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points of hurricane pride 2017
From groundbreaking research and new state-of-the-art academic facilities to exceptional students, scholars, and outstanding athletic achievements, the University of Miami bursts with Hurricane pride.
The University of Miami ranks No. 15 on the 2017 Forbes list of America’s Best Employers—the highest-ranked University in the nation and the highest-ranked organization in Florida. This is the first time UM has been included on the list, which is based on independent surveys of employees.

For the 14th consecutive year and the 16th time, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is ranked as the nation’s best in ophthalmology in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Hospitals edition. Ophthalmology Times ranks Bascom Palmer Eye Institute the No. 1 Overall Ophthalmology Program, the Best in Clinical Care, and the Best Residency Program in the United States.

The Campus Pride Index ranks UM a 4-star university, making it one of just 17 universities in the South with a 4-star or higher rating. The Campus Pride Index evaluates the openness of LGBTQ culture by “rating” factors including LGBTQ support and institutional inclusion, student life, housing and residential life, counseling, and health and campus safety.

The Hollywood Reporter names the Frost School of Music to its 2017 list of the Top 25 Music Schools for Film and TV.

Miami Law, working in harmony with the Frost School of Music, makes Billboard Magazine’s list of the Leading Music Law Schools of 2017. The magazine also names the Frost School to its list of the 15 Best Music Business Schools in 2017.

College Choice, a leading authority in college and university rankings and resources, publishes its 2017 ranking for the Best Colleges in Florida, with the University of Miami topping the list.

The University of Miami Business School’s Marketing Department is ranked No. 7 in the world in academic productivity by the University of Texas at Dallas. The ranking is based on the number of articles published per faculty member in top marketing journals over the last three years.
Building a Better U

The School of Nursing and Health Studies dedicates its new Simulation Hospital. With features such as a labor and delivery suite, neonatal intensive care unit, emergency services wing, and a critical care area, the facility replicates real-life outpatient clinic, hospital, and home environments.

The University dedicates its new College of Engineering-Johnson & Johnson 3D Printing Center of Excellence Collaborative Laboratory, giving faculty and students access to 3D printing technology to make objects limited only by imagination.

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, part of UHealth—the University of Miami Health System, opens the Samuel & Ethel Balkan International Pediatric Glaucoma Center, the world’s first integrated services center dedicated to helping infants and children with glaucoma.

Building on its mission to cultivate inclusive health care, University of Miami Hospital opens a new and innovative clinic—the LGBTQ Center for Wellness, Gender and Sexual Health—to meet the comprehensive health and surgical needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community.
With the prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease expected to triple by 2050, the Miller School of Medicine and other collaborators are awarded up to $30.2 million to conduct the Alzheimer’s Disease Sequencing Project Follow-Up Study and investigate protective variants for the disease in the Amish population.

A major Lancet Commission study—headed by Felicia Marie Knaul, professor of public health sciences at the Miller School of Medicine and director of the Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas, and co-authored by UM President Julio Frenk—finds that tens of millions of people who die in severe physical and psychological pain each year could have an easier death if an essential package of palliative care, which includes immediate-release, oral, and injectable morphine, were made available by health systems around the world.

Researchers who make up the Zika Global Network at the Miller School of Medicine and the University of Miami Health System are awarded more than $13 million in grants by the Florida Department of Health’s Zika Research Grant Initiative to increase the understanding of the health effects of the mosquito-borne virus and develop vaccines, diagnostic tests, and therapeutics to combat it.

Professors and students from the School of Communication join forces with digital media organizations, universities, and civil rights groups from across the nation to document the increase of hate speech on social media following the 2016 presidential election.

The University of Miami releases its latest special report, showcasing the research and study by faculty, students, staff, and alumni in the Caribbean Basin. The Cuba and the Caribbean Special Report features more than 75 articles and dozens of videos on areas of focus that include the environment, health care, business, cultural diversity, and arts and literature.
The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative awards UM researchers five grants totaling more than $14 million to continue researching the environmental effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

In a groundbreaking study, researchers with the Miller School of Medicine and Flinders University in Australia identify the first biological fluid-based biomarker for the progression of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

In a new study, Rosenstiel School researchers Brian Soden and Eui-Seok Chung find that aerosol particles released into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels are a primary driver of Earth’s changing rainfall patterns, including the severe drought in Africa and South America.

University of Miami and Florida International University investigators are awarded a $6.8 million National Institutes of Health grant to establish the Center for Latino Health Research Opportunities to research interventions for Latinos facing the greatest health risks from substance abuse, trauma/violence, and HIV/AIDS.

Creating the first comprehensive university-based program of its kind, the National Jewish Theater Foundation’s pioneering Holocaust Theater International Initiative becomes part of UM’s Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies.

The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis publishes the findings of its first FDA-approved Phase I clinical trial involving the use of human nerve cells to repair a damaged spinal cord. The trial, performed at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital, is the first in a series designed to evaluate the safety and feasibility of transplanting autologous human Schwann cells to treat individuals with spinal cord injuries.
The University welcomes new leadership in 2017:

Cindy Munro, an accomplished health care researcher and leader in the field of nursing who served as associate dean of research and innovation at the University of South Florida College of Nursing, is named dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

John Quelch, the Charles Edward Wilson Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, is appointed dean of the University of Miami Business School and vice provost for executive education.

Ryan C. Holmes, an accomplished educator and leader in identifying and managing the complex trends in student campus life and higher education who served as the assistant vice president for student support at the University of Texas El Paso, is named associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

Jeffrey L. Duerk, an accomplished engineer, scientist, inventor, and leading expert in biomedical imaging who served as dean of the School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, is named executive vice president and provost, a position that serves as the University’s chief academic officer.

Jacqueline A. Travisano, a highly distinguished business and financial expert in higher education at Nova Southeastern University, is named executive vice president for business and finance and chief operating officer.

Edward Abraham, who joined UM as dean of the Miller School of Medicine, is named executive vice president for health affairs and CEO of UHealth.

M. Lourdes Dieck-Assad, a world-renowned economist who served as Mexico’s ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and as chief of the Mexican Mission to the European Union, is named the University’s vice president for hemispheric and global affairs.
President Barack Obama honors Nurcin Celik, associate professor of industrial engineering in the College of Engineering, with a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.

Felicia Marie Knaul, director of the University of Miami Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas and professor of public health sciences at the Miller School of Medicine, becomes the first economist admitted into the prestigious Mexican National Academy of Medicine.

Mathematics Professor Ludmil Katzarkov is awarded the Simons Investigator Award, one of the most prestigious in mathematics, for his novel ideas and techniques in geometry.

Luciana C. de Oliveira, professor and chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning in the School of Education and Human Development, is installed as president-elect of the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages International Association.

Director of Athletics Blake James is named one of the winners of the 2016-17 Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year Award.
Citing its high number of bike registrations and involvement in the charity event known as the **Dolphins Cancer Challenge**, the **League of American Bicyclists** designates **UM a Bicycle Friendly University**.

The **University of Miami** earns a **STARS silver rating** in recognition of its **sustainability achievements** from the **Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education**.

The **American Society of Civil Engineers Miami-Dade Branch** names the **College of Engineering’s Innovation Bridge**, the first concrete bridge on the UM campus reinforced with composite materials instead of steel, its **2016-2017 Project of the Year** in Category I.

The **Patricia Louise Frost Music Studios** receive **LEED Platinum Certification**, making them the first buildings in Coral Gables to earn the highest level of green-building certification.

The **School of Architecture** and the **Center for Computational Science** host the inaugural **Smart Cities Miami Conference**, bringing together industry visionaries, technology experts, government planners, and the public to focus on the “disruptive power” that the mobilization of new technology will have in our cities and on our lives.
Hurricanes head football coach Mark Richt picks up two major awards, winning the 2017 Atlantic Coast Conference and Walter Camp 2017 Coach of the Year awards.

**Athletic Achievements**

Highlighted by victories over Florida State and Notre Dame, an ACC Coastal Division title, and a Capital One Orange Bowl berth, the Hurricanes football team posts a 10-3 season.

Shakima Wimbley sprints her way into the record books at the 2017 ACC Outdoor Track and Field Championships, becoming the first athlete in conference history to win eight 200-meter titles.

Diver David Dinsmore wins the national championship in the men’s 10-meter platform at the 2017 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships at the Indiana University Natatorium.

Tennis player Estela Perez-Somarriba makes University of Miami history as the first freshman to reach the NCAA Singles Championship semifinals.

Briadam Herrera and Randy Ableman receive top ACC honors as diver and coach of the year, respectively.

Olga Strantzali, a triple major in economics, finance, and marketing who led the volleyball team to a 22-6 record and a berth in the NCAA tournament, is named the 2017 ACC Volleyball Scholar-Athlete of the Year.
The University of Miami is designated a **Voter-Friendly Campus** by national nonpartisan organizations Campus Vote Project and NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. UM, one of 83 schools nationwide and one of just six in Florida to earn the distinction, is recognized for achievements such as Get Out the Vote’s registration of 2,500 students, faculty, and staff during the election cycle; the collection of 1,200 student-written pledges to vote; and an 82 percent voter turnout at the campus polling site, the Watsco Center.

**Ibis Yearbook** and **UM's Distraction Magazine** receive **Pacemaker awards**, the Associated Collegiate Press Association’s top award often referred to as the “Pulitzer of collegiate/scholastic journalism.”

Wide receiver **Braxton Berrios** is named the recipient of the 2017 **Jim Tatum Award**, given annually in memory of the late two-time ACC Coach of the Year to the top senior student-athlete (in athletic eligibility) among the league’s football players.

**Superlative Students**

- **30,625 Applications** received
- **2,185 Freshmen** enrolled
- **29 Mean ACT score**

More than 150 University of Miami student-athletes are named to the 2016-17 **Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Honor Roll**.

**10 University of Miami teams** are recognized for **perfect 2015-16 scores** of 1,000 on the latest Academic Progress Report released by the NCAA. Men’s cross country, track and field, and tennis, and women’s basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball were honored for excellence in the classroom.

**Twenty-one law students** from Professor Carrie Bettinger-López’s International Human Rights Law and Advocacy class team with South Florida anti-poverty organizations to produce six reports for the United Nations special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.
Fabulous Freshmen

- 55% speak more than one language
- 80% completed community service projects in high school
- 37% captained high school athletic teams

2017 entering freshman class

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