

Ever Brighter | Ukraine | WHO Partnership

# MIAMI

THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MAGAZINE  
SPRING 2022

## WELCOME HOME

Miami born and bred, Mario Cristobal learned tenacity and the value of hard work from his Cuban-born parents. 'Canes fans are hoping he can impart some of that no-excuses ethos to the football program.





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## Home Run Hires

Mario Cristobal and Dan Radakovich, both alumni, have come back to Miami. And with their respective roles as football head coach and director of athletics, the dynamic duo have a huge task to tackle.



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## Cervical Cancer and the WHO

In its fight to eliminate cervical cancer, the World Health Organization has chosen Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center as a lead partner.



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## Ever Brighter

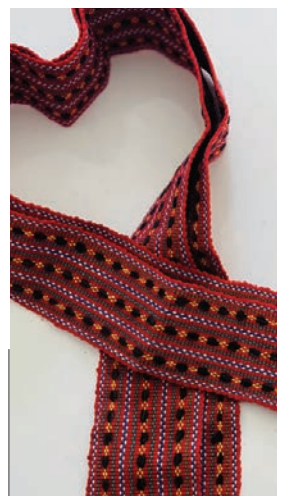
A \$20 million gift, part of Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century, has helped to create the Desai Sethi Urology Institute, which will facilitate discoveries and treatments for urological disease.



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## Climate Change

The new Climate Resilience Academy provides an instructional and research hub that will help deliver solutions to address issues related to the climate crisis and sustainability.



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## In Solidarity with Ukraine

The University community expresses its solidarity and support as the war continues, and many have opened their hearts as they hope for peace to return to the region.

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## MIAMI

The University of Miami Magazine

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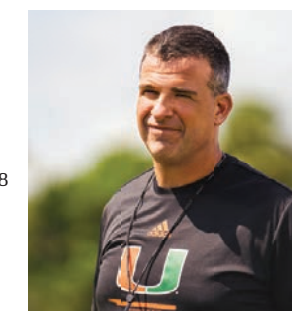
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on the cover



MARIO CRISTOBAL BLEED ORANGE AND GREEN LONG BEFORE HE DONNED THE SPLIT-U.  
PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ATHLETICS

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UNIVERSITY  
OF MIAMI



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Using one of the three kiosk screens of TheTaylor Family/ UTrailblazers Experience, Roxane Pickens, librarian assistant professor, engages with the archival material on the University's first Black graduates.

## Exhibit Pays Homage to First Black Graduates

**Interactive experience chronicles contributions of the Black community at the U**

Located in the Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. Breezeway at the Dooly Memorial Classroom Building, The Taylor Family/UTrailblazers Experience features an interactive three-screen kiosk with touchscreen technology that allows users to scroll through hundreds of photographs, documents, newspaper articles, film footage, bios, and other historical artifacts related to the years just after the University's Board of Trustees voted in 1961 to admit qualified students without regard to race or color.

"The first Black graduates of this institution probably didn't consider themselves pioneers, but they were. This exhibit is a way of looking back in history to honor them, to show appreciation for the path they ultimately paved for not only people like me but also current and future generations of students," says Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., B.S.C. '89, vice chair of the University's Board of Trustees, whose generous gift made the exhibit possible.

The idea for the exhibit was conceived by the Black Alumni

Society in 2012, following the University's 50-year anniversary marking desegregation. Sparked by their own curiosity, a group of alumni volunteers, including Denise Mincey-Mills, B.B.A. '79; Phillis E. Tyler, B.B.A. '79; and Antonio Junior, B.A. '79; began to unearth the stories and struggles of the first Black students.

Their efforts evolved into the First Black Graduates Project, which later became known as UTrailblazers. Taylor, who is president and CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based Society for Human Resource Management, stepped forward with a donation to turn the dream of a permanent memorial into a reality. His gift is part of Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century.

The University will commemorate the exhibit's opening and honor the enduring contributions of the Black community at a special event on the Coral Gables Campus on **Aug. 26-27, 2022**.

## Tech Prowess on Display at eMerge Americas

**Interactive exhibit highlights University innovations that became successful startups**



Precision Ecology, a startup that uses drone mapping to foster sustainable development, was among the projects featured at eMerge.

At an exhilarating exhibition space and with participation in a multiplicity of events at the eMerge Americas technology conference, the University showcased its expansive expertise and commitment to transforming lives through education, research, innovation, and service.

Tech innovations such as a seawall that dissipates the energy of dangerous waves, goggles that diagnose eye diseases, and a drone that can map thousands of acres in only days were among the projects on display at the University booth, a centerpiece of the sea of kiosks at the two-day industry conference held in April on Miami Beach.

A wide number of University faculty members and students were on hand at the interactive exhibition space to explain their research. And the work and efforts of many others—such as 'Cane Angel Network, which unites entrepreneurs and investors from the University community to provide startups with early-stage funding and a network of advisors—were showcased.

The moderated conversation "Miami at the Intersection of Tech and Democracy," hosted by President Julio Frenk and in conjunction with the Knight Foundation, opened the first conference day at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

The conversation convened entrepreneurs, legal experts, and luminaries to discuss how to harness the power of technology to strengthen democracy, especially in the Americas. Yelena Yesha, professor and chief innovation officer of the University's Institute for Data Science and Computing; June Teufel Dreyer, professor of political science; and Rony Abovitz, tech entrepreneur and double alumnus, participated in the dialogue.

"It's the moment to act decisively and create a coalition that proposes the use of technology unleashed with respect for human rights," Frenk said during the session, "so that it strengthens, elevates, and empowers and becomes a means to solve the complex challenges humanity faces rather than a

tool for exacerbating divisions of disinformation, oppression, and inequality."

Frenk also was a part of the panel "The Future of Education Is Being Shaped by Tech and Innovation," where together with other university and college presidents he highlighted the University's shift to a hybrid learning model during the COVID-19 outbreak.

At a separate conference event co-hosted by the Miami Herbert Business School, Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, presided over the inaugural Hemispheric University Consortium Social Ideas Challenge.

Teams from six consortium member universities representing Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, and the United States were finalists in the competition. Their projects addressed such topics as human trafficking awareness, water purification and rainwater harvesting systems, an AI chatbot for career advancement, and sustainable farming education.—*Robert C. Jones Jr. and Michael R. Malone*





## Center for Global Black Studies Opens

**The research platform is part of the University's broad efforts to advance racial justice**

To the jubilant rhythms of Junkanoo drums and as part of a ceremony to commemorate Black Awareness Month, the Center for Global Black Studies has opened its doors, with offices on the third floor of the Solomon G. Merrick Building. Catalyzed by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation,

the center is designed to address structural racism and inequalities locally and globally.

"Today's milestone, which has been championed at the highest levels of both the administration and our Board of Trustees, puts our shared values into practice and our words into action," President Julio Frenk said at the event.

Donald Spivey, distinguished professor of history and special advisor to the president on racial justice, says the new center will help keep the University "laser-focused on our challenge to improve the racial climate."

H.T. Smith, University alumnus and member of the Board of Trustees, describes the center's opening as "a transformational moment in the 97-year history of this great research university."

Donette Francis and Jafari Allen are the facility's co-directors. Francis, an associate professor of English, says the center's main goals are to highlight research on topics related to the global Black diaspora and to foster interdisciplinary collaborations.

Allen, an associate professor of anthropology, describes the center as both a crossroad and an incubator.

"Here at the crossroad between the U.S. South and the Global South, and in the city of Miami, this is where all Black cultures and ideas meet," he says. "And it's an incubator—a place where new ideas that impact all of those areas are born and nurtured, and where we can discuss them."

## Fall 2022 Applications Soar

**After welcoming its largest incoming class in the fall of 2021, the University receives a record number of applicants for the upcoming year**

With more than 49,000 applications received, the University broke its record for the number of first-year applicants—up 16 percent from the 2021 record of 42,241.

This goes against the trend reported by National Student Clearinghouse, which noted in January that U.S. colleges and universities experienced a drop of nearly 500,000 undergraduate students in the fall of 2021.

"The demand for a University of Miami education remains at an all-time high," says John Haller, vice president for enrollment management. "Prospective students know that at the U, they can individualize their academic experience with programs that cater to their strengths, goals, and curiosities."

The University continues to expand its academic programs, research opportunities, and campus life experience for new students, including live-learn communities in the residential colleges that further enhance student learning and engagement.

More than 2,700 first-year students enrolled at the University in fall of 2021, making it the largest first-year class. International student enrollment also increased during the 2021-22 academic year, growing from 8 to 9 percent of the overall student population.



"My name going up on that building is an incredible honor. And having it appear with my only law partner, Harold Long, Jr., is like hitting the lottery—a million to one." —H.T. Smith



## University Dedicates Building in Honor of Notable Black Alumni

**The Harold Long, Jr. and H.T. Smith Student Services Building is named for former law partners**

Harold Long, Jr., B.A. '68, J.D. '71, and H.T. Smith, J.D. '73, formed a successful law partnership on a handshake, neither requiring a written agreement to document their pact. "We were so locked into each other's philosophy of the practice of law and community service and our connection to the University that we trusted each other enough to not need a contract," Smith, a longtime University of Miami trustee recalls of his late law partner.

Together, they built what became one of South Florida's most successful Black law firms, a practice that lasted 10 years. Now, the two School of Law alumni have been reunited in name.

In a milestone event held March 4 on the Coral Gables Campus, the University dedicated its three-story, 30,000-square-foot Student Services Building in their honor, making the structure the first in the institution's history to be named after accomplished Black alumni.

The Harold Long, Jr. and H.T. Smith Student Services Building is a one-stop shop for students, providing services that include housing, registration, financial aid, and academic counseling under one roof.

As an undergraduate at the University during the 1960s, Long started the United Black Students organization and led a sit-in inside then-President Henry King Stanford's office, fighting for the rights of underrepresented students. After graduating from

the School of Law, he went on to a distinguished career as a barrister, which included serving as justice of the peace for the City of Opa-Locka. He passed away on Feb. 24, 2021, at the age of 73.

Smith became a legendary trailblazer in his own right, serving as Miami-Dade County's first Black assistant public defender and then as the county's first Black assistant county attorney.

He served more than a year in Vietnam, coming home to Miami in 1970 with a dream of enrolling in the University's law school and becoming an attorney who would defend the rights of the marginalized. Two weeks before classes started, Smith convinced the dean of the school to admit him without having taken the Law School Admission Test, arguing that he was serving his country at the time the exam was administered and promising to take—and pass—the test the next time it was given.

It was a pledge he kept.

Now, Smith's name appears on the façade of a University structure erected to serve students. "My name going up on that building is an incredible honor," Smith says. "And having it appear with my only law partner, Harold Long, Jr., is like hitting the lottery—a million to one."





## Celebrating the Life and Career of William R. Butler

The first vice president for student affairs left an indelible mark on student life

William R. “Bill” Butler, who served as the University’s first vice president for student affairs for more than three decades, played an instrumental role in changing institutional policy so that students would have greater power in making decisions that directly affected them. The legendary administrator, who retired in 1997, passed away on Dec. 30 at the age of 95.

Butler arrived at the University in 1965 just as the world was beginning to tilt, with young people around the world leading an era of tumultuous change. For such a time, a steady hand was called for, and University students would later write that “Butler embraced the energies and the passions of the time” and that “he rejected ideology from the left or right and brought a commitment to openness and an inclusive approach to policymaking and administration.”

Of his many attributes, possibly Butler’s most important was his willingness to listen to students. In his book, “Embracing the World: The University of Miami from Cardboard College to International and Global Acclaim,” Butler shared the motto that guided his professional service—“students tell us if we listen.”

“Bill Butler was a force for good who left his mark on the University of Miami

and all who knew him,” says President Julio Frenk. “His legacy of service, his heart for students, and his deep love for our community remains palpable on campus.”

Patricia A. Whitely, Ed.D. ’94, senior vice president for student affairs, says Butler “was a tremendous mentor to me and hundreds of others. He always kept the interests of students first and foremost and involved them in all decision-making. He was a visionary with an inclusive heart.”

Butler’s list of accomplishments during his 32-year tenure at the University was robust. He started the student-run radio station, WVUM; helped establish the Hecht and Stanford residential colleges; ensured student fees aided student organizations equitably; and focused on making the University more diverse as it boosted enrollment of Black and international students.

In 1989 Butler founded a center offering students the opportunity to volunteer for service-oriented organizations throughout Miami-Dade County. Today, that initiative bears his name—the William R. Butler Center for Volunteer Service and Leadership Development—and stands as a physical monument to his dedication to students and deep belief in their unique potential

for growth and development.

He oversaw construction of the Herbert Wellness Center, served as a professor of education, and was a member of the Iron Arrow Honor Society. During his retirement, Butler published three books that raised money for the Butler Center.

But it was his dedication to students that made Butler famous. Above all, he wanted them to have a voice. He considered it his “greatest privilege” to serve the more than 100,000 students who were enrolled at the University during his tenure. Many of those interactions blossomed into life-long friendships.

Once asked by a trustee if he ever tired of dealing with the same student problems each year, “absolutely not,” was Butler’s response.

“College is a totally new experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students,” he said then. “They arrive with eager and fresh anticipations, hoping to do well. Some fall down along the way. We have to pick them up, dust them off, and send them on their way.”



Donate to the William R. Butler  
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[miami.edu/ButlerFund](https://miami.edu/ButlerFund)

## Frost Opera Theater Showcases World Premiere

Faculty and students perform in “The Leopard,” accompanied by the Frost Symphony Orchestra

An opera adapted from the Italian novel “Il Gattopardo,” considered one of the greatest novels in modern Italian literature, debuted in South Florida under the direction and talent of the world-renowned artist faculty and gifted students of the Frost Opera Theater and Frost Symphony Orchestra of the University of Miami Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music.

For two days in March, the world premiere of “The Leopard” was staged at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, with Gerard Schwarz, distinguished professor of music, conducting, and orchestral studies, conducting the Frost Symphony Orchestra.

“This world premiere of a significant opera provided a rare opportunity for our gifted students to create roles that have never been performed before,

working alongside their famous faculty mentors, under one of the greatest conductors of our time,” says Shelly Berg, dean of the Frost School.

In the lead role of Don Fabrizio Corbera, Prince of Salina, was baritone Kim Josephson, professor of voice at the Frost School. He was joined on stage by star colleagues Robynne Redmon, director of the Frost School of Music’s summer program in Salzburg, Austria; Frank Ragsdale, D.M.A. ’04, associate professor of voice, department chair, and program director at the Frost School; bass-baritone Kevin Short; and students of the Frost Opera Theater.

“The spring Frost Opera Theater production is the singular marquee event for student performance,” says music director Alan Johnson, B.M. ’82. “The Frost creative and performing



forces making this premiere possible are all dedicated toward a common purpose of enriching the living tradition of opera for this and future generations,” he adds.

## ‘Cleared for Takeoff’

A new website delves into the history of Pan American World Airways

Founded in Key West in 1927 and headquartered in Miami until it ceased operations in 1991, Pan American World Airways was once one of the world’s leading carriers and the first commercial airline to fly across the Pacific Ocean in 1935.

Now, the University of Miami Libraries is home to a massive online portal featuring thousands of digitized materials about the iconic airline gathered from collections at various institutions, including the University, HistoryMiami Museum, Duke University, the National Archives, the National Air and Space Museum, and the Digital Public Library of America’s partner network.

“Cleared for Takeoff: Explore Commercial Aviation” takes visitors on a journey through the history of the airline, which flew the Beatles on their first trip to the United States, airlifted the first Cuban refugees to Miami, and was known for its fleet of “Clipper” aircraft. In all, more than 230,000 images are in the collection.

“The Pan American World Airways archive is the largest and most varied of our collections, and it is certainly one of the most used,” says Cristina Favretto, librarian professor and head of Special Collections. “It has attracted researchers from around the world, working on an astonishing array of projects—from the

evolution of airline meals to connections with Amelia Earhart’s disappearance. It is also heavily used by our own faculty and students, many of whom have family connections with the airline.”

This project was made possible by a 2018 Digitizing Hidden Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources, with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The collection features a wealth of materials, including annual reports, periodicals, timetables, directories, manuals, press releases, speeches, and flight information.

“Our goal was to create a one-stop shop for researchers investigating commercial aviation history, and we’ve accomplished that,” says Gabriella Williams, digital projects librarian. “This helps put University Libraries and our grant partners at the forefront of innovation, and that feels very exciting.”





# Confirmed to Serve on the Highest Court

Ketanji Brown Jackson credits her father, a School of Law alumnus, with stirring her passion for the law



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shortly after President Joseph Biden announced her as a nominee to the Supreme Court, federal appellate judge Ketanji Brown Jackson—who had honored the request not to reveal the extraordinary news in advance—called her mother and father to celebrate.

“We told her that she made it, that we loved her,” says Johnny Brown, J.D. ’77, who spoke with the University regarding his daughter’s nomination—the first Black woman named to join the highest court in the land.

Brown himself was a trailblazer, among the first Black students to attend the University, helping to pave the way for others to follow.

In their jubilantly tearful family conversation, father and daughter might have reminisced about their early morning rides to school. Brown would rise early to make the 40-minute drive to Miami’s Brownsville neighborhood, dropping off 4-year-old Ketanji at kindergarten, then head back to the Coral Gables Campus for the start of classes at the School of Law.

They might also have remembered how, at the end of the day, the two would sit next to each other at the kitchen table in their on-campus apartment, young Ketanji doodling

with her crayons, while dad studied torts, contracts, and constitutional law in his textbooks.

Speaking from the White House podium on the day of the announcement, Jackson, in fact, credited her father with igniting her passion for the legal profession.

“It was my father who started me on this path,” Jackson said. “When I was a child, my father made the fateful decision to transition from his job as a public high school history teacher and go to law school. Some of my earliest memories are of him sitting at the kitchen table, reading his law books. I watched him study, and he became my first professional role model.”

Brown explains why he was so willing to make those early sacrifices for his daughter.

“I did that every day because I knew it would help make a difference in Ketanji’s life. But we never deliberately set out and said we wanted to instill in her certain life lessons. We led by example,” Brown says of the way he and his wife, Ellery, raised their daughter. “We always tried to put her in the best educational environments that we could find and then let her make the necessary adjustments and decisions from that.”

Born in Washington, D.C., Jackson grew up in Miami, attending Palmetto Senior High School before earning undergraduate and law degrees at Harvard. She currently sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

During her confirmation hearing in 2021 for the appellate court, she spoke about her family’s background in public service, noting that her father served as the attorney for the Miami-Dade County School Board, that her mother was principal at New World School of the Arts in Miami, and that her brother was a police officer and served in the military.

Now confirmed as the first Black woman in U.S. history to join the Supreme Court, Jackson also makes history in another regard: becoming the first former federal public defender on the court and the first justice since Thurgood Marshall with extensive criminal defense experience.

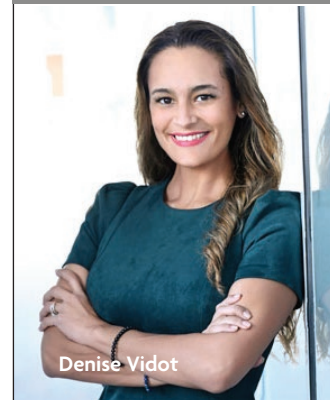
Jackson had been considered a front-runner for the position ever since associate justice Stephen Breyer, for whom she clerked in 1999, announced his retirement in January.

Biden referred to Jackson as “one of the nation’s most brilliant legal minds” and said that he had sought a candidate with “the strongest credentials, record, character, and dedication to the rule of law.”

Brown wants the nation to look past the fact that his daughter is Black and concentrate on the qualifications the president referenced.

“Everyone is tending to focus on that [that Ketanji is Black], and that’s understandable,” he notes. “But she will bring so much more—insightfulness, intelligence. She understands other people’s points of view, and she will be one of the most brilliant judges sitting on the court. Just watch.”  
—Robert C. Jones Jr.

## R+D Update



Denise Vidot

### Impact of Psychedelics

At the onset of the pandemic, Denise Vidot, B.A. ’08, Ph.D. ’15, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing and Health Studies and epidemiologist who for a decade has studied the impact of cannabis on well-being, began working nonstop to design a COVID-19 Cannabis Health Study. With the spiraling chaos, it was unclear whether cannabis dispensaries would stay open to serve medical consumers.

She soon noticed a surge not only in the self-reported use of cannabis, but also in that of the psychedelic psilocybin. Intrigued, Vidot secured the required designation to broaden her laboratory’s research.

Vidot’s newly designated International Cannabis and Psychedelic Research Lab incorporates the study of psychedelics, which she defines as psilocybin, ketamine (a legalized synthetic variation), and ayahuasca (a plant-based psychedelic). Her lab team assesses how psilocybin independently affects mental health and how, if used in conjunction

with cannabis, it impacts mental health symptoms and cardiovascular disease risk.

“What we’re doing is studying mental health and cardiovascular health through the use of plants and fungi psychedelics,” explains Vidot, highlighting that most existing studies on these substances focus solely on psychological health.

“Our approach uniquely seeks to add understanding of the impact on the brain, heart, and gut—the three are interconnected,” she says.

Early data indicates that those consuming psilocybin exhibit lower evidence of severe depression and anxiety compared with the other groups—a finding that has prompted Vidot and her research team to dig deeper.

“Cannabis, psychedelics, and other types of alternative medicine approaches are the future,” Vidot says. “Being able to train this next generation of scientists or health care professionals, even if they don’t move into this field, is vital. Just the awareness of replacing the stigma with knowledge is extremely important.”

### Novel Method to Extract ‘White Gold’

Mert Akin, a mechanical engineering graduate assistant, has developed a lithium-extraction technique that is more efficient and environmentally friendly than conventional methods.

Also called “white gold,”

“21st-century oil,” or “star mineral,” lithium is vital for batteries that power electric cars, smartphones, and computer electronics—and it is in hot demand. Yet the metal is challenging to mine, requiring costly, time-consuming, and environmentally unfriendly methods to produce.

Akin has a solution. Recently, in the Materials Lab at the College of Engineering, he repeated his novel technique for extracting lithium from geothermal brines. And just as before, when he tested his method under the close observation of faculty mentors, the procedure worked flawlessly, producing a lithium sample nearly free of impurities in just under two hours—a drastic reduction from the 18 hours it usually takes to extract the metal.

“The conventional way of getting to it involves a process of drilling down and then pumping the brine up into solar evaporation ponds, where it actually sits for a year and a half,” explains Akin.

His electrochemical technique directly extracts the lithium, eliminating the lengthy solar evaporation

process. The new method, Akin asserts, produces a much higher-grade lithium and at a much-reduced cost.

Developed under the supervision of College of Engineering professors Xiangyang Zhou and Hongtan Liu, Akin and his team are a semifinalist in the U.S. Department of Energy’s American-Made Geothermal Lithium Extraction Prize.

One of 15 semifinalists, the team is awarded \$40,000 and moves on to Phase 2. Eventually three winners will split \$2 million in the competition.

As automobile manufacturers ramp up production of pure electric models and as more utility companies merge lithium-ion batteries into their power systems, the global demand for lithium is expected to increase exponentially over the next few years.

Akin hopes his groundbreaking technique—which has only been tested under simulated conditions in the lab and requires more experimentation, possibly in the field—will eventually become the blueprint for lithium-extraction methods.



Mert Akin, left, assists as graduate assistant Zhiwei Yan connects the prototype of the lithium extraction unit to an electrochemical test station.





## Basketball Teams Make History

Both the men's and women's Hurricanes hoop teams enjoyed their winningest seasons in years, earning berths into their respective NCAA tournaments before losing hard-fought games against the No. 1-seeded teams and eventual national champions.

The men's team, which ended the season ranked No. 16 in the Ferris Mowers Coaches Poll, used a scrambling "scramble" defense and nearly error-free offense to play its way into the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament—the deepest run in program history.

Seeded 10th in the Midwest region, the men ousted the University of Southern California, shocked the No. 2 seed Auburn with a convincing 79-61 win, then advanced to the Sweet 16, where they beat Iowa State,

70-56. Against Kansas in the Elite Eight, the 'Canes played a near perfect first half and led at halftime only to stumble in the second half against the attacking, deep-benching Jayhawks.

After a rough spell in November, the 'Canes turned their season around to notch the third-most wins in school history. They placed third among ACC schools in the Coaches Poll, trailing only second-ranked North Carolina and third-ranked Duke. Miami (26-11, 14-6 ACC) beat those teams during the regular season, winning by two at eventual NCAA semifinalist Duke and by 28 against eventual NCAA runner-up North Carolina.

Head Coach Jim Larrañaga, 72 and in his 11th season as coach, agreed to a two-year

contract extension through the 2025-26 season.

"I told the players that they had accomplished so much, not just in basketball, but that they had ignited a community," Larrañaga says. "We had so much support throughout the season and especially in the NCAA tournament."

The women's team closed out its season in the second round of the NCAA tournament, falling 49-33 to the No. 1-seeded South Carolina Gamecocks—top-ranked since the preseason and boasting a 34-2 record. The eighth-seeded 'Canes (21-13, 10-8 ACC) not only held South Carolina to its fewest points of the season but also limited the Gamecocks to a season-low 29.5 shooting percentage.

Miami advanced to the second round after beating ninth-seeded South Florida, 78-66. In the win, the women put together a historic NCAA

tournament game, with five players scoring in double figures in a tournament game for the first time since 2004 and with the team scoring the most points in a quarter (24) during a tournament game in program history.

Head coach Katie Meier reached a milestone in the game as well, earning her 400th career victory as a college head coach. Meier is the sixth active ACC coach to reach that milestone and 67th active Division I coach to do so. She remains the all-time winningest coach in Miami basketball history—men or women.

Another first in women's program history was the team's appearance in the ACC Championship title game. En route to the finals against top-seeded N.C. State, the 'Canes staged a dramatic come-from-behind win to upset No. 2-seeded Louisville, 61-59, at the buzzer in the quarterfinals and clinched a 57-54 victory in the semifinals over No. 3-seeded Notre Dame.

## Running in Rhythm

Whether he's on the track as a sprinter or in the studio laying down tracks as a singer, Caleb Chevis, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major, savors the expression that music provides.

Chevis was exposed to music as a member of his church choir. He continued to sing through junior high and high school where he developed a passion for the musical art. At the University, he has sung with the a cappella group Phoenix A Cappella.

Running track offers an alternative outlet for self-expression.

"Track is where I am able to express my outer self and all the hard work I put into my physical body," says Chevis.

"With singing, I can express everything I feel inside yet can't put into words," he adds.

This past summer, for his parents' 25th wedding

anniversary, his mom crafted a poem for a book she and his father wrote about marriage. Could Chevis turn it into a song? He got to work with a producer from San Antonio and composed "44 Summers of Love" by the Chevis 5. The song was published on Spotify and Apple Music.

Although most of his musical connection is done off the track, he carries his joy for it into his meets.

"I listen to music before I get on the track, so that in my mind I'm already thinking in big powerful movements," Chevis says. "Singing is performing, just like track is performing. It all connects for me."

## A Double Sense of Purpose

Honoring the legacy of his father, a former pitcher for the 'Canes, and the memory

of his closest friend, who was in a single-car accident at 16 years old, serves as a doubly powerful motivator for Dorian Gonzalez Jr., a freshman infielder on the baseball squad.

Dorian Gonzalez Sr., B.B.A. '97, pitched from 1994 to 1996, his strong left arm helping the 'Canes reach the College World Series in all three seasons, and Gonzalez Jr. grew up hearing stories from his dad about the magic of Mark Light Field. As a youngster, he attended nearly every weekend game and honed his skills in the Jim Morris Baseball Camps.

Less than a week after the fatal accident of his childhood friend Ari Arteaga, Gonzalez verbally committed to become a Miami Hurricane. The two had played together since Little League and were so close that they sometimes joked they were "brothers from another mother."

When he finally walked onto Mark Light Field once classes started, he couldn't

help but think about his road to becoming a Hurricane.

"Being around the guys and the program I saw growing up, it's an awesome feeling. It's incredible to play for your hometown team," he says.

Growing up 10 minutes from campus, Gonzalez expects his parents to be fixtures in the stands. But they won't be the only ones there with a glimmer in their eyes.

"Dorian's like a son to me. I saw him born," says Miami pitching coach J.D. Arteaga, B.A. '03, Ari's father. As he approached the season, Gonzalez conceived of ways to honor his childhood friend, such as writing "LLA"—"Live Like Ari"—on his wrist tape, and putting the younger Arteaga's initials, "AA," on his cleats and hats.

"I'm going to think about more ways to honor him and his legacy," Gonzalez says. "I want to form a close bond with the team and become brothers and make the team better because that's what Ari would do."



As teenagers, Dorian Gonzalez Jr., left, and childhood friend Ari Arteaga attended University of Miami baseball camps.



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## Faculty Files

### Scholar Keeps an Eye on China

During her more than four decades at the University of Miami, political scientist June Teufel Dreyer has earned her place as a world authority on China. But she doubts she will ever return to the authoritarian nation she began studying more than a half century ago.

"I haven't been to China in three years—mostly due to the pandemic—and I'm afraid if I go now, I would be arrested because I don't say what the government wants me to say," shares Dreyer, president of the American Association for Chinese Studies and a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

There's little question that, under President Xi Jinping's iron rule, China's vast censorship and surveillance forces know Dreyer attended Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen's historic 2016 inauguration—after the island that China claims as its own elected its first female president. But Dreyer has no problem keeping an unblinking eye on China from the Coral Gables Campus, where she maintains an extensive reference library of government reports, global newspaper articles, and other materials.

Known for her original scholarship; prolific writing; and courses on China, U.S. defense policy, and international relations,

the professor of political science also is working on the 11th edition of "China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition"—which is taught in universities around the world.

Fluent in Chinese, Japanese, and her parents' native German, she is quoted almost weekly by global news outlets and is often sought by government agencies, the military, think tanks, and diplomats. Last October, the Congressional Research Service cited her article, "Global Warming and Heated Politics in the Arctic," for the Foreign Policy Research Institute, where she is a senior fellow.

In November, Japan's new consul general in Miami paid her a visit—five years after her 2016 book, "Middle Kingdom and Empire of the Rising Sun: Sino-Japanese Relations Past and Present," was named the top book in Japan by a prominent think tank.

And last December, she participated in a private roundtable discussion on the future of Indo-Pacific geopolitics hosted by the Wilson Center, a key non-partisan policy forum. The panel focused on Taiwan, the subject of her most recent book, "Taiwan in the Era of Tsai Ing-wen: Changes and Challenges."

The daughter of a surgical instrument maker and a homemaker, Dreyer grew up on Brooklyn's Flatbush



Avenue at a time when women in the workforce, much less politics, raised eyebrows. But Dreyer had bigger dreams. In 1958, she went to Wellesley College to study chemistry, but that plan was derailed by an affliction she shared with her father—in cold weather their fingers cracked and bled. "They were cracking and bleeding into all my titrations, so I figured I'd never be a chemist," she says.

After taking a course on China, Japan, and India, she thought about becoming an India specialist—until "someone pointed out that India has like 248 languages. So, I thought, 'Well, that won't do. I'll just study China,' thinking everyone there spoke Mandarin."

At the time, the U.S. Department of Defense was offering language fellowships to study Chinese and Japanese. So off Dreyer went to Harvard University, where her Ph.D. dissertation on China's ethnic

minorities would become her first book, "China's Forty Millions," and where she met her husband, Edward Dreyer. He would become a renowned historian of military and Chinese history—and, at the time of his 2007 death, one of the University of Miami's most beloved professors.

Following the births of their two children, she left her post as the senior Far East specialist at the Library of Congress and joined her husband on the University of Miami faculty in 1979.

She also has served as Asia advisor to the chief of U.S. naval operations, a lecturer for the United States Information Agency, an adjunct professor at the U.S. Air Force Special Operations School, and on the U.S.-China Security and Economic Review Commission.

The pandemic may have stymied her travel but not her love of teaching. "I love the kids," she says. "They are what makes teaching fun."—Maya Bell



# Dolphins Challenge Cancer Hits New Record

The 12th annual event raises more than \$8 million



It was a day of tears and hugs, smiles and laughter, for thousands of South Floridians who participated in the Dolphins Challenge Cancer (DCC) event under a sunny sky at Hard Rock Stadium.

Nearly 4,500 people—a record—turned

out to ride, walk, run, or volunteer at the 12th annual DCC on Feb. 26, which raised more than \$8 million for Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, the only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center in South Florida.

Participants and volunteers joined virtually and in person to share in the mission to fight cancer and pursue fundraising to

support research at Sylvester, and more than 200 teams united to promote that goal, including University of Miami employees, students, donors, and other proud members of the 'Canes family.

This year, DCC welcomed participants'

family and friends to attend the finish line celebration at the stadium, which included activities ranging from face painting and bounce houses to massages.

Since its inception in 2010, the DCC has donated 100 percent of participant-raised funds to Sylvester.

Dr. Stephen D. Nimer, director of Sylvester and the Oscar de la Renta Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, completed his 10th consecutive 100-mile ride with Board of Trustees member Stuart Miller, J.D. '82, who also serves as chair of the UHealth board.

"I'm very proud to see all the researchers, clinicians, and staff from Sylvester, and so many patients and their families," Nimer said at the event. "I want to express our deepest appreciation to the Miami Dolphins and everyone who has been behind the DCC. It's an event we can all be proud of, and the support of this community is unmatched."

## Safeguarding Public Health Against Future Pandemics

Researcher joins national task force to update building codes, design

The surges of contagion during the pandemic caused a critical shortage of beds to care for patients and pushed many hospitals to the brink of collapse.

Esber Andiroglu, Ph.D. '15, associate professor of practice in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering, has joined a national task force to explore solutions to prevent a similar future scenario.

"Among the many things we've learned during this pandemic is that the way buildings are designed and laid out can actually have a considerable impact on the health and safety of occupants," says Andiroglu.

Last year, the Washington, D.C.-based International Code Council (ICC) tapped him to serve on a joint task force on pandemics with the National Environmental Health Association. The unit's goals: Investigate the effects of the pandemic

on the built environment, develop a road map, and propose resources to overcome the myriad challenges pandemics pose to constructing safe, sustainable, and affordable structures.

The task force's recommendations could potentially be adopted by the ICC and included in the agency's 2027 edition of the International Building Code, according to Andiroglu.

"Future pandemics are inevitable, and just as in the health care sector, the building and construction industry has to be prepared," Andiroglu says. "Every time any building is designed, there should be something in the code that addresses the potential for a future permanent conversion, such as a school being turned into a hospital," he adds.

Andiroglu chairs the task force's mechanical, electrical, and plumbing committee, which is studying codes on



everything from heating and ventilation systems to air sensors, lighting, and wastewater disposal.

He highlights the relevancy to the committee's efforts of Dean Pratim Biswas's work in aerosol science and the development of air quality sensors to detect, track, and help prevent transmission of the coronavirus.

The task force expects to complete a first draft of best practices this year.

## A Voice for Afghan Women

Scholarship student pledges to help those she left behind

Last August, as most University students were preparing for a first day of classes, Zakera Azizi was boarding a U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo plane bound for Doha, Qatar, and bidding goodbye to her homeland, her family, and everything she had known.

Afghanistan was crumbling before the Taliban takeover, and Azizi's work as a government advisor for women's rights had earned her eligibility for safe passage out of the country by the U.S. government.

Azizi's evacuation from Kabul launched a several-months odyssey that led her to a new beginning in Miami this spring semester as one of two recipients of the Global Crossing Airlines Graduate Business Scholarships at the Miami Herbert Business School.

"I want to thank the U.S. government, Global Crossing Airlines, and especially the University of Miami for this opportunity given to me and to another Afghan refugee," says Azizi. "I never could have imagined that I could get this kind of chance to study for a master's degree. I dreamed of coming to Miami for a visit, and now I'm here to study."

Though English is far from her native language, Azizi is an eager learner,

and she has made a quick transition to academic life. During the semester she has met many new friends and immersed herself in a lifestyle she never could have dreamed of. She's elated for the chance to earn a master's degree in international finance, so that one day she might launch her own nonprofit in support of Afghan women.

Born in Mazar-i-Sharif, in the Balkh province, Azizi grew up with three brothers and five sisters. Only with her mother's strong support was she able to obtain an education and to study at the local college.

To help her family, she got a job as an intern with a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded project working in the revenue department of the local municipality—a place that she soon saw was rife with corruption.

That experience propelled her to seek a series of jobs over the next few years where she advocated fiercely for the rights and empowerment of women. She eventually secured a position as a senior communication advisor with the Afghan

government. Soon after, she got a second position as the head of Directorate of Martyrs and Disabled Family for the Ministry of Defense, where she worked closely with those who had lost their children and husbands in the ongoing war.

The nature of her work left her in danger with the Taliban regime, and she was evacuated from Kabul in August by the U.S. government along with more than 120,000 other Afghans and U.S. personnel.

Azizi's odyssey of resettlement continued for months—from the camp in Qatar to a series of others in Philadelphia, New Jersey, and Virginia—before she finally arrived in Miami after a fortuitous exchange of emails that resulted in the

scholarship opportunity.

The business school team that fielded her application knew immediately that Azizi was a truly special candidate—one with extensive and valuable work experience within an extremely dangerous political terrain.

The challenge of adapting to a new language, culture, and place remains daunting, but Azizi knows she can draw on her experience to persevere.

"I've started from zero several times before in my life," she says. "For now, I need to study hard and to earn this degree. I just want to work and live my life; yet even from here, I can help the women in Afghanistan who are under threat."

"They want to try to sing their song, but they can't talk," Azizi continues. "I want to tell everyone to give them a chance to learn. I want to be their voice."

—Michael R. Malone



Zakera Azizi



**Home runs have very little to do with the employment process. But in the case of the University of Miami's hiring of Mario Cristobal as its 26th head football coach and Dan Radakovich as vice president and director of athletics, the phrase—arguably the most familiar in baseball vernacular—couldn't be more appropriate.**

AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW RUDY FERNANDEZ, THE UNIVERSITY'S EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND CHIEF OF STAFF TO PRESIDENT JULIO FRENK, PUTS IT. "In both cases, we swung for the fences and ended up hitting back-to-back home runs," says Fernandez, who, along with University CEO Joe Echevarria, B.B.A. '78, helped guide the process to bring Cristobal and Radakovich back to Miami. The two hires, announced only days apart in early December 2021, have been hailed by many as being transformational for University of Miami Athletics. "A commitment to our student-athletes to provide them with a great education and an opportunity to develop their special talent to the very best of their ability, a recognition of the impact our sports teams have on the University's brand, and an understanding of how football is so vitally important to the long-term sustainability of our athletics program were all deciding factors in bringing Mario and Dan here. And each of those three principles will be greatly impacted by their presence," Fernandez explains.

BY ROBERT C. JONES JR.

# HOME RUN HIRES

**IN THIS ISSUE:**  
We profile Cristobal and Radakovich, both University graduates, who have arrived at what could be the most critical period in Miami athletics history.



## MARIO CRISTOBAL

**Mario Cristobal, B.B.A. '93, M.A.L.S. '99, never needed a playbook to learn tenacity or the value of hard work.**

Long before he ever strapped on shoulder pads for the Miami Hurricanes, he embraced such qualities just by watching his Cuban-born mother and father, who were working two jobs to put food on the table, attending night school to learn English, and studying American history and government to become citizens of the United States.

"Being removed from their homeland and their families, not knowing the language, having to start from scratch in another country—they faced it all. And all they did was just buckle up, grind, go to work, and make absolutely zero excuses," Cristobal recalls of his late parents. "They held themselves to the highest of standards, then demanded nothing short of excellence from us," he says.



The 'Canes faithful are hoping Cristobal, who won two national championships as a starting offensive lineman for the Miami Hurricanes, can impart some of that no-excuses ethos on a program that has been mired in mediocrity for most of the past two decades. When he was introduced as Miami's 26th head football coach last December, expectations for the program soared—and for good reason. With two Pac-12 championships, a Rose Bowl victory, and top-10 picks in three straight NFL Drafts under his belt during a four-year stint as head coach of the Oregon Ducks, Cristobal brings a high-powered resume to Miami, one that also includes time spent under the coaching tutelage of Alabama's Nick Saban.

So far, Cristobal hasn't disappointed. Almost immediately he gave fans a glimpse of just how hard he will work, hitting the recruiting circuit with only eight days left until early signing day and salvaging a 2022 class that's now been ranked 15th in the nation and third in the Atlantic Coast Conference by 247Sports.

"Mario's the best recruiter in the country," says Fernandez. "He was recruiting talented student-athletes to Oregon, and there are no direct flights to Eugene. It's a beautiful part of the country, but it's hard to get to."

"We envisioned what Mario could do if he were here in South Florida, which is a hotbed for college football talent," Fernandez continues, "So, when the opportunity presented itself to bring someone of his experience and talents back home, it was too good to pass up. And everything he's done since arriving has exceeded our expectations. He's going to be transformational for our program."

## MIAMI BORN AND BRED

Cristobal grew up in Miami, playing football at Christopher Columbus High School. His father, Luis, who was a political prisoner under the Castro regime, met his wife, Clara, in South Florida. And together, the two instilled lifelong values in Cristobal and his older brother, Lou.

Fond memories for Cristobal include helping out at the car battery and electric business his father started from nothing in Hialeah. Ted Hendricks, the former Hurricane defensive end who attended Hialeah High School and went on to star in the NFL, would often stop by the shop.

Cristobal bled orange and green long before he donned the split-U, attending open football practices on the Coral Gables Campus as a teenager to watch the Michael Irvins and Jerome Browns of the program. Sometimes, that meant biking or hitching a ride from a friend.

"I'd get there however I could," Cristobal remarks. "I saw the way those guys stayed after practice, the time they put in, the grinding and the repetitions, the one-on-ones and competing against each other."

As a freshman recruit in 1988, Cristobal played as a reserve along the offensive line after a redshirt year. He had always set his sights on cracking the starting lineup.

Always a quick study, Cristobal adjusted to discovering what he calls "the secret sauce" to the Miami program's success: brotherhood and competitiveness.

"While I saw all this stellar talent around me, I realized that these guys were all about competition. They wanted it, they thrived on it, and they pulled me into it," he explains. "It didn't mean they took it easy on me. They made sure I knew how good they were. They competed against you and with you, but they never made it threatening. It was a brotherhood. They understood that competing was the only way to maximize our potential as a football team and as a program, and that was as eye-opening and as enlightening as it could get. I had never, ever seen that level of brotherhood tied into competition."

For two seasons, Cristobal played side by side on the offensive line with his older brother.

"Growing up, we were always competing against each other," Cristobal says. "To earn scholarships and eventually be on the same field and play together, which we never got to do in high school, was one of the biggest goals we had set for ourselves."

Even as Cristobal helped the Hurricanes win the 1989 and 1991 national titles, both under Coach Dennis Erickson, he always kept an important lesson close to his heart: that playing football was not a right but a privilege. "It was not something you were entitled to—it was a privilege that had to be earned," he asserts.

## REALIZING HIS CALLING

Cristobal applied that same philosophy when he went into coaching. "Along with that comes an obligation to have a positive impact on those around you," he says. "It's a 24/7 thing, man."

No one knows that side of Cristobal better than Bryant McKinnie, the Outland Trophy winner and All-American offensive lineman who was an integral part of Miami's 2001 national championship squad. Cristobal served as a graduate assistant coach on that team, often pulling some of the offensive linemen aside after practice to study videotape of the top edge rushers they would face and discuss blocking techniques.

"That was the way coach Cristobal was—always analyzing ways to get an advantage," McKinnie says. "He always took that extra hour."

In Cristobal, McKinnie could see an elite coach in the making, one who left no stone unturned. "He taught us that our diets could make us even better," he says. "Oatmeal and hard-boiled egg whites—that's what he told us to add to our diets. But we told him, 'We don't eat that, coach.' But he was right. He programmed good nutrition into us, and it helped."

It was a coaching career—which has included stops at Florida International University, where he led the Panthers to a Sun Belt Conference title, and Alabama, where, as the offensive line coach, he helped the Crimson Tide win a national championship in 2015—that almost never took off.

After graduating from the University in 1993, Cristobal played two seasons for the Amsterdam Admirals of NFL Europe before retiring to pursue coaching. He latched on as a grad assistant under then-Miami head coach Butch Davis in 1998, but that same year was on the brink of accepting a job with the U.S. Secret Service. He had said his goodbyes to the Hurricanes, but at the last moment, he had a change of heart.

"I had become addicted to teaching, addicted to making an impact on the lives of student-athletes," Cristobal admits. "I felt like I was finally hitting stride with what I wanted out of life, and that was to make a difference. I'm devoted to it, and it's not just the coaching, but always the University of Miami. I bleed it. Cut me open; it's orange and green inside."

"I'M DEVOTED TO IT, AND IT'S NOT JUST THE COACHING, BUT ALWAYS THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI. I BLEED IT. CUT ME OPEN; IT'S ORANGE AND GREEN INSIDE."

—Mario Cristobal



Cristobal and his wife, Jessica, have two sons: Mario Mateo, left, and Rocco.





## DAN RADAKOVICH

**Those eight-hour days spent working in an Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, steel mill taught Dan Radakovich, M.B.A. '82, the value of hard work.**

He grew up in the Beaver County borough of Monaca, about 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, and would work in the plant during summer recess from college, pouring liquid metal into molds and performing a variety of other tasks. “At the time, the steel industry was booming, and a lot of my relatives and friends all depended on it to make a living,” recalls Radakovich, the son of a steel worker.

“But athletics was also very important in that part of the country. In the neighborhood where I grew up, we understood what it meant to compete at a high level. And I knew that if ever I got the opportunity to make a living in that area, I promised myself I’d take advantage of it.” It was a pledge he would keep.

“THE GOAL IS ALWAYS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS THROUGHOUT YOUR PROGRAM.” —Dan Radakovich



Ever since earning a master’s degree from the University of Miami, Radakovich has thrived in the field of sports administration, elevating collegiate athletic programs to new heights.

From Long Beach, California, to Columbia, South Carolina; from Washington, D.C., to Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and from Atlanta, Georgia, to Clemson, South Carolina, Radakovich has upgraded facilities, ramped up ticket sales, increased revenue, and helped win national titles at universities across the country.

His latest challenge: Make Miami relevant again on the competitive playing field.

The University lured the 63-year-old away from Clemson last December, hiring him as the 14th director of athletics in its history and taking another quantum leap in its quest to restore the luster to an athletics program legendary for its national championship football teams.

He comes to Miami with extensive credentials. During his nine years at Clemson, Radakovich helped spearhead the most successful stretch in Tigers football history: two national championships (2016 and 2018), six Atlantic Coast Conference titles, and six appearances in the College Football Playoffs. He also added softball as the school’s ninth women’s sport. Not bad for someone who had intended to use his master’s degree in health care administration to run a hospital.

“I found my passion in athletics, where there’s an awful lot of parallels to what you’d face operating a hospital,” he says.

Two and half months before the University won its first national title in football in 1983, Radakovich left an accounting firm to take a job as the Hurricanes’ director of financial affairs. He worked in that role for two years.

His Miami past proved influential in convincing him to return to where it all started. “Going to school here, working at Miami, and living in South Florida for a good part of the ’80s, I came to enjoy this part of the country,” he says. “Miami was ready to make the type of investment that is necessary in today’s collegiate environment for student-athletes to be successful. The leadership here wanted to send the message that athletics is important at the University of Miami. Not that it hadn’t been before, but they were committed to taking the next step. And they certainly did that with their hiring of Mario [Cristobal].”

Radakovich arrives at Miami at a time when the NCAA landscape is drastically different than it was when he started in athletics administration nearly 40 years ago. Last year, a Supreme Court ruling opened the door for greater compensation for student-athletes, who can now profit from name, image, and likeness opportunities. The emergence of the transfer portal also changed how college programs recruit athletes and manage their rosters.

Such changes have made the jobs of athletic directors that much more challenging, Radakovich believes. “There’s never been a time when so many life-changing and business-changing elements have occurred all at once or within a very short period,” he says. “It’s a much more dynamic time than it had been in the past, not just for athletic directors but also the fans. It’s generating more buzz, and it’s keeping college athletics on the minds of our fans, which I think is good.”

He once competed on the playing field as a tight end at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. “We were a couple of steps up from leather helmets back in those days,” he jokes. “But the friendships made on those teams will last forever.”

But however long ago it was, his experience of balancing the books with college sports has provided him the perspective that is so often required among athletic directors to appreciate the demands and challenges faced by today’s NCAA student-athletes. “I understand how difficult it is from a time management standpoint and what it’s like trying to accomplish certain goals academically and athletically,” he says. “It’s a great balancing act.”

It is important, Radakovich says, for student-athletes in every sport to succeed.

“The goal is always to achieve success throughout your program,” he says. “We want our student-athletes, whether they are tennis players, golfers, track and field stars, rowers, swimmers, divers, or football, basketball, soccer, or volleyball players, to know they’re supported here. They have decided to come to the University of Miami for their collegiate experience, and we want to make it great for them.” ■



BY MAYA BELL

# Closer to a World Without Cervical Cancer

**Recognizing its dedication to address the inequities that perpetuate cervical cancer in South Florida and beyond, the World Health Organization designated Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center as the first Collaborating Centre for Cervical Cancer Elimination.**

Stephen D. Nimer  
Erin Kobetz



**AS A LEAD PARTNER IN THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS THE INADEQUATE TESTING AND TREATMENT OF CERVICAL CANCER**, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Health System and Miller School of Medicine, will work closely with the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional office for the Americas, to identify practices that best enable girls born today to live in a world free of the cancers caused by one of the high-risk strains of the ubiquitous human papillomaviruses (HPVs).

**T**he world is united to end cervical cancer, and the University is immensely proud to officially take a leading role in this ambitious and essential endeavor," says President Julio Frenk. "From the crossroads of Latin America and the Caribbean to the persistence of disparities around the world, we are honored to expand our collaborations to address a cancer that humankind already has the tools to eliminate."

Dr. Stephen D. Nimer, director of Sylvester, highlighted the center's multipronged approaches to develop local partners in marginalized pockets of Miami where the disease is especially virulent and where barriers to prevention, detection, and treatment persist.

"For years, we have worked diligently with our community partners and the WHO to create novel outreach programs that raise awareness and provide screening opportunities in marginalized communities that bear the largest burden of this preventable disease," says Nimer, who also is the Oscar de la Renta Endowed Chair in Cancer Research and executive dean for research at the Miller School.

Though preventable and curable, cervical cancer still kills more than 300,000 women around the world who usually lack access to the vaccines, screening tests, and treatments that would prevent, detect, or cure the disease in its early stages.

In August 2020, the WHO launched a global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer—which develops silently over years—with the goal of meeting three key targets by 2030.

Known as the 90-70-90 goals, the targets call for 90 percent of all girls to be fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by age 15; 70 percent of all women to be screened with a high-performance HPV detection test by age 35, and again at age 45; and 90 percent of all women with precancer or cervical disease to be treated, as well as 90 percent with advanced cancer to be under managed and palliative care.

"This designation provides a platform for true bidirectional

engagement to generate sustainable and scalable solutions that address gaps in vaccinating, screening, and treating cervical cancer. So, by 2030, we really will have accelerated the promise of achieving elimination," says Erin Kobetz, the John K. and Judy H. Schulte Senior Endowed Chair in Cancer Research at Sylvester and the University's vice provost for research and scholarship.

A range of other researchers and clinicians across the University have made addressing cervical cancer one of their top academic priorities. They include Dr. Marilyn Huang, an associate professor of clinical medicine and co-director of translational gynecologic oncology research, who is developing new immunotherapies that show the promise of prolonging the survival of women living with recurrent or late-stage cervical cancer in South Florida and beyond.

In addition, Dr. Matthew Schlumbrecht, Sylvester's chief of gynecologic oncology, is pursuing critical epidemiologic research demonstrating the global challenges in addressing persistent incidence of cervical cancer.

And, Sylvia Daunert, the Lucille P. Markey Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Sapna Deo, a professor in the same department, collaborated with Kobetz and research associate professor Jean-Marc Zingg to develop a rapid HPV test that women anywhere in the world can administer themselves.

According to Kobetz, the test could be a game-changer in the fight against cervical cancer because women who live in places devoid of laboratories—or even regular electricity—would have access to secondary prevention and, in turn, life-saving treatment.

"The most important lesson that we have learned at Sylvester, and in working with the WHO, is to match our research priorities with the needs of communities and to engage local stakeholders in collaborative science and action that creates solutions to address gaps in cancer care, from screening to survivorship," asserts Kobetz. ■



**A \$20 million gift sets the stage for the creation of the Desai Sethi Urology Institute at the Miller School of Medicine.**

Throughout his career, Dr. Dipen J. Parekh has distinguished himself as an expert in urology. He is considered one of the world’s most experienced and talented robotic surgeons in urologic oncology, and his transformative research is changing the landscape of clinical practice in his field.

A year after joining the faculty of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 2012, Parekh received the American Urological Association’s prestigious Gold Cystoscope Award, which recognizes urologists who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.

Now, Parekh is on the cusp of another milestone—being the founding director of the Desai Sethi Urology Institute at the Miller School, created through an extraordinary commitment of \$20 million from the Desai Sethi Family Foundation.

The Desai Sethi  
Urology Institute  
**Takes Shape**



**“We are dedicated to exploring the latest discoveries in the laboratory and accelerating the most promising therapies from the lab into our clinics for the best possible treatment for patients.”**

**DR. DIPEN J. PAREKH**

“This generous gift will transform our ability to expand the scope and influence of our work, creating a thriving environment for new discoveries in the field that will benefit patients worldwide,” says Parekh, the chief operating officer at the University of Miami Health System, executive dean for clinical affairs and chair of the Department of Urology at the Miller School, and the Victor A. Politano, M.D. Endowed Chair in Urology.

“We are dedicated to exploring the latest discoveries in the laboratory and accelerating the most promising therapies from the lab into our clinics for the best possible treatment for patients,” says Parekh, who is also director of robotic surgery and works closely with the NCI-designated Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Miller School.

Located in South Florida, the institute will affirm the Miller School as a global leader in the field and be an international destination for care, attracting the brightest minds and recruiting the most talented physician-scientists dedicated to the study and treatment of urologic disorders field.

“The Desai Sethi Family Foundation’s generosity propels the University into the upper echelon of institutes dedicated to the discovery and treatment of urologic disease—not just in South Florida, but worldwide,” says President Julio Frenk. “We are grateful for this commitment to the types of advances in health care that are only possible at an academic health system.”



The Desai Sethi Family Foundation commitment is part of Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century. The most ambitious in the University's history, the fundraising campaign has already secured more than \$1.8 billion toward its \$2.5 billion goal.

The institute has received additional support from philanthropic benefactors.

Shortly after the Desai Sethi gift announcement, Eliza and Hugh Culverhouse Jr. made a \$1 million donation to support the institute and honor Parekh, who performed Hugh Culverhouse's successful prostate surgery.

"The outcome has been nothing short of incredible," says Hugh Culverhouse Jr., a South Florida attorney and businessman. "I live without the fear of dying in the same manner as my father and grandfather. A life without fear is precious."

In February a prominent South Florida couple, Terry and Carla Taylor, announced they were making a \$3 million commitment to further position the Miller School as a global leader in the field of urology.

The Miller School's Department of Urology has conducted research that has notably advanced the science of urology, publishing work on the efficacy of robotic surgery, urologic cancers, men's health,

endourology, male infertility, and in treating various urologic diseases.

The institute will provide access to a multitude of patients from differing backgrounds and cultures and will be an international destination for care. Institute researchers will be able to study health disparities in the treatment of both men and women with urological issues.

"The creation of the Desai Sethi Urology Institute will be a new crown jewel for our health system," says Stuart Miller, J.D. '82, chairman of the UHealth Board of Directors, chair of Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century, and a University of Miami trustee. "This is an important milestone in the University's Ever Brighter fundraising campaign. This commitment demonstrates that UHealth and the Miller School of Medicine are at the forefront of patient care, research, and innovation, and are the leading health care system in our community."

Dr. Henri R. Ford, dean and chief academic officer of the Miller School, describes the creation of the institute as transformative. "This is a defining moment that will distinctly elevate the level of groundbreaking research in urologic diseases, ultimately benefiting patients and impacting how we share that knowledge with the next generation of physician-researchers," says Ford. ■

The Desai Sethi Family Foundation commitment is part of Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century. The most ambitious in the University's history, the fundraising campaign has already secured more than **\$1.8 billion toward its \$2.5 billion goal.**

CAMPAIGN GOAL  
**\$2.5B**

## MAKING AN IMPACT ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

**Several notable gifts announced recently benefit a number of areas of study, key initiatives, and student scholarships—all part of Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century.**

**In December, Laurie Silvers**, B.A. '74, J.D. '77, chair of the University of Miami Board of Trustees, and her husband, Mitchell Rubenstein, donated \$2.5 million to the School of Law, just the latest example of generous giving she has made to the University she describes as having a "profound influence on her life." Silvers has had a brilliant career in communications law, as an entrepreneur, and as a visionary who built a media conglomerate of radio, TV, and cable, including founding one of cable television's most popular networks, the SyFy Channel.

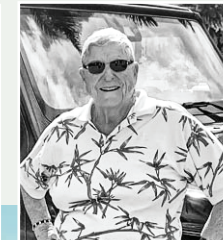
**By any measure, Michele Bowman Underwood** has a life well lived—worldly, well traveled, sporting, and adventurous. An avid golfer and multilingual explorer, she embraced the University with a gift that supports several areas of sport and study. Having had no children, Bowman Underwood says that "the University of Miami is my child." In that spirit, she has made a \$25 million bequest that will benefit the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures—named in her honor at a reception in the College of Arts and Sciences on Feb. 9. The generous gift also will fund research focused on women's health at the Miller School of Medicine and provide scholarships and program support for the women's golf team. Bowman Underwood has previously supported the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and the Department of Chemistry.

**The Carmen and Joe Unanue Family Foundation**, led by Andy Unanue, B.B.A. '91, donated \$3.3 million to the Miami Herbert Business School in honor of Unanue's late parents, who led philanthropic initiatives in education and health care through the foundation that carries their names. The donation, matched by the Herbert Challenge Endowment Gift Match for a total of \$5 million, will strengthen the school's capabilities to prepare graduate students to successfully enter the workforce or advance their careers upon graduation. An alumnus of the business school and managing partner of AUA Private Equity Partners, Unanue says, "My parents always wanted to help educate people and prepare them for the real world so that they could get good jobs with which to provide for their families."

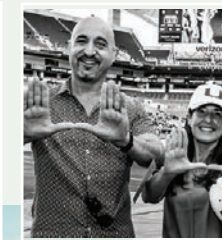
**For Jeff Kinkead, M.B.A. '85, and his wife, Mimi Ragolta Kinkead**, Hurricane athletics is a source of pride that has inspired them to maintain close ties with the University through the decades. The couple announced a planned bequest of \$1 million in support of scholarships and career development for student-athletes. "I feel like the University gave me something so much greater than what I'm giving back. It helped me to mature, to become a man, to get educated, and to get started in the business world," says Jeff Kinkead, CEO of Advanced Systems Resources, a company specializing in mobile technology solutions.



Laurie Silvers and Mitchell Rubenstein  
**School of Law**



Michele Bowman Underwood  
**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**



Carmen and Joe Unanue Family Foundation  
**Miami Herbert Business School**



Jeff Kinkead and Mimi Ragolta Kinkead  
**Student-athlete scholarships and career development**

**Ever Brighter**  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUR NEXT CENTURY



A large photograph showing a group of students in teal t-shirts participating in 'Hug the Lake' on Earth Day. They are standing on a paved walkway next to a body of water, holding hands and hugging the railing. In the background, there are modern university buildings and a clear blue sky with scattered clouds.

**On Earth Day, as students linked hands to “Hug the Lake”—the University tradition symbolizing a united appreciation for nature and the campus’ natural beauty—President Julio Frenk announced the official launch of a new unified University commitment to planetary well-being, one destined to have broad and sustaining reach: the Climate Resilience Academy.**

**THE NEW RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL HUB IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY AND OPENS A NEW ERA THAT HIGHLIGHTS ITS ROLE AS A TOP RESEARCH INSTITUTION AND LEADER FOR POSITIVE HEMISPHERIC AND GLOBAL CHANGE.**

Modeled on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the Climate Resilience Academy will help drive studies and solutions to address issues related to climate crisis, sustainability, and resilience.

“The Climate Research Academy will educate the next generation of scientists as we help deliver the solutions to climate change; its impact; and related stressors in partnership with industry, universities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders,” Frenk explains.

“The concept of ‘resilience’ is foundational to the history and mission of the University,” Frenk adds. “Far from just a byword, resilience is first and foremost how our people face the inevitable element of change.”

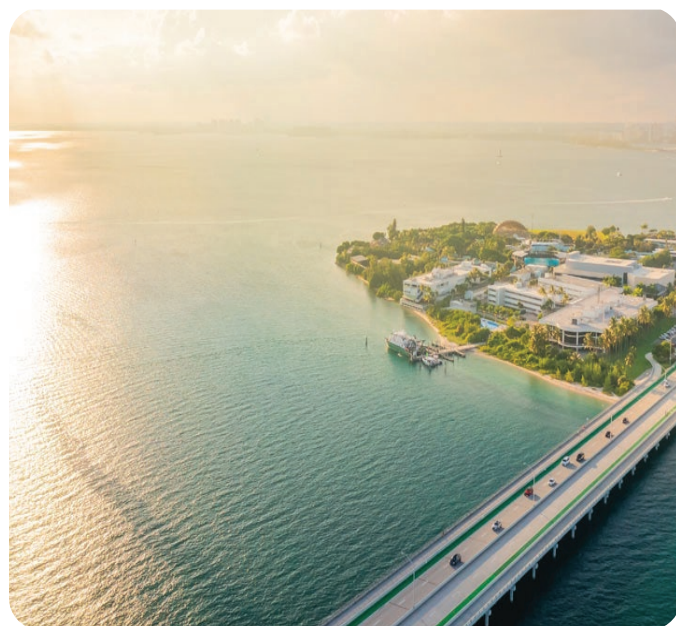
# Climate Resilience Academy Ushers in New Era of Research, Solutions

BY MICHAEL R. MALONE



“Climate change  
is the  
challenge  
of a lifetime.”

—Eric T. Levin



“If you look across our units, schools, colleges, and programs, there is a consistent theme of being at ground zero for climate change and the impacts of that—from the Rosenstiel School’s incredible expertise in terms of climate change, weather, and hurricanes to the College of Engineering’s expertise in civil engineering and new technologies to the School of Architecture’s knowledge of building environments and so much more,” says Duerk, noting that the expertise and interest crisscross the University like a thread.

“When you stand high enough and look down on the University, this thread is fairly easy to trace throughout in terms of our understanding, appreciation, research, and scholarship on topics related to climate and climate resilience,” Duerk says.

Rodolphe el-Khoury, dean of the School of Architecture, and Sharan Majumdar, professor in the Rosenstiel School’s Department of Atmospheric Sciences, led the planning process that established the foundations of the academy and defined its mission while building a team of collaborators within and beyond the University.

“South Florida is particularly stressed by climate change, and we are a ‘living lab’ even if we don’t want to be,” Majumdar explains. “Building resilience to tackle complex problems such as rising sea levels, changes in weather patterns, and extreme heat need experts across many disciplines to develop a unified, collaborative approach, and the Climate Resilience Academy will do this by bringing together the diverse talents of our students, researchers, and faculty across our schools and colleges,” he adds.

El-Khoury highlights that the academy will help to attract new talent to the University and to identify areas of potential growth and support academic units in mounting searches for joint faculty appointments that defy conventional disciplinary and departmental boundaries.

A generous \$5 million commitment from Eric T. Levin, a former University trustee and the former president of the University’s Citizens Board, has propelled the new initiative. The gift is part of the University’s fundraising campaign, Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century. The initial phase includes a search for a founding executive director to oversee the academy and a new academic “resilience” elective course to be featured in the fall semester.

“Climate change is the challenge of a lifetime, and here in Miami we sit at the epicenter of the climate challenge,” says Levin. “It’s imperative to get others involved to work collaboratively to tackle these big problems.”

Levin, a financial strategist, investor, and entrepreneur, suggests that many of the projects fostered through the academy will “ultimately become entrepreneurial ventures which will implement business solutions to the stressors of climate change, create more revenue, and become self-sustaining and financially additive to the overall mission of the University.”

Jeffrey Duerk, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, highlights the academy’s unique design and its timeliness and value for the University and the South Florida community.

“The academy is best described as an interdisciplinary functional structure that will bring together experts both from within the University and others through partnerships and relationships to ensure the necessary expertise to solve challenges that are by their very nature interdisciplinary,” says Duerk.



Among those who helped to make the inaugural Climate Resilience Academy Symposium a success are, left to right, Sharan Majumdar, Erin Kobetz, Jane Gilbert, Eric Levin, Jeffrey Duerk, Rodolphe el-Khoury, and Josh Friedman.

“Figuratively speaking, the academy is a United Nations for interdisciplinary and interinstitutional efforts, facilitating appointments, brokering deals, mounting big proposals, and shepherding complex projects that break the silos,” el-Khoury says.

David Kelly, academic director of the sustainable business master’s degree program and co-chair of the Sustainable Business Research Cluster in the Miami Herbert Business School, notes the economic benefits the academy’s efforts will yield.

“Companies are increasingly focused on adaptation and resilience to climate change, and the academy will work together with companies and municipalities to ensure that the most evidenced-based adaptation and resilience strategies are implemented,” says Kelly. He reports that the academy will coordinate the use of big data, causal inference, and other advanced statistical techniques to measure the economic impact of resilience funding and thereby guide the most productive investments.

Kelly and Amy Clement, a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the Rosenstiel School, join a cohort of instructors who will teach the first-ever resilience course this fall, a class designed to empower students to become resilient themselves and enable them to spark change in society.

“The academy is part of a national trend where universities are recognizing that there are problems that are immediate and can’t be solved by looking through the lens of any one discipline,” says Clement, who serves on the advisory board for the academy. “Climate is one of those,

and Miami is one of those cities where there’s no more delaying with the impacts of climate that are already here.”

Through her research, Clement has interacted extensively with the public sector, nonprofits, and governments.

“Governments, in particular, have been very engaged because they’re the ones being tasked to do something about sea level rise, monitor and understand these trends and technologies better, and generate new designs for infrastructure, among other areas,” she says.

“Those are all things that we could be responsive to at the University if we have the right framework—and that’s where the Climate Resilience Academy comes in,” Clement points out. “The University has an important role in figuring this out because there’s no playbook for it—this is an unprecedented change that we’re experiencing in an unprecedented time.”

Days after the academy’s official launch, the University hosted a Climate Resilience Academy symposium at the Lakeside Village Expo Hall, a green-certified event that symbolized the academy’s interdisciplinary and collaborative focus.

Keynote speaker Jane Gilbert, chief heat officer for Miami-Dade County, highlighted extreme heat as a critical climate change stressor, and 10 teams showcased University Laboratory for Integrative Knowledge (U-LINK) funded projects that propose solutions for climate-related challenges. The projects are the first resilience-related designs destined to progress through the Climate Resilience Academy’s collaborative framework. ■



# In Solidarity With Ukraine

BY MICHAEL R. MALONE

**Together with the rest of the world, the University anxiously monitors the Russian invasion of Ukraine as it rages. Faculty, staff, and students apply their academic expertise to analyze the unfathomable and open their hearts to the Ukrainian people.**

**PRESIDENT JULIO FRENK EXPRESSED THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY’S SENSE OF TRAGEDY AND DISTRESS—AND ITS COMMITMENT TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE—IN A MESSAGE SOON AFTER THE INVASION BEGAN.**

“The images of violence, news of lives lost, stories of citizens joining the army en masse to defend their country, and accounts of families fleeing their homes to find safety are disturbing,” Frenk stated. “War is frightening, especially given the cruelty, disinformation, and opportunism exhibited by an unprovoked aggressor. Our hearts are heavy for Ukrainians, and we are hopeful that a return to peace in this region is forthcoming.”



ASSOCIATED PRESS/PHOTOS

Even as the first news of the invasion circulated, Diana Khodan’s tennis teammates rallied around the junior from Ukraine. Next to the emblematic “U” on their uniforms, the players affixed yellow-and-blue ribbons when the team took the court against their Clemson opponent.

“When I saw my flag, the flag of Ukraine, I couldn’t really describe my feelings,” notes Khodan, who hails from Ivano-Frankivsk, a city in western Ukraine. “There is nothing more important than my country and what is going on there right now.”

Ukrainian students, such as senior Kateryna Ghandour, did their best to stay focused on their studies even as they worried for family and childhood friends scattered across Ukraine, some messaging frantically from bomb shelters.

“I have many friends saying they will not make it. One was even on the bathroom floor hiding while shooting was going on outside her apartment,” says Ghandour, an international relations major who fled her native Ukraine in 2014 as a teen with her parents when protests mounted.

In an ongoing series of articles published in News@TheU, University scholars scrutinized the invasion from multiple perspectives.

Ira Sheskin, professor of geography and sustainable development, as well as director of the Jewish Demography Project at the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, and Haim Shaked, the center’s founding director, explored how Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s leadership and pride in his Jewish cultural and religious roots have inspired support from Jews around the world.

Sociology professors Olena Antonaccio and Robert J. Johnson, with Anastasiia Timmer, Ph.D. ’20, surveyed more than 1,200 residents and 300 internally displaced persons in the Ukrainian cities of Lviv and Kharkiv three years after the conflicts with Russia that started in 2014 to analyze the impacts of war.

Policy experts Marcia Beck, a political science lecturer; Dina Moulioukova, Ph.D. ’17, an international relations

lecturer; and Antonaccio, a Ukraine native, analyzed the Russian president’s motivations for invading a neighboring country with deep, long-standing linkages.

June Teufel Dreyer, political science professor and a veteran China scholar, and Joaquín Roy, international studies professor and director of the European Union Center of Excellence, assessed China’s role in the conflict and U.S. intelligence attempts to sway the Asian powerhouse.

Pablo Rueda-Saiz, an associate professor in the School of Law, outlined the legal parameters of war crimes and the complexities of gathering such evidence in an article that assessed whether Russia has committed war crimes during the invasion.

Separately, Rueda-Saiz and policy expert Roy detailed how Putin’s invasion appears to have generated what the Russian president least wanted—unified European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliances and a long-term scenario that portends costly consequences for Russia.

Caleb Everett, professor of anthropology and senior associate dean for academic affairs, and Moulioukova examined the meanings and emotions evoked by symbols such as the letter “Z”—which has appeared in Russia as an emblem of support for the invasion of Ukraine.

Karin Wilkins, dean of the School of Communication, and Heidi Carr, an assistant professor of professional practice, assessed the use of new technologies that have increased access for everyone to stories, images, and videos chronicling Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the resulting destruction and misery.

The two highlighted the immediacy and importance of social media produced through online platforms.

“Our access through digital media allows us to witness the violence and resistance experienced by people around the world,” notes Wilkins, an expert on global media. “We are more connected as a global community than ever before.” ■



## Citizens Board Celebrates 75 Years

Composed of more than 250 volunteers today, the group is a vital philanthropic partner



“It gives community members a chance to hear directly from students on projects that make a difference.”

—Roberta Jacoby

It began just after World War II as an idea shared by a Miami Beach resident, the then-mayor of the city of Miami, and a fundraiser for the University of Miami. The trio gathered a group of local business, professional, and civic leaders who shared a belief in the importance of a strong educational institution in South Florida and were committed to investing their time and talent to help it flourish.

Seventy-five years later, the Citizens Board is a core philanthropic partner of the University of Miami. Currently made up of more than 250 volunteer members, the board has raised an estimated \$454 million for the University. It has helped transform the Coral Gables Campus, established scholarships for students, strengthened student programs, and advanced vital research.

Now, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary, the Citizens Board is playing a key role in Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century, by connecting

the U with potential philanthropic partners, including individuals, foundations, and corporations. Its members serve as ambassadors for the institution, hosting and sponsoring events, serving as guest lecturers, mentoring students, and providing internship and career opportunities for students and alumni.

Ana VeigaMilton, B.S.E.E. '87, J.D. '93, University trustee and president of the Citizens Board, speaks of the board's larger purpose. “It's gratifying for us to support projects with the potential to effect change in South Florida and beyond,” she says. “Our mission is to bring the University into a deeper connection with the community outside our walls, and to inspire others to get involved and give in ways that can add tremendous value to students, faculty, and the wider University community.”

One of the signature Citizens Board initiatives is the Changemakers Student Fund, which is supported by annual

gifts from members. For the past 24 years, Changemakers has funded innovative projects across the University that enhance learning and expand meaningful engagement with the wider community.

Of the three finalists selected for the Changemakers Student Fund for fiscal year 2022, Future Docs—a project of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement at the Miller School of Medicine—won the \$25,000 Citizens Board Sebastian Hero Award.

Future Docs aims to reduce racial disparities and improve health equity by developing a next generation of physicians that is representative of the diverse communities it serves. To spark interest in medical professions among traditionally underrepresented students, the project will provide support, encouragement, and education about health careers to local sixth- and seventh-graders.

Receiving the \$10,000 Citizens Board 'Cane Crusader Awards were Taking Baby Steps into the Future: Training Students to Provide Telehealth Nursing Care for Vulnerable Infants and Families, a project of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, and Polyneering: Yuiwe Lab Innovation and Entrepreneurship Dictionary for Teaching and Sharing, from the Miami Herbert Business School.

“Sponsoring the Changemakers Student Fund is a highlight for the Citizens Board,” says Roberta Jacoby, chair of the Changemakers Committee, immediate past president of the Citizens Board, and member of the University's Board of Trustees. “It gives community members a chance to hear directly from students on projects that make a difference. It also showcases the students' abilities to communicate what they're passionate about, think outside the box, and utilize what they're learning at the U.”



## Panel Addresses Ocean-Based Climate Solutions

Alumni experts offer strategies as part of the annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series

With 40 percent of the world's human population living along coasts, at the front line of the adverse impacts of climate change, the survival of current and future generations depends on viable oceans.

An April webinar brought together a panel of notable University of Miami alumni experts to explain how the ocean—the major regulating force in the Earth's climate system—holds a wide range of potential climate solutions.

The lecture, “In Hot Water: Finding Ocean-Based Solutions to the Climate Crisis,” examined the critical role of the oceans in a multipronged response to the global climate crisis.

Erica Rule, M.A. '99, chief of staff for science planning and operations at NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Science Center, moderated the discussion.

The panel consisted of Stacy Aguilera-Peterson, Ph.D. '17, ocean policy advisor at the National Science Foundation; Kerri Barsh, J.D. '84, shareholder and co-chair of national environmental practice at law firm Greenberg Traurig; Pedro DiNezio, M.S. '09, Ph.D. '17, associate professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder; and Galen Treuer, Ph.D. '17, resilience coordinator for strategic outcomes for Miami-Dade County.

Encompassing science, policy, industry, and regional and local action, and providing perspectives from a broad spectrum of expertise, “In Hot Water” underscored the need for strategic thinking, innovative partnerships, and a holistic approach to combatting climate change.

Panelists addressed several climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, including renewable energy by harnessing the power of offshore winds; blue carbon sequestration, which is the removal of carbon dioxide from the Earth's atmosphere by oceanic and coastal ecosystems; and net-zero shipping, in

which any emissions from a vessel are completely offset.

The event, which was held as part of the Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series, also included the vital issue of climate justice. Because climate change tends to have more severe social, economic, public health, and other impacts on vulnerable populations, the global approach to climate mitigation and adaptation must also aim to remedy those inequities.

“The impacts of climate change demand our attention and thoughtful action,” says Rule. “Forums like this one are important to bring together experts to educate and talk about solutions for our communities and the planet.”

Established in 1995 by a gift from Stu Bloch, B.A. '64, and Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch, the lecture series is intended to recognize alumni who have achieved distinction in their fields, foster intellectual dialogue among the University community, and encourage the lifelong pursuit of learning.

As international efforts, such as the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), have increased global awareness of the critical role of the oceans in solving the climate crisis, scientists from around the world are collaborating to develop solutions-oriented research under rapidly changing climatic conditions.

“In Hot Water” corresponded with Brighter Future for Our Planet, one of the seven themes of Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century. The lecture was scheduled for April with Earth Day and Earth Week in mind, and tied in with Earth Day 2022's theme, Invest in Our Planet.

At the lecture's conclusion, host Devang Desai, B.A. '97, J.D. '03, president of the University of Miami Alumni Association, presented the moderator and panelists with the Distinguished Alumni Award.



## 'Canes Unite Through Service

Miami alumni honor Earth Day with a beach cleanup



This past Earth Day, University of Miami alumni and friends gathered opposite the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science along Virginia Key Beach to participate in the 'Canes Day of Service flagship event and beach cleanup, hosted by the Miami 'Canes Community in partnership with Virginia Key Outdoor Center.

The annual 'Canes Day of Service provides opportunities for the University of Miami community to participate in local service projects—from beach cleanups to serving at food kitchens and everything in between. In addition to the Miami event, 10 other 'Canes Communities across the country hosted service projects in their areas, bringing alumni and friends together in service of a brighter future for our planet and its people.

Volunteers in Miami spread out along the beach, some scouring shorelines and others paddling through waterways on kayaks or paddleboards to collect washed-up debris. Other volunteers weeded out invasive plant species to allow for native flora and fauna to flourish.

Afterward, guests were treated to a lunch-and-learn event, where graduate students from the Rosenstiel School discussed the long-term impacts of beach erosion, building coastal resilience, reef restoration, and the future of water quality for South Florida and beyond.

## Black Alumni Society Takes a Fantastic Voyage

Annual reunion includes two days of virtual sessions exploring aspects of the diaspora

On Feb. 18-19, the University of Miami Black Alumni Society gathered virtually for its annual reunion, with explorations of Black art, fashion, cuisine, and wellness traditions, plus thought-provoking panel discussions and networking opportunities.

The reunion's theme was "Fantastic Voyage: Across the Diaspora." Attendees made informative and enlightening virtual stops at diasporic ports of call, taking a closer look at Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Ghana through a conversation moderated by Donette Francis, associate professor of English and co-director of the University's Center for Global Black Studies.

The opening keynote session, "Remember the Time," was moderated by Miami educator George Koonce, M.Ed. '70, Ed.D. '76, and shed light on the experiences of key University administrators engaging with students at the U during the 1960s and 1970s.

The gathering also recognized The Taylor Family/UTrailblazers Experience, located in the Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. Breezeway on the Coral Gables Campus. Made possible by a gift from University trustee Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., B.S.C. '89, this interactive kiosk highlights the past, current, and expected future contributions of Black students at the University.

Sessions showcased art and fashion in the diaspora, a powerful new travel movement that has emerged among people of color, virtual cooking and mixology demonstrations, and a performance by OLEKU, the University's African dance team.

Dr. Kimberly Hunter-Reynolds, B.S. '04, a Miami-based pediatrician, led a discussion on integrating holistic well-being into everyday life, as Black communities embrace the rituals, traditions, and healing modalities of



their ancestors that, along with modern medicine, can create a healthy balance of mind, body, and spirit.

Also featured was a preview of the Center for Global Black Studies, a key initiative in a plan unveiled by President Julio Frenk detailing the University's pursuit of racial justice.

## Leveraging the Power of the 'Canes Network

Alumni communities around the world connect through a week of activities

University of Miami alumni form a diverse and powerful global network of young and mid-career professionals and seasoned leaders across all fields of endeavor. 'Canes Communities in 40 United States regions and six other countries give these alumni the opportunities to share experiences and connect with fellow 'Canes in the same region or industry.

On the evening of March 29, the 'Canes Communities network gathered virtually to kick off the 2022 edition of Global Networking Week. Attendees had the opportunity to learn from experts about trends in their professions, navigate the current career landscape in their industries, and build their professional brands as proud 'Canes.

The featured speakers were two of the U's professional development experts: Greg Brenner, assistant vice president for talent and organizational development, and Sarah Seavey, director of professional development and training for the Division of Development and Alumni Relations. Complementing their presentations were breakout sessions led by alumni that focused on specific industry or professional sectors, including banking and finance, technology and engineering, health care, marketing and communications, law, and business development.



The Miami 'Canes Community gathers at Top Golf for Global Networking Night.

During the following week, 11 'Canes Communities from coast to coast hosted local professional networking events where alumni could connect, engage, and do business together, while learning about job trends in their regions. Participating 'Canes Communities included Atlanta, Broward/Palm Beach Counties, Charlotte, Dallas/Fort Worth, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Orlando, Tampa, and Washington, D.C.

Throughout the Global Networking Week sessions, alumni accessed practical tools, resources, and guidance to help them own their careers, and they leveraged the power of 'Cane Communities to strengthen their professional networks.

## Burgers and Baseball Makes a Rousing Return

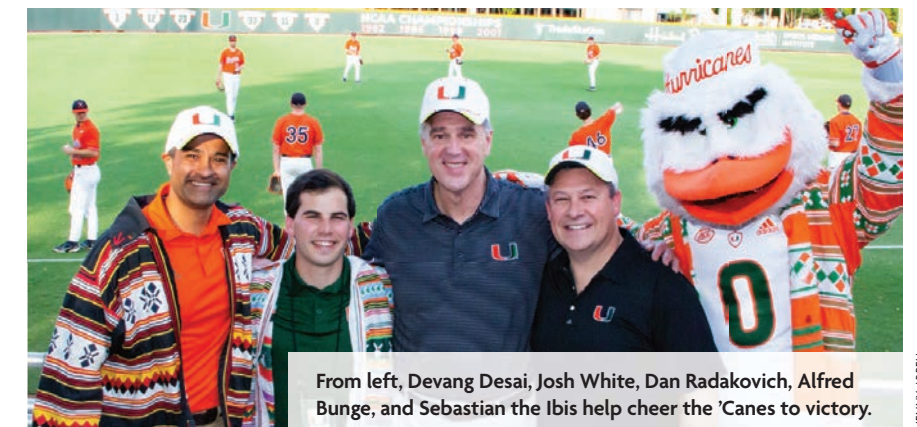
Signature event takes 'Canes back out to the ballgame

After a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Burgers and Baseball, one of the signature events of the University of Miami Alumni Association (UMAA), returned on April 8 as the Hurricanes took on the Virginia Cavaliers at Alex Rodriguez Park at Mark Light Field.

Hosted by the UMAA in partnership with the Iron Arrow Honor Society, the Miami 'Canes Community, and University of Miami Athletics, Burgers and Baseball drew an excited crowd of alumni, parents, and friends who came out to cheer the 'Canes on to a 6-2 victory over No. 3 Virginia. A portion of ticket proceeds funded scholarships for student-athletes.

'Canes baseball fans enjoyed a pre-game feast of burgers and hot dogs with all the fixings, topped off with the legendary Mark Light shakes. Sebastian the Ibis and the Miami Maniac were on hand to interact with fans.

Dan Radakovich, director of athletics,



From left, Devang Desai, Josh White, Dan Radakovich, Alfred Bunge, and Sebastian the Ibis help cheer the 'Canes to victory.

JENNY ABREU

welcomed attendees who then toured the Jimmy and Karen Klotz Player Development Center—called a "game changer" for 'Canes baseball when it opened in 2020—and got what for many was a first glimpse of the new, state-of-the-art Mark Light scoreboard.

The Klotz Center and scoreboard are

two of the highest profile outcomes of an ambitious effort to expand and upgrade Hurricanes baseball facilities as part of the University of Miami's Ever Brighter: The Campaign for Our Next Century. 'Canes fans at the Light got a taste of Ever Brighter, with special giveaways throughout the night.





GREG CLARK/GOOD MIAMI

## An Animated Voice for South Florida Waters

As a girl growing up in San Diego, California, Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D. '12, was fascinated by marine environments and the creatures that inhabit them.

That interest sparked what eventually became her life's calling. Now, as executive director and waterkeeper of the nonprofit organization Miami Waterkeeper—with a mission to ensure swimmable, drinkable, and fishable water for all—her work is animated by a passion for the environment and grounded in the science of conservation.

At 14, Silverstein earned her SCUBA certification and, as she recalls, “there was no going back for me.” As an undergraduate in New York, Silverstein worked with Andrew Baker, Ph.D. '99, now professor of marine biology and ecology at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

Silverstein followed Baker to the Rosenstiel School, where she worked in his lab, studied the effects of climate change on corals, and earned her doctorate. During her time at the Rosenstiel School, she became passionately committed to coral conservation, and after a post-doctoral fellowship in Washington, D.C., was determined to return to Miami and continue the work she began at the U.

In 2014 she was appointed to Miami Waterkeeper, an independent nonprofit that is part of the global Waterkeeper Alliance, and to this day she works closely with University of Miami scientists.

One of Miami Waterkeeper's signature community programs is “1,000 Eyes on the Water,” which trains members of the public to identify, document, and report pollution issues affecting South Florida beaches and waterways. “We train people

on what to look for and report so that notices of violation can be issued to get the pollution stopped,” Silverstein says. Miami Waterkeeper also has water monitoring sites around Miami-Dade County, including at the Rosenstiel School, to keep watch on bacteria levels in Biscayne Bay.

The nonprofit group's media, legal, and legislative advocacy focuses on the major threats to South Florida's watershed, including fertilizer overuse, stormwater runoff, sewage leaks, and septic tanks, all of which contribute to nutrient pollution that endangers fish populations, triggers algae blooms, and/or closes beaches.

Silverstein cites fertilizer runoff as an example of the way Miami Waterkeeper engages with county and municipal authorities to drive solutions. “In an effort to get new regulations to limit fertilizer pollution,” she notes, “we worked city by city and have helped pass eight municipal fertilizer ordinances,” until it was finally passed in Miami-Dade County.

Silverstein says that, Miami-Dade County has one of the strongest residential fertilizer ordinances in Florida, “No fertilizer use [is permitted] between May 15 and October 15, and never within 20 feet of storm drains or waterways,” she says. “We are now working on a statewide ordinance—we want Miami-Dade to become a model for the state, tailored to the different regions.”

Above all, there is the existential threat posed by sea-level rise. South Florida's aging sewer infrastructure and 120,000 septic systems are vulnerable to rising groundwater and seawater intrusion. Silverstein and Miami Waterkeeper advocate for sustainable solutions, including the removal of flood-vulnerable septic tanks and increased funding to strengthen the county's sewers.

For Silverstein, being a waterkeeper is a multidimensional, multidisciplinary job. At its core she serves as a spokesperson for the water. “Our water is what makes Miami, Miami,” she says. “We have a lot to lose if we don't get water pollution under control. My job is to represent our environment in our community.”



“People want to know what's going on and it's always a work in progress.” —Terry Roberts

## Legal Eagle Drives Corporate Inclusion

When Terry Roberts, B.A. '00, arrived at the University of Miami from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for his first year, he quickly realized that Miami was different from his hometown in ways that would prove beneficial to him and his future.

“[Coming to Miami] was a huge cultural change,” he says. “Culturally, [Miami] is a unique place, and I think if you embrace that, it allows you to gain a lot of skills to respond to the world in a way that's going to be very helpful to you moving forward.”

After earning his bachelor's degree in political science, Roberts attended law school, where an internship allowed him the opportunity to explore employment law—a path he would ultimately pursue as a career. He joined American Eagle Outfitters Inc., a leading lifestyle, clothing, and accessories retailer, in 2016 as director and assistant general counsel.

By 2020 Roberts had been promoted to vice president for employment law and acquired a second major job—chief inclusion and diversity officer responsible for developing and articulating inclusion

and diversity strategy across the entire enterprise.

It's a role that emerged and grew organically from his belief that he could make a difference in an area he is passionate about. “I had built up a lot of credibility in the organization,” Roberts says, recalling how he got into the inclusion and diversity work at American Eagle. “I have great relationships with people who trust me, and I have a level of influence. Ultimately, if I think I can make a positive difference and do something that's going to help people and the company, who am I to just sit on the sidelines?”

That same year—2020—brought unprecedented upheaval to U.S. society and workplaces in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread anger and protests in the wake of George Floyd's murder. “Trying to navigate a company through this [was] massively difficult and it really takes leadership to give people hope through all the struggle, change, and uncertainty,” Roberts says.

For Roberts, the success of inclusion and diversity strategies depends on clear and open lines of communication. “People want to know what's going on, and it's always a work in progress,” he explains. “In a way, I don't think you can ever communicate well enough—we communicate too much for some people, [others] think you don't communicate enough,” he adds. “It comes down to how you can build more and more trust with people. You want to bring them along on the journey and you're trying to accomplish that with communication.”

Roberts is also candid about the challenges inherent in inclusion and diversity work. “People are very passionate and have a lot of different views, many of which are in conflict,” he points out. “Part of my job is to navigate this and to let people know that it's OK to disagree. You might not all be in the same lanes, and you might believe there are different vehicles you can take to get to the destination, but can we at least agree that we're moving in a certain direction?”





**Cooking up a Creative Experience**

Ever since Lisa Weintraub, B.B.A. '13, was in sixth grade, she has wanted to run her own restaurant. A native of Southern California, Weintraub—or Chef Lisa, as she is known to her clients and fans—grew up immersed in the farmers markets and cuisines of greater Los Angeles. As she worked to realize her dream, she persevered in the face of daunting odds and endless challenges and learned the value of adaptability in driving innovation.

“At one point, someone told me ‘No,’” Weintraub says, recalling her early startup efforts. “I’m grateful for that ‘no’ because I turned that into a ‘yes’ and instead of [opening] a restaurant, I created a new way of dining.”

This reinvention of her childhood dream is Plates by Lisa, a curated food experience that offers customers customized, in-home gourmet dining. Weintraub uses locally sourced organic ingredients and draws on the global culinary influences she has absorbed, both in her hometown and her travels, to develop personalized menus for a clientele that includes professional athletes and celebrities.

In January 2022, Plates by Lisa was showcased in “Cooking with a ‘Cane,” an interactive virtual event presented by the University of Miami Alumni Association and hosted by the Los Angeles ‘Canes Community. A nationwide audience of more than 200 alumni got a glimpse into Weintraub’s kitchen, enjoyed a dynamic culinary demonstration featuring Hawaiian salmon with mango salsa, and picked up some of Chef Lisa’s secrets for raising their dinner party game with dazzling tablescapes.

Guests had the opportunity to ask Weintraub questions about recipes, participate in audience polls, and share photos on Instagram for the chance to win a Plates by Lisa farmers market and cooking experience. And a dash of green and orange glitter gave her luxurious creations a special Hurricane touch.

This last flourish is fitting, as Weintraub credits her undergraduate education at the U for giving her the strong entrepreneurial foundation to succeed beyond her wildest dreams.

“Studying entrepreneurship at the University of Miami created the

well-rounded businesswoman that I am today,” she says. “My education allowed me to excel and to navigate my business through any hardship or conflict that may come. The tools I [acquired] at the U prepared me to handle the many unknowns of owning a business. As an entrepreneur, I see the possibilities of concepts. I don’t see risk with fear; I see risk as an avenue to make something happen.”

Looking back at her time at the University, Weintraub marvels at Miami’s melting pot of cultural influences and at the diversity she discovered on campus. “Sophomore year, I lived on a floor with the study abroad kids,” she says, referring to students from around the world who spent time at the University. “It opened my eyes and exposed me to new people, new places, and new things. This is what a college experience should be!”

Weintraub spent a summer in Milan, an experience that she says further fueled her desire to travel and explore new cultures. “This exposure was impactful not just in my career, but in learning the importance of diversity and integrating that into my soul and how I walk through the world,” she says.

**A Mindful Approach to Business, Service, and Life**

For George Williamson III, Ph.D. '20, known as Trae, mindfulness isn’t a buzzword—it’s the foundation on which he has built a life of compassion and engagement with the world around him.

His family’s car dealership, Williamson Cadillac-Buick-GMC, has been a Miami-Dade County landmark since its founding in 1967. Williamson, president of the dealership, is the fourth generation of his family to work in the automotive business.

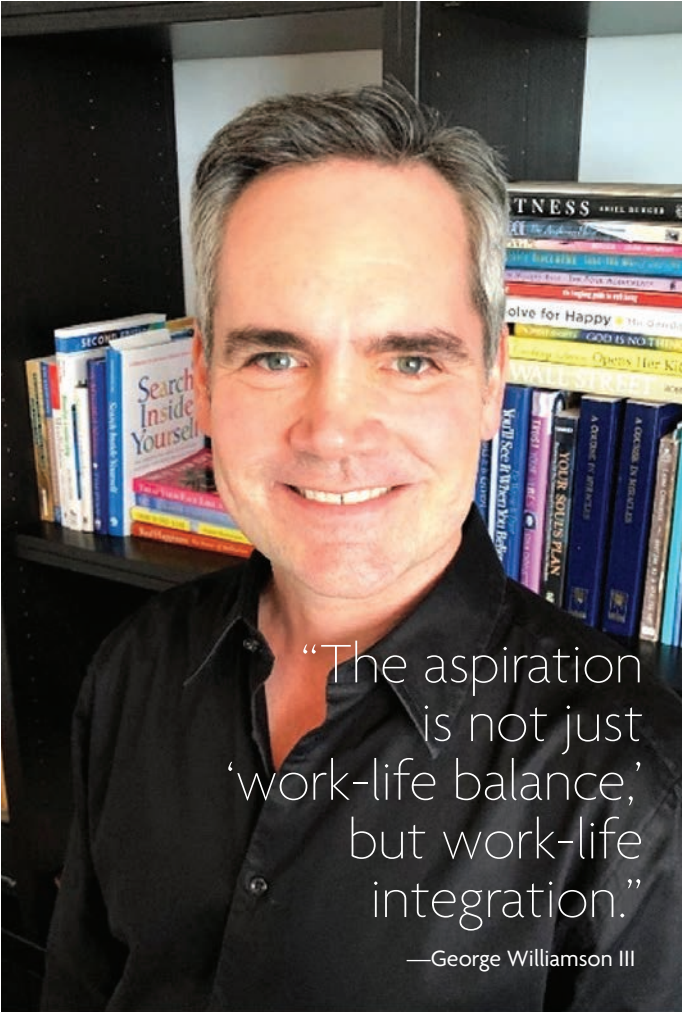
He also has an abiding interest in psychology and spirituality, which culminated in 2020 in his earning an interdisciplinary doctorate at the University of Miami, combining religion, psychology, and management. “I have always been passionate about psychology and personal development, as well as the role of spirituality to promote well-being, and I [also] find myself helping to run a business,” he says.

Williamson’s part-time position as an instructor at the Miami Herbert Business School offers what he calls “great synergy” with his day job at the dealership. “I bring real-world examples from the dealership into the classroom,” he says. “And I bring aspirational academic theories into the dealership, especially regarding matters of leadership, corporate culture, and employee well-being.”

“The aspiration is not just ‘work-life balance,’ but ‘work-life integration,’” he continues. “Mindfulness in the workplace involves bringing the whole person into their work environment, where people are regarded as human beings, not just ‘human doings’ getting things done.”

Williamson jokingly refers to himself as the Williamson Cadillac-Buick-GMC’s CEO—chief emotional officer—using his background to nurture a familial corporate culture. “Caring for, and catering to, our team members isn’t part of some action plan for corporate growth,” he says. “It is simply part of my family’s personality to care about the people we work with.”

That same approach informs Williamson’s community service and advocacy. “We are all interdependent with each other, whether we realize it or not,” he says. “I think our personal growth, and our happiness, come from leaning into supportive relationships with each other. Remembering that love in all its forms is more important than fear. It follows that I would honor that interconnectedness by engaging with my community.”



Williamson is a thoughtful and compassionate voice for young LGBTQ+ people. He was recently the keynote speaker at the University’s annual Lavender Celebration, which honors students and leaders of the LGBTQ+ campus community and recognizes the accomplishments of those who graduate each spring.

He believes that events like the Lavender Celebration are important in helping shape the campus community into smaller, more approachable families. “It’s [when] everyone can feel free to be themselves. . . . [And] the more that LGBTQ students can present themselves in a comfortable and confident way, whatever their gender identity or sexual orientation may be, the more that other people will respond to them reflexively with calm, comfort, curiosity, and support.”

In talking about his approach to community advocacy and philanthropy, Williamson cites the example of his parents, Ed and Carol Williamson.

“I remember my father [who is a member of the University’s Board of Trustees] helping me understand that, when it comes to philanthropy, you’re not just giving to causes, you’re also giving to people,” he says. “We try to honor as many people in our sphere as possible by supporting what they care about. This keeps the connections close to our friends, co-workers, and customers.”



as a faculty member and as the team commander of the CA-4 DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team). Jacoby has been on more than two dozen federal disaster responses.

## 1970s

**Michael Bashwiner**, M.A. '71, writing under the pen name Mike Shaw, announced the release of two new books: a literary novel "The Musician" and an overview of global economics principles titled "Understanding Economic Equilibrium," which he co-authored with former Atlanta Federal Reserve chief economist Thomas Cunningham.

**Barbara S. Giesser**, B.S. '72, is the recipient of the distinguished 2022 American Brain Foundation/AAN Ted Burns Humanism in Neurology Award. It celebrates neurologists whose work embodies humanism in patient care, education, advocacy, and everyday encounters. Giesser is a nationally recognized advocate for MS education and awareness.

**Victoria Berlin Klinger**, B.Ed. '74, retired from the New York City Department of Education after teaching English as a Second Language for several decades. Klinger thanks the U for her degree in elementary education, which allowed her to experience a rewarding career.

**Eliseo J. Perez-Stable**, B.S. '74, M.D. '78, was recognized as a winner of a 2021 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal. This award honors outstanding federal workers whose achievements have directly benefited the health, safety, and prosperity of our country.

**Kim H. Striker**, B.A. '74, had her essay God Protects the Children published under her pen name of Kait Carson in "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Believe in Angels." The essay recounts a 1970 hitchhiking experience while at the U with a hint of divine intervention.

**Andrea D. Green**, B.M. '76, virtually composed and co-produced the music video "Under The Moon," connecting children from an orphanage in Uganda and a school for the arts in St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. This project was sponsored by the ASCAP Foundation and others.

**Andru H. Volinsky**, B.A. '76, was named Franklin Pierce University's first Civic Scholar-in-Residence. Volinsky will host a series of lectures and teach within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

**Peggy J. Elmi-Cobrin**, B.S.Ed. '79, has been successfully selling real estate in the Chicago area for the past 28 years. She also donates time to Ronald McDonald House and working with the homeless.

**David M. Hinkes**, B.A. '79, is assistant professor of practice, College of Business at Embry-Riddle. He has been married to his wife, Debra, for 40 years.

## 1980s

**Paul D. Novack**, B.B.A. '80, former mayor of the Town of Surfside, helped solve the 1960s cold kidnapping case of 17-year-old Surfside resident Danny Goldman.

**Abraham A. Embi**, M.B.A. '84, was approached by David Cohen, associate professor at Harvard Medical School and visiting scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and also known as the "Father of Biomagnetism." Cohen asked Embi to submit copies of his peer-reviewed publications about hair the follicle (root) tissue biomagnetic emissions.

**Thomas Frechette**, B.Arch. '84, is co-leader of design for the CoStar Group's new corporate campus in Richmond, Virginia. The development is expected to break ground in 2022. Frechette has more than 30 years of design experience on a wide range of projects and was recently promoted to associate at Pickard Chilton, an award-winning architecture studio.

**Christopher F. Yankana**, B.B.A. '85, was named chairperson of the City of Doral Animal Welfare Committee. He will serve a two-year term assisting the municipality with the committee's initiatives and programs.

**Frank Jimenez**, B.S. '86, has been appointed as vice president and general counsel of GE Healthcare. In this role, he will be responsible for GE Healthcare's Global Law and Policy teams.

**Laird A. Lile**, L.L.M.E. '87, a board-certified wills, trusts, and estates attorney in Naples, Florida, was selected through an extensive peer-review process for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2022 for his work involving trusts and estates. This year's honor marks the 27th consecutive year Lile has been recognized. Lile has also been elected to a ninth consecutive term on the Board of Governors for The Florida Bar.

**Kimberly R. Manna**, B.B.A. '88, was appointed senior vice president of retail and licensing by Hard Rock International. Manna will draw on more than three decades of experience in the retail industry, including work with companies such as Panama Jack, Sony Pictures Entertainment, and Warner Brothers, to drive brand exposure and customer reach through engaging partnerships and various licensing opportunities.

**Mark E. Rousso**, B.S. '88, was elected to the Board of Directors of Alpha Epsilon Pi Foundation, the charitable and education arm of the world's only Jewish college social fraternity. Rousso is a shareholder in Rousso Law, PA, located in North Miami, Florida, and the CEO of MIR Developments LLC, in Aventura, Florida. He is the immediate past chair of the Posnack Jewish Day School in Davie, Florida, and is the incoming chair of Keshet, a school for special needs Jewish children in North Miami Beach, Florida.

**Joann M. Paiva-Borduas**, B.S. '89, was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a Trusted Dentist for her outstanding achievements in the dental field and her professional excellence at White Street Smiles.

**Roy L. Weinfeld**, B.A. '89, J.D. '95, a highly regarded landlord-tenant and collections attorney for 26 years, has become certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a county mediator. Weinfeld, an AV-Rated attorney, conducts seminars regularly in areas of his expertise. Recently, he presented a seminar with two county court judges titled Evictions in a Post-COVID World, and presented to the M.A.S.T. Academy, a Miami-Dade County Public high school, for their Ethical Governance Day.

**Michael W. Weissberg**, B.A. '89, received his doctor of education and leadership degree in July of 2021. He is a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and has a 9-year-old son, Dean.

## 1990s

**Carlos J. Martinez**, J.D. '90, the first Hispanic elected public defender in the United States, has been named a Silver Medallion honoree for Miami Conference for Christians and Jews for his outstanding leadership in the Miami community. As a public defender, Martinez has had a significant impact on criminal justice and the lives of those in the community.

**Diana V. Brooks**, B.S.C. '91, rebranded the health care agency she co-founded, VS/Brooks, as The 3rd Eye.

The new brand is focusing on a more holistic approach and widening its scope to include other health and wellness categories, such as fitness and mental health.

**Timothy G. Groover**, M.D. '91, has been promoted to senior vice president and system chief medical officer of Baptist Health in Northeast Florida. In this role, Groover will lead the Baptist Health system medical staff, overseeing the full scope of physician practice across the health system.

**James D. Snyder**, B.S.C. '91, co-founded Empirical Path, a leading big data analytics consultancy within Google Analytics and Google Cloud, in 2010. It was acquired by PMG/ Momentum Commerce and merged under the company Search Discovery in January 2022.

**Keith R. Brill**, B.S. '92, M.D. '95, served as president of the Nevada State Medical Association in 2020-21 while working at his current position as chief of staff at Henderson Hospital.

**Rebecca A. Hoffman**, B.A. '92, M.S.Ed. '94, was awarded the Outstanding Service to Entrepreneurs award, as announced by The Daily Herald Newspaper, serving the Chicago area.

**Karen C. Herzog**, M.F.A. '93, co-wrote "Samland," a narrative feature film dealing with problems concerning new immigrants in the United States. The film was just released on Apple and iTunes.

**Maribel C. Wadsworth**, B.S.C. '93, a University of Miami trustee, was inducted into the Miami-Dade County Public School's Hall of Fame. Wadsworth is president of News Gannett Media and publisher of USA Today. She was Gannett's first chief strategy and transformation officer.

**Celia L. Alvarez**, B.A. '94, M.F.A. '96, M.A. '99, held a reading with Juliana Gray from her new book, "Multiverses," in November 2021 at The Betsy Hotel, sponsored by SWWIM Miami.

**David T. De Celis**, B.Arch. '94, and his firm, DCVL Design, were honored by the U.S. Department of Energy with a 2021 Housing Innovation Award for their Zero-Energy Home, in collaboration with Energy Vision Homes, Hollis, New Hampshire.

**Cleveland E. Gary**, B.B.A. '94, was selected by the University of Miami

Sports Hall of Fame as a Class of 2022 inductee. A first-round draft pick by the Los Angeles Rams (26th overall) in 1989, Gary played five years in the NFL.

**Lawrence H. Kolin**, J.D. '94, was appointed as a graduate faculty scholar by the University of Central Florida. He also serves as an emeritus member of the Executive Council of The Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section.

**Mitch J. Prinstein**, M.S. '94, Ph.D. '97, chief science officer of the American Psychological Association, testified on substance abuse disorders before the United States Senate.

**Alexander D. Sevilla**, B.B.A. '94, M.B.A. '97, was named vice provost for career advancement and engagement, Evans Family Executive Director of the Career Center at Vanderbilt University. He will oversee the direction of the Career Center while further strengthening employer and corporate relations and alumni career engagement for the university.

**Michelle Diffenderfer**, J.D. '95, was elected chair of the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. She will serve a one-year term, through August 2022.

**Horacio E. Gutierrez**, J.D. '98, was named senior executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary of The Walt Disney Company. He will serve as the chief legal officer of the company, overseeing its team of attorneys responsible for all aspects of Disney's legal affairs around the world, and acting as a strategic advisor to executive leadership and the Board of Directors. Gutierrez joined Disney from Spotify, where he served as head of global affairs and chief legal officer.

**Leticia Latino van Splunteren**, M.S. '98, M.B.A. '98, chief executive officer of Neptuno USA has been appointed by the chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission as a representative of the Telecommunications Interagency Working Group. The cross-agency working group will collaborate to identify the current and future needs of the telecommunications industry workforce, including the safety of that workforce.

**Alberto J. Cardelle**, Ph.D. '99, will start serving as president of SUNY Oneonta. He is the first Cuban American to become president of a SUNY Oneonta and had been serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts.

## 2000s

**Kathleen "Katie" S. Phang**, J.D. '00, is the host of a new weekend show on MSNBC, as well as a program for the network's streaming channel. Her show will explore topics such as race, law, politics, and culture.

**Guillermo J. Prado**, M.S. '00, Ph.D. '05, vice provost for faculty affairs, dean of the Graduate School, and professor of nursing and health studies at the University of Miami, was recognized by the prestigious National Academy of Medicine for his scholarship in prevention science and for his effective youth- and family-focused HIV and substance-use prevention interventions, which have been scaled throughout school systems and clinical settings in the United States and Latin America.

**Keith Washo**, M.M. '00, published a new book, "Good Things Come From Hard Times," and released a new song titled "Follow." Washo is the president of KDW Consulting and co-founder of Startup Summit NC.

**Nicolas A. DeGrazia**, B.F.A. '01, with Bitter Jester Studios, won an Emmy for Outstanding Directing in 2021.

**Daniel Z. Kullman**, B.S.C. '01, with Bitter Jester Studios, won an Emmy for Outstanding Photography in 2021.

**Andres J. LaBrada**, B.S.C. '01, offered a five-month series of online photography workshops on Modern Photojournalism in Miami, hosted by the Doral Branch Library.

**Kendra N. Davis Briggs**, J.D. '02, was nominated to the bench by the Biden administration. She is a nominee for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and has served an assistant United States attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia since 2010. Davis Briggs currently serves as a senior assistant United States attorney in the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section.

**Monique I. Diaz Salazarte**, B.S.A.E. '02, B.S.C.E. '02, participated in the Long Beach Container Terminal in Long Beach, which took more than 10 years to plan, design, and build, and is being hailed as one of the most technologically advanced container terminals in the world.

**Edward "Ed" Reed**, B.L.A. '02, was inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame.

**Marcial E. Robiou**, B.S.C. '02, M.S.Ed. '19, received his life insurance license in the state of Florida.

**Elizabeth P. Starr**, B.Arch. '03, was promoted to partner and managing director at Strang Design, a Florida-based architectural, interior design, and landscape design firm, respected for advancing the principles of Environmental Modernism in extraordinary locations around the world.

**Roberto Castro**, B.B.A. '04, M.B.A. '08, joined Scenic Group USA as the new senior director of marketing. His wide range of experience includes digital focus, social media, and dynamic communication, as well as more traditional channels.

**Liani G. Kotcher**, J.D. '04, a lawyer turned writer, left her corporate job to pursue her dream of becoming a writer. Those dreams came to fruition with her debut of "Ski Weekend," a thriller novel.

**Nicholas F. Scown**, M.F.A. '04, directed the film "Too Soon: Comedy After 9/11," which Vice TV debuted in September 2021. The film explores how stand-up comedians, Broadway performers, late-night hosts and "Saturday Night Live" cast members helped audiences laugh even in the darkest of days.

**Rachel Valentino**, B.B.A. '04, a respected leader in the Washington, D.C., real estate scene, has been recently featured in the podcast "Taking Up Space." Valentino has been noted for her extensive work in real estate, including being featured on the cover of Realtor Magazine.

**Thomas J. Aronica**, B.S. '05, is the founder and CEO of Miami-based fintech startup Biller Genie, which recently announced it completed a seed round of \$3.5 million. Biller Genie helps businesses experience a shorter invoice-to-cash cycle, a 40 percent reduction in overdue invoices, and a reduction in administrative busywork that is still performed manually by 90 percent of businesses worldwide.

**Michael A. Cohn**, B.B.A. '05, started as the vice president of finance at Harpers 1980, a company that produces hurricane protection and screen enclosures in Southwest Florida.

**Thatcher A. Rahmeier**, B.S.E.E. '05, was promoted to partner at Faegre Drinker. He will now be overseeing intellectual property cases at their Wilmington, Delaware, firm.

**Catherine A. Whitlock**, B.A. '05, is associate vice president of Online Communications at the Parkinson's Foundation, specializing in the creation of high-impact, multimedia communication programs with a focus on website user experience, social media engagement, and digital advertising. She has

# Class Notes

## 1960s

**David P. Burkart**, B.A. '62, retired after 45-plus years as a design consultant to real estate developers and resorts but continues his work as a heraldic artist, fulfilling commissions from an international clientele. His work can be viewed at davidpburkart.com.

**John H. Zimmerman**, B.B.A. '68, currently serves as a volunteer law enforcement chaplain for the Lake County Florida Sheriff's Office.

**Robert G. Ferranti**, B.B.A. '69, and **Barbara E. Ferranti**, B.Ed. '70, M.Ed. '72, celebrated 50 years of marriage, after meeting at the University in 1969. Their love story was featured on NBC Miami on Valentine's Day.

**Irving Jacoby**, B.S. '69, member of Iron Arrow Honor Society and retired ER physician, has continued to work part time at University of California



worked extensively across nonprofit, corporate, and higher education sectors.

**Catherine A. Rand**, D.M.A. '07, was promoted to professor of music at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM). Her recent highlights include the USM Wind Ensemble being invited to perform at both a regional and the national College Band Directors National Association conferences.

**Vanessa L. Alonso**, B.S.C. '08, returned to Florida after 12 years and accepted an on-air bilingual meteorologist position at WUFT-TV in Gainesville, Florida, where she will be doing Public TV weather forecasts in both English and Spanish for all of the PBS channels across the state of Florida. She also will do public radio through the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network. Alonso will also be teaching broadcast meteorology classes to students at the University of Florida.

**Lauren Book**, B.S.Ed. '08, M.S.Ed. '12, won the Suncoast Regional Emmy Award for Best Informational/Instructional Video for the work of her foundation, Lauren's Kids, which educates adults and children about sexual assault prevention. She has served as a Florida senator since 2016.

**Elise F. Burns**, B.S.C. '08, debuted a young adult fiction novel, "The Last Text You Sent," published in December 2021. It is a fast-paced story about a teen who finds texts on her dead brother's phone. She joins forces with an unlikely match to find the mysterious texter, falling in love along the way.

**Ryan P. Duffy**, B.A. '08, is the owner of the company Knowable, now acquired by Medium. Knowable is an audio learning app of podcast-style lessons on entrepreneurship, professional success, and self-improvement. Founded by Twitter co-founder Ev Williams, Medium is the world's top online publishing platform used by more than 100 million people monthly. Duffy will be working on building audio tools for the Medium suite of apps, while continuing to build Knowable as a stand-alone app under the Medium umbrella.

**Andrew G. Haehn**, B.Arch. '09, started Materials Market, an online marketplace for construction materials, which secured 1.5 million British pounds, more than \$2 million, in funding through VC fund Fuel Ventures. Materials Market is headquartered in London, with plans to enter the U.S. by 2023.

**Jack P. McClinton**, B.L.A. '09, was selected by the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame as a Class of 2022 inductee.

**Chaundi S. Randolph**, L.L.M.P. '09, has joined the law firm Nixon Peabody LLP from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Randolph joins the firm's Washington, D.C., office as counsel.

## 2010s

**Mary E. Gibbs**, D.M.A. '10, was selected to receive a Fulbright Senior Teaching Award to Spain for spring of 2022. She will be teaching in the Basque Country, at Musikene in San Sebastián, and also working with choirs and conductors in Barcelona through the Catalanian Choral Federation.

**Joseph A. Held**, B.S.C. '10, wrote "Kind, But Kind of Weird: Short Stories on Life's Relationships," which is a collection about all of the people we encounter in our lives. Held's stories shine a light on the quirky, the eccentric, and all-too-realistic landscape that colors relationships.

**Rochelle Y. Lewis**, B.A. '10, M.P.A. '11, was featured as one of Legacy Miami's 40 Under 40 Black Leaders of Today and Tomorrow.

**Omar Paredes**, M.B.A. '10, has been appointed associate director of industry engagement at SoundExchange, a premier music-tech organization. With more than 15 years of experience in the music industry, Paredes will lead the development, initiation, and execution of programs and franchises that enhance SoundExchange's position in the entertainment and music tech space.

**Andrew T. Coley**, M.A. '11, has been appointed as the chief executive officer of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association. He held leadership and advocacy roles in the nursery and landscape industry and in legislative outreach capacities for fellow veterans at Concerned Veterans of America. He also served for four years in the United States Air Force as a Russian cryptologic linguist.

**Benjamin R. Kweller**, M.Arch. '11, joined Bialosky Cleveland as an architectural designer and brings valuable experience in space planning, urban design, and sustainable design. His notable projects include Fairfax Market Mixed-Use and Library Lofts. He also volunteers for the ACE Mentorship program, which exposes high school students to the fields of architecture, construction, and engineering.

**Lisandra Ortiz**, B.B.A. '11, was elected to Member at law firm Miller

& Chevalier. Ortiz concentrates her practice on federal tax controversy matters, both in litigation and before the Internal Revenue Service in examinations and appeals. She is a principal advisor on the resolution of cross-border taxation disputes, including through the competent authority process and the negotiation of advance pricing agreements.

**Brittany A. Viola Gonzalez**, B.S.C. '11, was selected by the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame as a Class of 2022 inductee. She is a two-time national champion in diving.

**Lane M. Carico**, B.S.Ed. '12, was selected by the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame as a Class of 2022 inductee. A volleyball player, Carico was named an honorable mention All-American twice, All-ACC four times and All-East Region First Team four times.

**Collin M. Crecco**, B.A.M.A. '12, M.S. '13, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP as an associate in the litigation department. Crecco represents business in a broad range of commercial matters, particularly in the environmental, energy, construction, and manufacturing sectors.

**Shenise Johnson**, B.L.A. '12, was selected by the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame as a Class of 2022 inductee. Johnson flourished under the direction of basketball head coach Katie Meier, and she currently works as an assistant coach for Meier at the U.

**James "Jimmy" W. Johnson**, Hon. '13, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

**Nathaniel "Nate" G. Foy**, B.S.C. '14, has joined Fox News Channel as a New York-based correspondent. He has served as a sports and news anchor at ABC and NBC, covering topics from Super Bowl LII and LIV to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Suzanne Lippman**, B.S. '14, M.D. '18 married her 'Cane sweetheart, **Benjamin Silver**, B.S. '14, M.D. '18.

**Jaydev S. Hemrajani**, B.B.A. '15, B.S.C. '15, produced the short film, "Cariño," which was selected to premiere at the Miami Film Festival. The city of Miami's culture is on full display in the film.

**Russell Wilde**, B.S.Ed. '15 and **Adam White**, B.S.Ed. '17, began working on their company, Front Office Sports, in their dorm room while attending the University of Miami. In February, the firm—a media company that covers the business of sports—

received a major investment from Crain Communications. Front Office Sports now has 40 employees and is valued at \$25 million.

**Beverly J. Harrington**, M.A.L.S. '16, was named to the board of directors of the Young Marines, a national youth organization. Harrington is the director of development at the Medical University of South Carolina. She provides leadership for principal and major gifts to the College of Medicine with special strategic focus on endowments and scholarships. She also assists with planning to increase private philanthropic support for selected clinical projects and regional partnerships.

**Rodolfo Tucunduva Assad**, B.B.A. '16, started Castor Investments LLC, a real estate investment company focused on vacation rentals, two years after graduation and while working at Deloitte & Touche. He has just left his position at Deloitte & Touche to work full time on his company.

**Asmaa H. Odeh**, B.S. '18, authored a grant for Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council that was awarded a 2021 Regional Food System Partnerships grant program to use trademarked branding in showcasing the region's food producers. The grant was awarded by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

**Maria Lamuño**, B.B.A. '19 and **Fernanda Lamuño Cabanas**, B.B.A. '19, are the founders of Wall Street Notes, an education startup that helps students prepare for a globally recognized financial certification. Wall Street Notes has launched its online platform.

**Alex Paez**, M.S.F. '19, has joined the Nirvana Project, a nonprofit organization in South Florida that aims to promote a healthy and active lifestyle for individuals with physical disabilities. He ran the 2022 Miami Marathon alongside Alberto Carillo, a psychologist and coach who lost his sight more than 13 years ago and is a big advocate of the inclusion of athletes with disabilities.

## 2020s

**John Y. Doty**, J.D. '21, joins Bryant Miller Olive P.A.'s Miami office as an associate attorney, focusing on labor and employment law. He focuses his practice on various areas of labor and employment, including employment litigation, preventative counseling, and labor disputes. ■

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

# In Memoriam

## 1940s

Joyce R. Craig, B.A. '44  
Helen P. Kichefski, B.B.A. '42  
Evelyn Delk, B.M. '44  
Rashi S. Reisch, B.S. '44  
Leonard H. Wolf, B.B.A. '47, J.D. '49  
Gladys E. Farbish, B.A. '48  
Jean R. Hopler, B.A. '49  
Robert M. McNeel, B.S. '49  
Marilyn E. Sager, B.B.A. '49, M.B.A. '76

## 1950s

Richard W. Rowe, B.B.A. '50  
Ronald R. Friedel, B.B.A. '51  
Meline A. Markarian, B.M. '51  
Clark D. Metzger, B.B.A. '51  
Helen R. Somerstein, B.A. '51  
Joan H. Arthur, B.Ed. '52  
Robert M. Caudill, B.B.A. '52  
Morton R. Goudiss, B.B.A. '52, J.D. '54  
William A. Ingraham, B.B.A. '52, J.D. '54  
Marilyn P. Janner, B.B.A. '52  
Eleanor L. Levine, B.Ed. '52, M.Ed. '69  
Walter J. Samul, B.B.A. '52  
Lawrence E. Staton, B.B.A. '52  
Sanford L. Greenberg, B.B.A. '53  
John M. Munroe, B.M. '53, M.M. '58, Ph.D. '70  
Ash Rothlein, B.S.C.E. '53  
Arlene D. Cary, B.A. '54  
Kenneth Chaitman, B.B.A. '54  
Ralph S. Magnus, B.Ed. '54  
Leslie A. Maltby, B.B.A. '54  
Thomas E. Thornton, M.S. '54  
Jose M. Daes, B.S.C.E. '55  
Dennis A. Gitlin, B.B.A. '55  
George W. Kantor, B.B.A. '55  
Martin D. Levin, B.Ed. '56, M.Ed. '62  
Morton D. Mazer, B.B.A. '56  
Lawrence M. Winebrenner, B.A. '56  
Thomas D. Wood, B.B.A. '56, J.D. '56  
Robert J. Sindelir, B.A. '57  
Robert C. Wheeler, B.B.A. '57  
Anne J. Goetz, B.S.N. '58  
Richard C. Sanders, B.S.E.E. '58  
John B. Fassett, J.D. '59  
Marcia J. Koven, B.Ed. '59  
Constance B. Matz, B.B.A. '59  
Oliver C. Rushing, B.B.A. '59

Kenneth J. Smith, B.A. '59  
Clara L. Vandehei, B.Ed. '59, M.Ed. '67

## 1960s

Floyd A. Durham, B.S. '60  
Robert G. Faircloth, J.D. '60  
Roberta A. Sands, B.Ed. '60  
Manning T. Adderton, B.Ed. '61  
John A. Alexander, B.M. '61, M.M. '66  
Frances H. Arnold, M.Ed. '61  
Sally A. Davis Factor, B.Ed. '61  
Harvey G. Friedman, B.A. '61, J.D. '65  
Robert G. Halloran, B.A. '61  
David P. Karcher, J.D. '61  
Robert M. Miller, B.A. '61  
Thomasine Morris, B.Ed. '61  
Eugene F. Towers, B.B.A. '61  
Charles J. Hirsch, M.D. '62  
Richard S. Hoberman, B.B.A. '62  
Jay L. Kovler, B.B.A. '62  
Michael H. Stokes, B.A. '62  
Norman D. Tripp, B.A. '62  
Sumner B. Cohen, B.B.A. '64  
William P. Cuthbertson, B.S. '64  
Joseph Kurstin, M.D. '64  
Michael Pantya, M.B.A. '64  
Ellen L. Davis, B.Ed. '65  
Jerold S. Greenfield, B.S. '65  
Mario P. Goderich, J.D. '66  
Steven A. Issenberg, M.D. '66  
Patricia A. Morris, B.Ed. '66  
Linda M. Rigot, B.A. '66, J.D. '69  
Ellen B. Davis, M.A. '67  
Helen Fagin, B.A. '67, M.A. '68  
Stephen A. Kandell, B.A. '67, J.D. '70  
Eugene B. Szemere, B.B.A. '67  
Isadore R. Unger, M.D. '67  
Phillip R. Clark, B.B.A. '68, Stephen H. Cypen, J.D. '68  
Carol E. Fuller, M.A. '68  
Francis J. Lo Pinto, B.Ed. '68  
Marie B. Regan, M.Ed. '68  
Susan G. Rosenblatt, B.B.A. '68, J.D. '72, LL.M. '78, Sylvia Ulrich, B.A. '68  
Edwin F. Guth, B.B.A. '69  
Ronald M. Krongold, J.D. '69, B.B.A. '66  
Andrew J. Natale, J.D. '69

## 1970s

William S. Callicoat, B.Ed. '70  
Gerald J. Derbish, M.Ed. '70

Daniel J. Genac, B.B.A. '70  
James E. Perry, B.B.A. '70  
Kenneth M. Towcimak, M.B.A. '70, J.D. '73  
Kenneth J. Trapasso, B.B.A. '70  
Sharon R. Marcus, B.Ed. '71  
James A. Strohmeier, M.D. '71  
Lawrence N. Freshman, J.D. '72  
Carol B. Shapiro, B.Ed. '72  
Ronnie P. Singer, B.A. '72  
Lewis A. Smith, M.D. '72  
Alyson M. Daar, B.Ed. '73  
James Folkens, B.B.A. '73  
Carlos E. Stincer, M.D. '73  
Allen S. Mason, Ph.D. '74  
Michael A. Shapiro, J.D. '74, LL.M.E. '85  
Eileen Trautman, J.D. '74  
Benedict S. Balser, Ed.S. '77

Amada R. Kavulich, B.B.A. '79  
**1980s**  
Jo Ann S. Atwood, M.M. '80, M.B.A. '82  
Frank J. Demandt, B.Arch. '80  
Bijan Vojdani, B.S.C.E. '81  
Ralph W. Symons, J.D. '82  
Martin L. Hannan, J.D. '84  
Lee B. Pravder, B.S.E.E. '85, M.D. '89  
Hugo R. Rosen, B.A. '85, M.D. '89  
Lori E. Schrier, J.D. '87  
Mary T. Raymond, J.D. '88  
Chesterfield Smith, J.D. '88

## 1990s

Joseph J. Deluliis, M.B.A. '90  
Constance Downey, M.S.Ed. '98

Steve R. Rothlein, M.P.A. '98

## 2000s

William R. Butler, Hon. '02  
Monica R. Roisman, J.D. '02  
Wendy A. Olson, B.B.A. '03

## 2010s

Paul Farmer, D.S.C. '10  
Juan Carlos C. Escotet Alvarez, B.A. '14  
Catarina A. Castruccio-Prince, M.P.H. '17  
Brianna Kupfer, B.S.C '19 ■

Names recorded as of Mar. 23, 2022. We research each name, but errors can occur. Please email any corrections or clarifications to alumni@miami.edu or call 305-284-2872.



### Jonathan West

Jonathan West, whose career spanned four decades at the University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences, died on Jan. 2. He is remembered as having a profound impact “on the University, the community, and the study of public administration” during his career at the University, which began in January 1981, according to Dean Leonidas Bachas. West, who received advanced degrees at Northwestern University, was a member of the Iron Arrow Honor Society, a recipient of the Luis Glaser Mentorship Award in 2021, and a recipient of the lifetime achievement award from the American Society for Public Administration’s Section on Ethics.



### Helen N. Fagin

A Holocaust survivor and beloved educator at the University of Miami, Helen N. Fagin, B.A. '66, M.A. '68, made it her mission for the world to remember the millions of victims of the Holocaust. She was 104 when she died in Sarasota, Florida, in March. Fagin, who joined the English department faculty in 1971, soon after was

named named Freshman Teacher of the Year and later received the Panhellenic Council Best Professor award. She then became program director of Judaic Studies and helped establish a number of remembrance sites for Holocaust victims, including the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach; the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida; and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She also served on the committee that established the World War II Memorial in the nation’s capital.



### Dr. Bernard “Bernie” Fogel

Dr. Bernard “Bernie” Fogel, who served as dean of the Miller School of Medicine from 1981 to 1995 and advised and mentored hundreds of colleagues and students during his tenure, died on March 30. He was 85. A pediatrician and native of Bronx, New York, he helped raise the national profile of the Miller School for research, particularly in the areas of AIDS, diabetes, and cancer. During Fogel’s tenure as dean, the school launched The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, the Center for Adult Development and Aging, the Comprehensive AIDS Program, and the Ear Institute. The school also built the Papanicolaou annex, the Gautier Building, the Winn-Dixie Hope Lodge, and the Schoninger Research Quadrangle during his time.

# Alumni Leadership

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Darren S. Dupriest, B.B.A. '91 Vice President



Bill J. Fisse, B.B.A. '75, M.B.A. '77 Vice President



Allison Gillespie, B.A.M. '91, M.S.Ed. '95, M.S. '03 Vice President



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Leaders listed on this page served in the 2021-22 term.

## 'Canes Communities

**Atlanta** Jeremy A. Ladson, B.S.C. '11, atlantacanes@miami.edu  
**Boston** TBA, bostoncanes@miami.edu  
**Broward County** Matthew N. Beekhuizen, B.B.A. '91, browardcountycanes@miami.edu  
**Charlotte** Jason C. Wilson, B.S.C.E. '98, charlottcane@miami.edu  
**Chicago** Vickie M. Horn, B.S. '82, chicagocanes@miami.edu  
**Colombia** Carlos Largacha-Martinez, M.A. '02, Ph.D. '07, colombiacanes@miami.edu  
**Dallas-Fort Worth** Dylan M. Brooks, B.S.C. '10, dallascanes@miami.edu  
**Detroit** Justin A. Berg, B.S.M.E. '10, detroitcane@miami.edu  
**Houston** Hashim Abdullah, M.B.A. '17, houstoncane@miami.edu  
**Indianapolis** Sofia S. Gonzales, B.B.A. '02, indianapoliscanes@miami.edu  
**Kuwait** Reyadh A. Al-Rabeah, B.S.I.E. '87, kuwaitcane@miami.edu  
**Los Angeles** Dawn M. Minkow, B.S.C. '12, losangelescane@miami.edu  
**Louisville** C. Dean Furman, Jr., B.A. '90, louisvillecane@miami.edu  
**Mexico** Fernando G. Valenzuela, M.B.A. '96, mexicocane@miami.edu  
**Miami** Carlos E. Lowell, B.S.M.E. '94, miamicane@miami.edu  
**New Jersey** Lindsay E. Glassman, B.S. '05, newjerseycane@miami.edu  
**New York** Jerry D. Goldstein, B.B.A. '89, newyorkcane@miami.edu  
**Orlando** Deborah L. Moskowitz, B.S.C. '94, orlandocane@miami.edu  
**Palm Beach County** Connie V. Lackey, B.C.S. '91, palmbeachcountycane@miami.edu  
**Philadelphia** Stephen C. Bernstein, B.A. '13, philadelphiacane@miami.edu  
**San Francisco** Fawn H. Perazzo, B.S. '98, sanfranciscocane@miami.edu  
**Sarasota** sarasotacane@miami.edu  
**Saudi Arabia** Taghreed Alsaraj, B.F.A. '99, M.S.Ed. '01, saudicane@miami.edu  
**Spain** Jaime J. Escalante, B.B.A. '93, M.B.A. '11, canesspain@gmail.com

**Tallahassee** Robin Dunlap, tallahassee@miami.edu  
**Tampa** Eric W. Savage, M.S. '08, M.B.A. '17, tampacane@miami.edu  
**United Kingdom** President Abdullah Jasem Fathi, B.A. '13, B.B.A. '13 unitedkingdomcane@miami.edu  
**Washington, D.C.** Benjamin D. Loewy, B.A. '01, washingtondecane@miami.edu

### Special Interest Groups

**Band of the Hour**  
Robert S. Mann, B.A. '87, M.B.A. '89, President  
Doug Thurber, B.S.E.E. '90, President-Elect

**Black Alumni Society**  
Patricia S. Morgan, B.S. '06, President  
Astin J. Hayes, B.S.C. '06, President-Elect

**LGBTQ Alumni Association**  
Roberto J. Bosch, B.S.M.S. '07, President  
Aaron M. Esman, B.B.A. '11, B.S.C. '11, President-Elect

**UM Sports Hall of Fame**  
Richard M. Horton, B.S.M.E. '66, President  
Mead M. McCabe, M.B.A. '91, President-Elect

### School and College Groups

**College of Engineering**  
Santiago J. Rodriguez, B.S.A.E. '13, B.S.C.E. '13, M.S.C.E. '16, President

**Miller School of Medicine**  
Alex J. Mechaber, B.S. '90, M.D. '94, President  
Pilar Gutierrez, B.S. '84, M.D. '90, President-Elect

**School of Law**  
Julie Kane, B.A. '90, J.D. '93, President  
Dan S. Newman, J.D. '91, President-Elect

**School of Nursing and Health Studies**  
Beverly M. Fray, B.S.N. '03, M.S.N. '06, President



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With more than 40 'Canes Communities and special interest and affinity groups across the globe, the 'Canes spirit has never been stronger. The University of Miami offers many ways to stay connected—from free online courses and lectures to virtual events, 'Canes digital swag, and special discounts just for alumni.

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# Big Picture

A snapshot of the U today



## STAY TUNED

The Knight Center for Music Innovation—which will include an elegant, 200-seat performance hall with superior acoustics, practice rooms, a recording studio, and an outdoor LED “window cast” projection system—is on track to open in spring of 2023.



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