Bringing Black History to the Forefront at UM

First Black Graduates Project to honor students who broke the color barrier

Even after a long day’s work, Denise Mincey-Mills, B.B.A. ’79, would often spend countless hours at home sifting through the pages of old University of Miami Ibis yearbooks, looking at the faces and jotting down the names of students.

Sometimes, the repetitive motion of writing so many names would cause her hand to go numb. But she didn’t mind. There was a story that needed to be told—one of the trailblazing black students who helped break the color barrier at UM.

Now, through a new UM Black Alumni Society initiative chaired by Mincey-Mills, that story has a voice.

The First Black Graduates Project will honor black students who graduated from UM during the 1960s and ’70s. Plans include a library exhibition featuring documents, photographs, and other archival materials, and a weekend celebration, kicking off next February 24, 2017.

Med Alumni Spotlight: Amar R. Deshpande, M.D. ’02

As a quintuple ‘Cane, Deshpande completed his undergraduate degree, medical school, residency, and fellowship at UM and is now a member of the faculty. As Assistant Dean for Medical Education and Competency Assessment, he believes in providing students with a smoother transition between medical school to residency.

Deshpande says his UM education has prepared him for his career: “UM provided a tremendous foundation for my current career in patient care, education, scholarly work, and commitment to service to our community. Moreover, I marvel at the incredible positions and accomplishments nationwide of my classmates and contemporaries that are certainly ground in large part in the preparation we received in medical school.”

Read more in the Miami Magazine  |  Give Now to the First Black Graduates Endowed Scholarship
UM STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH ORLANDO AND LGBTQ COMMUNITY
On behalf of the entire University of Miami community, President Julio Frenk released this message following the Orlando mass shooting. Read President Frenk's message.

SHOWCASING ALUMNI OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESSES
The UM Alumni Association is proud to showcase the 'Cane economic footprint across Florida and the U.S. in our interactive map of businesses owned and operated by UM alumni. Browse the map at miami.edu/alumnibusinesses and follow #CaneBiz. If you own or operate a business, add your business to the map.

'Cane Biz: The Dog From Ipanema
Pet lovers, did you know The Dog From Ipanema is a #CaneBiz in South Miami founded by Jarbas Gody, A.B. '91? Find everything for your pooch from food, treats and toys to grooming services. Alumni receive a 25% discount on first visit. See business listing.

'Cane Biz: Hirni's Wayside Garden Florist
Miami, surprise someone with a beautiful flower arrangement for that special occasion... or just because. Himi's Wayside Garden Florist is a #CaneBiz owned by Ted Lee Tate, B.B.A. '74, M.P.A. '98, and wife Janice Tate. Check out their shop today! See business listing.

Browse more featured businesses.

INAUGURAL UONLINE STUDENTS CELEBRATE GRADUATION IN MIAMI
When the first class of UOnline students began their respective graduate programs – in Finance, Accounting, and Sport...
Administration – in January 2015, graduation day may have seemed like the light at the end of a long, grueling tunnel. Four semesters later, 32 UOnline students from across the country received their graduate diplomas alongside hundreds of their campus-based peers. While some students have additional credits to complete during the summer term, they were overjoyed to participate in the formal ceremonies ahead of their official graduation this summer. | Read more
Learn more about UOnline programs.

For more alumni news and upcoming events in your area, visit www.miami.edu/alumni.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Rony A. Abovitz, B.S.M.E. ’94, M.S.B.E. ’98, CEO of the South Florida-based Magic Leap, announced a strategic partnership with Lucasfilm’s ILMxLAB to produce Star Wars content and build a joint research lab in San Francisco.

Carlos I. Cardelle, A.B. ’95, J.D. ’98, was elected President-Elect of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) – South Florida Chapter.


Dorian S. Denburg, J.D. ’82, Executive Director - Senior Legal Counsel with AT&T in Atlanta, was awarded Diversity Champion by the Atlanta Business Chronicle and Association of Corporate Counsel-Georgia Chapter.

Hon. Jose “Pepe” Felix Diaz, A.B. ’02, Florida State Representative was honored with the 2016 Volunteer Award for Public Service Leadership by the United Way of Miami-Dade.

Marilyn C. Durant, B.E.D. ’77, was recognized by the Human Resources Association of Palm Beach County, an affiliate chapter of the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM), with its second only awarded, "HR Lifetime Achievement Award" after serving over 25 years throughout Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

Michael J. Higer, J.D. ’85, Berger Singerman’s Michael Higer, has been installed as President-Elect of The Florida Bar. Higer, who will begin his term as president in June 2017.

Michael Howard, PH.D. ’98, is now Vice President for Education and Research at Baptist Health in his hometown of Madisonville, Kentucky, after serving as faculty at the University of Missouri in St. Louis.

Christopher K. Kitterman, B.S.B.E. ’09, completed his pediatric residency from Palms West Hospital and starting as a full time pediatrician at the Community Health Centers of Pinellas.

Scott D. Knapp, J.D. ’05, has been named a finalist in South Florida Business & Wealth’s 2016 Up and Comer Awards.

Laird A. Lile, Esq. L.L.M.E. ’87, a wills, trusts and estates attorney in Naples, has been named a Top 100 Florida Super Lawyer for the sixth consecutive year.

George A. Maul, PH.D. ’74, Florida Institute of Technology’s distinguished professor of oceanography, and the longtime head of the Department of Marine and Environmental Systems, has been named 2016 Medalist by the Florida Academy of Sciences.

Brandon A. Okpalobi, B.B.A. ’05, was named one of Miami’s first BMe Leaders. He will receive a $10,000 grant in support of his non-profit Dibia Athletic Development, which provides training in athletic skills and life skills through dynamic enrichment programs for clients of all ages.

Katie S. Phang, Esq. J.D. ’00, a partner and member of the firm’s Dispute Resolution Team, has been named the President-Elect of the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (MDFAWL).

Ryan J. Plotkin, B.S. ’07, has been appointed Chief Operating Officer for M-D

Houri invites you to imagine how our built environment will be transformed by information technology and objects that think, connect, and communicate with us and with each other. Watch the video.

RICHARD D. FAINE NAMED CHAIR OF UM’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard D. Fain, chairman and chief executive officer of Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd., has been named the new chair of the University of Miami’s Board of Trustees, beginning a two-year term for the body responsible for governing one of the top private research institutions in the nation.

Fain, who had served as vice chair of UM’s Board of Trustees since 2014, succeeds Stuart A. Miller, J.D. ’82, as chair. He was elected to his new post during the most recent BOT meeting at which UM School of Law alumna Hilarie Bass, J.D. ’81, was reinstalled as vice chair, prominent Miami attorney H.T. Smith, J.D. ’73, was elected as a new vice chair, and Noor Joudi, ’B.S. ’15, was named student trustee. | Read more

CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHTS "OTHER C02 PROBLEM"

Ocean acidification is such an invisible threat to Florida’s coral reefs, fisheries, and tourism economy that three of the four “stakeholder” panelists invited to discuss the topic didn’t know what it was before they
Building Products, Inc., a privately held company involved in developing, manufacturing and marketing a range of residential and commercial weatherproofing, flooring and installation products.

Ret. Col. Martin J. Rosen, B.B.A. ’54, has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense Agency.

Brent Vicino, A.B. ’09, M.S.E.D. ’12, was named Associate Athletic Director for Development, Annual & Premium Seating Programs at Temple University.

ROADMAP TO OUR NEW CENTURY

In his inaugural address, President Julio Frenk outlined areas in which UM could foster transformation, connection, and reinvention. Several working groups crafted proposals of the draft Roadmap initiatives for the University to consider. Learn more about the eight initiatives and contribute to their development.

FRENK NAMED TO UN FOUNDATION BOARD

Frenk has been named to the Board of Directors of the United Nations Foundation, the international organization that supports the United Nations in tackling the greatest challenges of the 21st century—including climate change, poverty, and human rights violations. Founded as a public charity in 1998 by entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner, the UN Foundation has evolved into an active problem-solver that builds public-private partnerships and implements issue-based campaigns to connect people, ideas, and resources. | Read more

UM ISSUES CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIAL REPORT

To many living in South Florida, climate change is personal. As Provost Thomas J. LeBlanc told hundreds of scientists visiting the University in November 2015 prior to the Paris summit, Miami is “ground zero” for climate change and sea level rise. The University of Miami is marshaling the collective problem-solving muscle of all its schools and colleges to help answer a mosaic of complex questions about the science of climate change.

The Climate Change Special Report, developed over nearly six months by University Communications, showcases the work of scientists, researchers, faculty, students and alumni in the area of climate change and sustainability, and touches all the University’s 11 schools and colleges. The report features more than 40 articles on science and research and social engagement with polls, graphics and an opportunity to write your own haiku to the environment. | Read more

ALUMNI DISCOUNT FOR HERBERT WELLNESS CENTER MEMBERSHIP

The Herbert Wellness Center invites alumni to join the premier fitness, wellness and recreation center with an exclusive summer offer! The Wellness Center is waiving its 4-month requirement so that alumni can receive a discounted membership rate when they sign up for one, two, or three months between May 16 and August 15. That’s $44 per month for access to the 18,000 square foot fitness area, indoor pool, racquetball and squash courts, locker rooms, tennis courts and more. | Read more

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UM B-School Buzz

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CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CENTER FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION

The University of Miami and Miller School of Medicine recently held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Miller School of Medicine Center for Medical Education. The building, which will incorporate innovative technology features, was made possible by a $50 million gift from the family of Stuart A. Miller, Chair of the University of Miami Board of Trustees, which continues the Miller family’s ongoing support for both UM and the Miller School. | Read more

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEAN TO STEP DOWN

School of Business Administration Dean Gene Anderson announced that he will step down from his position when his five-year term ends this summer. “It has been my privilege to serve as dean and to work together with everyone in the community to advance our position as a leader in global business education and research,” said Anderson, who came to the School in 2011 from the University of Michigan’s Stephen M. Ross School of Business. Anderson will continue to serve the University as a faculty member and Schein Family Chair in Business. | Read more