home plate entrance to Alex Rodriguez Park at Mark Light Field will be renamed the Tommy Adams Main Entrance.

The enhancement campaign will initially fund the Jimmy and Kim Klotz Player Development Center, a state-of-the-art indoor practice facility that will house batting cages, bullpens and a multi-purpose area.

"Tommy is proud to be a Hurricane and wanted to be a leader in this fundraising effort to help us have facilities that are among the best in the country," coach Gino



The largest UM baseball gift to date by a former player will help fund a state-of-the-art indoor practice facility with modern amenities.

DiMare said. "We are grateful for his generous gift."

Adams played with the Philadelphia Phillies and New York Yankees before founding advanced technology company Tiodize, Inc. His past support includes UM football, basketball, the College of Engineering, the Frost School of Music and Miami Herbert Business School.

"Former head coach Eddie Dunn and the University of Miami helped me become what I am today," said Adams. "I truly appreciate all they have done for me, and I hope I can inspire other athletes and students to someday give back to their alma mater."

BUSINESS

Matching challenges inspire giving to Miami Herbert Business School

Building on the momentum around the recent naming of the University of Miami Patti and Allan Herbert Business School, Patricia, B.B.A. '57, and Allan Herbert, B.B.A. '55, M.B.A. '58, in partnership with the University, have created the Herbert Challenge(s).

Designed to inspire other alumni to give, the Herbert Challenges promise to match, up to established amounts, gifts to some of the business school's key initiatives.

The Alumni Annual Giving Match challenge was aimed at increasing annual giving participation and dollars to the school and ran from October 15 through December 31, 2019. During the match period, 503 donors contributed \$232,659—surpassing the original goal of \$100,000 and the increased goal of \$150,000.

The Herbert Legacy Gift Match challenge is intended to increase planned gift commitments to the school through a matching gift bequest program.

Structured as a one-time scholarship award of 10 percent (up to \$10,000) of the bequest commitment amount, the challenge allows the first 10 planned giving donors to see the benefits of their gifts through student support while they are living.

Future Herbert Challenges will include matches for giving to endowed faculty chairs, strategic programs and scholarship endowment.

Knight Foundation grant to drive startups, entrepreneurship in Miami

To help spur entrepreneurship in Miami, The Knight Foundation has made an award of support to the University of Miami Patti and Allan Herbert Business School.

The \$100,000 grant is intended “to increase the flow of global leaders and knowledge coming through Miami by supporting a speakers series featuring distinguished leaders in business and venture building,”

Award-winning DOCS A student-run health care program at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine won a 2020 CASE Circle of Excellence silver award in the category of Public Relations and Community Relations Projects. The Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Department of Community Service, or [Wolfson DOCS](#), serves medically underserved communities in South Florida through a series of health fairs and clinics. UM physicians and medical students worked together to provide more than 2,000 patients with preventive health screening tests in the 2018-2019 academic year. Judges for CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) praised the program's “purpose and real-world outcomes” and positive social impact.

according to the grant terms.

Raul Moas, Knight program director for Miami, said that the investment reflects Knight's interest in helping Miami “level up” as a startup, innovation and entrepreneurship center.

“We've broken through,” Moas said. “We now have viable, growing companies that have found success. The question is: What gets us to the next echelon and helps our ability to attract and retain exceptional talent and capital?”

In 2019, a Knight-backed report concluded that the groundwork to build successful high-growth companies had been laid, but that further investment was needed. The foundation allocated more than \$1 million to a total of eight local business entities.

EDUCATION

Kulula paves the way for local children

The Fernandez Pave the Way Foundation, Inc., has continued its funding for the Kulula Mentoring Program, supporting the School of Education and Human Development's outreach to children in the Coconut Grove community.

Kulula, which takes its name from the Swahili word meaning

excel or achieve, enhances the civic engagement and cultural identity of African American elementary and middle school students. With ongoing weekly support, UM student mentors help children to develop their leadership skills, improve their academic performance, and deepen awareness and pride in their African heritage.

The foundation, established by Jose L. and Kathleen (Kathee) Fernandez, has funded Kulula since 2013.



Through the Kulula Mentoring Program, UM students help local children develop vital skills and support their civic and cultural engagement.

Rosenfeld Foundation Program website enriches Jewish teaching, learning

Since 2009, the School of Education and Human Development has partnered with the Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation to support

and enhance Jewish education. The foundation recently renewed its commitment to the Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation Program in Jewish Education, pledging to fund the program's highly successful website for the next three years.

[Jewish Learning Matters](#) is a searchable database offering free online tools for educators, parents, and religious leaders working with Jewish youth. Users can access peer-reviewed resources including lesson plans, activities, songs, videos, and professional development strategies, all emphasizing Jewish values, wisdom, and ethics.

Since its launch in 2014, the site's annual usership has gone from roughly 12,000 users—mainly in Florida—to more than 430,000 users around the world. Plans for the future include upgrading to a new platform to improve the site's functionality.

The website also includes the Building Bridges initiative, which promotes mutual understanding by bringing together students from faith-based schools via the Zoom platform, to share perspectives through the discussion of literary selections.

LAW

Vice dean named to new Cristol Endowed Chair in Bankruptcy

Triple University of Miami alumnus and longtime supporter A. Jay Cristol, B.A. '58, J.D. '59, Ph.D. '97, Chief Judge Emeritus of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Miami, made an endowment commitment in 2015 to create a faculty chair in bankruptcy at the School of Law.

In March, the school installed Vice Dean for Academic Affairs Andrew B. Dawson as the inaugural holder of the Judge A. Jay Cristol Endowed Chair in Bankruptcy. Dawson's research focuses on the intersection of federal bankruptcy and labor laws.

Cristol, a decorated Navy veteran and military scholar and author, is not his family's only 'Cane. His late wife, Eleanor, was an alumna; his son Stephen graduated from the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine; and his granddaughter Rachel is now an undergraduate student at UM.

The Cristol bankruptcy chair advances the University's 100 Talents Initiative, a drive to establish at least

100 new endowed faculty chairs by its centennial in 2025.

This is Cristol's second endowment at Miami Law. In 2012, he made an endowed gift to create the Eleanor R. Cristol and Judge A. Jay Cristol Bankruptcy Pro Bono Assistance Clinic, where he serves as an adjunct faculty member.

NURSING

Florman Family Foundation support helps to address nursing shortage

A recent gift from the Florman Family Foundation, Inc., to the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies is helping to address the shortage of nurses in South Florida.

The foundation's \$60,000 gift supports scholarships to eligible students in the school's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, who commit to working in South Florida for at least three years after graduation.

Designed for students who already hold bachelor's degrees in other fields, the full-time ABSN program has grown rapidly since its inception in 2013.

Scholarship support is vital among these students, who are often ineligible for further financial aid and limited in their ability to work because of the accelerated curriculum.

More than 80 percent of the most recently admitted cohort of ASBN students needed some financial aid.

The foundation's support "expands our ability to assist an increasingly competitive and talented pool of applicants demonstrating financial need," said Cindy L.



The Honorable A. Jay Cristol, B.A. '58, J.D. '59, Ph.D. '97, and Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, install Vice Dean for Academic Affairs Andrew B. Dawson as the first holder of the Cristol chair.

Munro, dean of the school. “We have had tremendous success in supporting highly qualified students in this program through our partnership with the Florman Family Foundation.”

Hugoton Foundation advances sonography education for future nurses

Six sophisticated new ultrasound machines, acquired thanks to a generous donation from the Hugoton Foundation, will help students at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies prepare to practice in the modern health care environment.

Students in the undergraduate BSN and graduate acute care and anesthesia programs will use the state-of-the-art SonoSite SII ultrasound machines in conjunction

with the existing SonoSim Ultrasound Simulation teaching programs at the school’s Simulation Hospital for Advancing Research and Education, or SHARE™.

Advances over the past decade have reduced the size of ultrasound machines, allowing nurses and other health care professionals to use them at the bedside. Point-of-care ultrasound improves patient outcomes by reducing complications, infections, and discomfort.

“This new equipment, paired with forward-thinking simulation and nursing education, positions SONHS to lead the quickly emerging area of point-of-care



Training on sophisticated point-of-care ultrasound equipment prepares nursing students for practice in the current health care environment.

ultrasound technology,” said Jeffrey Groom, professor of clinical and associate dean for SHARE™.

The foundation’s grant also funded six iPads that attach to the machines, giving students more hands-on time and enabling students and faculty to view references, procedural apps and resources while performing sonography.

Center for Computational Science

GlassHouse Systems supports research computing at IDSC

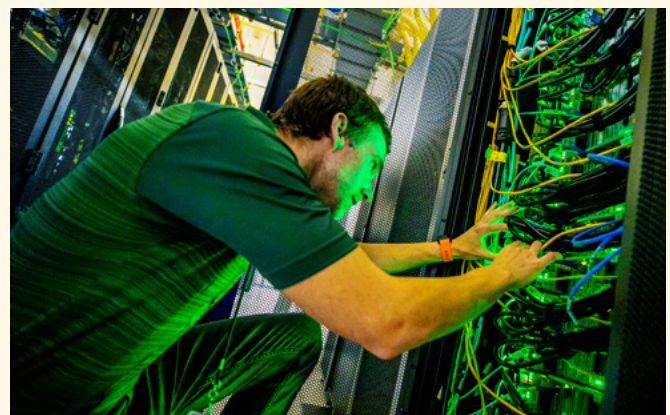
GlassHouse Systems, an enterprise IT infrastructure and services provider, has donated three servers to support Triton, the University of Miami’s new supercomputer.

The IBM LinuxOne mainframes are housed at the Miami Institute for Data Science and Computing. IDSC (pronounced i-disk) enjoys a strong partnership with GHS that supports the research of Nick Tsinoremas, vice provost for research computing and data. The new equipment will allow Tsinoremas’ team to develop blockchain applications and research on blockchain.

The three systems, dubbed Ebisu, also support other wide-ranging data science projects from research into COVID-19 to veterans’ physical rehabilitation. The Ebisu LinuxOne project was recognized by IBM worldwide as a 2019 Beacon Award winner for mainframe Linux excellence.

GHS’s donation also comprises one IBM V5010 storage array, one year of managed service, and full

Spectrum scale software to support secure data-intensive research that will solve real-world problems and enhance the understanding of data science among students and the public at IDSC.



The Triton supercomputer supports wide-ranging data science projects.



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

Consider making a gift to University of Miami scholarships today at bit.ly/um-st-relief-nl



Help Our Students Rise Above the Challenge

A gift to scholarships opens doors and changes lives.

“It doesn’t matter what amount you give to a scholarship. Just by contributing, you’re telling students with hard circumstances, like me, that you believe in us and want to see us succeed. And sometimes that’s all the motivation we need to keep going.”

—Vilet Torrez