

young alumni

LEADERS COUNCIL

2022



University of Miami
30 UNDER **30**

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



30 under 30

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Abigail Adeleke, B.S.C. '21

Financial Consultant, Charles Schwab

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment at the U was being elected as president of the Student Government in 2020 and working alongside our University and community leaders to keep students safe, healthy, and full of 'Canes spirit during a truly unprecedented situation.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

One of the most powerful lessons I learned at the U was the power of servant leadership. My work is not for me alone. Whatever I do and however I do it, my goal is to serve others and make their lives just a little bit easier and more fulfilling.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

Whether serving in my church community or running my business that donates 15 percent of profits to clean up our world's oceans, I have continued to care for not just the 'Cane community, but for our world at large. Being a person who gives of their time, energy, and gifts is truly what caring for others means to me.



Adriana Baez, B.S. '19

Medical and Law Student

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and School of Law

What was your brightest moment at the U?

In my seven years at the U thus far, I have shared in many bright moments. From making friends at late-night dining during freshman year, leading my sorority and other Greek life members to a first-place win at O-Cheer during Greek Week, presenting my first poster at the Eastern-Atlantic Student Research Forum, beating FSU on my birthday, and winning Sportsfest with the UV, to crossing the Watsco Center stage—crying—at graduation, my undergraduate years at the U provided many unforgettable memories. As a graduate M.D./J.D. student, there has been nothing more fulfilling than providing hands-on care to and uplifting individuals in the Miami-Dade community. In my final three years at the U, I can only hope that I continue to create many more beautiful, bright moments.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

At the U, I learned what it meant to be part of a broader community. Coming from the ballet world, a very tight-knit community dominated by racial and cultural majorities, learning from students and professors from multicultural and international backgrounds fostered a deeper understanding of the world around me. Through new relationships and opportunities from the University, I became part of larger initiatives like Guardian ad Litem, which connected me with families and allowed me to better see areas in which we can all do better. The U's value of diversity, philanthropy, and community afforded me, and continues to afford students, an understanding of our roles in a larger society and an excitement for what we can achieve collectively.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

'Canes Care for 'Canes, inherently, is not restricted to only actions on one of the U's campuses; it is a value that blends into all aspects of our lives. In this way, carrying mutual respect, understanding, advocacy, and empowerment into each of my personal and professional roles is extremely important to me. As a medical student, I strive to understand and empower my patients, while simultaneously fostering a healthy educational environment for my colleagues. As a law student, I challenge the innate individualism that often accompanies law school. I have provided insights on the dual degree program to multiple aspirational students who have contacted me. As the first female M.D./J.D. at the University of Miami, it is important to me to promote their path in order to share this space with other talented women. I even validate and challenge my six-year-old ballet students to vocalize their questions and thoughts, with the hope of nurturing confidence and tolerance. As 'Canes, we care for one another, and once a 'Cane, always a 'Cane.



Alessandria San Roman, A.B. '15, J.D. '18

Associate Attorney, Holland & Knight

What was your brightest moment at the U?

The U offered me numerous bright moments, starting with my admission to the University. While it's hard to pin down just one, I am particularly honored to have been able to serve as the first Student Government president, UM Law Student Bar Association president, and student trustee in school history. Those moments (both rewarding and challenging) shaped me to be who I am today.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned the true meaning of diversity; whether it is in thought, socioeconomic or ethnic background, gender, etc. The University is a melting pot that brings together individuals, each with their own unique story, to build a strong community.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I am a firm believer in paying it forward. The U provided me countless opportunities that have led me to where I am today. I stay involved; whether it's serving on University leadership boards, mentoring students, or helping alumni to find job opportunities. Our work in helping each other does not stop during our time at the U. It is vital that we continue to support each other in the community in order to make our mark.



Andrea G. Brenes, M.S.F. '17

CFO, Alimentos Raag (McDonald's franchisee for Dominican Republic)

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moments at the U were having the opportunity to develop a global perspective in finance and build my network, capitalizing on its excellent location, and engaging in a multicultural environment.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

At the U, I learned from world-class finance faculty from many different countries who integrated their cutting edge research and practical experiences into the classroom.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

'Canes Care for 'Canes showed me the importance of respect and support for one another. I continuously try to foster this culture of belonging in my industry and community.



Avani Reddy, B.S. '21

Founder and CEO, R3Med

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moments at the U were during Homecoming. To be surrounded by all of the successful alumni and feel their joy and love for the school was incredible. It truly is the most special event.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned the importance of being well rounded. The U emphasizes this with the cognate program so that you can learn something in various disciplines. This theme is promoted heavily on campus. The U really wants you to push yourself and not only to do well in your classes but also get involved, learn other things, and meet new people.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I love our alumni community; we all share a special love for the U. Being a University of Miami alumna has allowed me to connect with other alumni to further my career and broaden my network. All of us alumni are so willing to help each other however possible. We want to see everyone succeed and become the best version of themselves.



Bailey Crespi, B.B.A. '18

Business Development Associate, Oppenheimer & Co.

What was your brightest moment at the U?

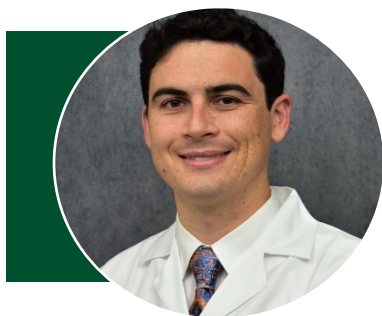
My brightest moments at the U were in the opportunities I had to learn beyond the classroom. Participating in the 'Business of Healthcare Conference' with influential executives, listening to and questioning speakers leading Fortune 500 companies, getting scuba dive certified, and regularly conversing with students from countries around the world...these opportunities made me learn immeasurably more about myself and the future I hope for.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

When I began my time at the U, I was very enthusiastic about exploring the wide variety of extracurricular opportunities the U offered ... scuba diving, crossfit, salsa classes, Greek life, soccer ... as well as the academic opportunities. I got to learn from incredibly accomplished professors who had published renowned research and had decades of executive experience at the most prestigious companies. My the two biggest takeaways were to: 1) Say "yes" to every opportunity, because you never know what could be your new passion, what you could learn about another culture, or who you could meet, and 2) Pour in. Be curious about the many additional speakers and events at the U. Also, having countless conversations with some of my favorite professors (Dr. Ullmann, Dr. Cava, Tie Su, Marina Portnoy) about topics beyond curriculum helped me get to know them and their passions; it made all the difference. To this day, I stay in touch with them and they continue to serve as trusted advisors for my career and my life.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I currently work with a few 'Canes and helped hire another as an intern last year. As I continue to think about providing more 'Canes with opportunities to enter investment banking, I plan to preserve my relationships with business school professors and be a resource to students looking to enter this competitive field.



Benjamin Slavin, B.S. '15, M.D. '21

**Integrated Plastic Surgery Resident
University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital**

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment was matching into my dream residency as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at the University of Miami—my No.1 choice!

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

Having the opportunity to learn from and care for one of the most dynamic and diverse patient populations in the world! The depth and breadth of medical conditions that we are challenged to be able to treat on a daily basis, combined with the mentorship and guidance of our world-class faculty in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, truly creates a residency training experience that is second to none!

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

Every patient interaction in the UHealth, VA, and Jackson Memorial Health Systems presents an incredible opportunity to embody the tenets of 'Canes Care for 'Canes. Whether discussing reconstructive options for a breast cancer survivor using her own tissue, learning cutting edge microsurgery techniques to alleviate chronic arm swelling in a patient with lymphedema, or putting a child at ease before his cleft palate repair, doing my best each day to serve our community as a proud member of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery continues to be the most humbling and rewarding experience of my career.



Brianna Commerford, B.B.A. '20

Analyst, American Express

What was your brightest moment at the U?

Being accepted into the President's 100 Society as a freshman! When I was in high school and toured the campus, I had the best tour guide ever, who convinced me on the spot that the U was the place for me. I knew that I wanted to have that impact on future 'Canes and show off my amazing school at recruitment events and campus tours. It was such an honor to be chosen as one of the 100 students on campus – from all different backgrounds – to represent the University of Miami.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

The University of Miami taught me that the world is really small—that the people you meet in your college years can have the greatest influence on you a few years down the line, in your career. It taught me to learn from every person and perspective you encounter—to keep your network really open, because the value and unity of the University community spans far beyond your college years.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I have carried the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into my industry and community by keeping the spirit of unity and community present. As a 2020 graduate, I learned the true value of having a close 'Canes community. My class's senior year was unfortunately cut short by the pandemic, and we had to miss all of our "lasts"; even our graduation. That has not stopped us from being a unified and proud class. Graduating during such a unique time has encouraged me to carry on the 'Canes Care for 'Canes legacy and has heightened my sense of pride in being a Miami Hurricane.



Casey Dresbach, B.A.M.A. '19, M.P.S. '20

**Senior Associate Sustainability Consultant
Environmental Resources Management**

What was your brightest moment at the U?

Since my early days at the U, I've recognized the value of our shared community. A mutual "Cane connection" in a social, professional, or even casual interaction has always set the stage for countless meaningful experiences and connections. Many of these have turned into profound relationships I am eternally grateful for. My mentors have become family, and similarly, my professors have become my peers. I know I can always count on my 'Cane identity to continue to guide me as I navigate through life alongside my existing and future community to come.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

The most valuable thing I learned at the U was to lean into vulnerability. There is such beauty in being vulnerable; it allows you to tap into open-minded creativity and curiosity unabated by societal inhibitions. In the classroom, during office hours, or at events, the environment at the U always supported my growth and self-confidence to flourish in academic pursuits and what have now become my professional endeavors. The U encouraged me to be my best self by diving deep into my curiosity and fueling it with the endless experiences the U had to offer.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

The 'Canes Care for 'Canes legacy has permanently impacted my outlook and chosen career path. No other place has further cemented the meaning of a community like the U. I take pride in my 'Cane heritage and continue to nourish all my relationships within my 'Cane family.

The field I've chosen, corporate sustainability, is the epitome of 'Canes Care. I believe that to make a meaningful and long-lasting change, we have to work collectively. As a professional in this field, I strive to encourage major corporations and institutions to embrace initiatives that enhance their commitment to the environment and the greater community at large. It's imperative for me to take a leadership role and make a difference in this world.



Catherine LaSpina, M.B.A. '21

Research Fellow, Veracity Selfcare

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment at the U was being able to graduate with my M.D./M.B.A. in only a short five years thanks to the joint program.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned the importance of considering patients' cultural, socioeconomic, and other personal background traits while working with them to create a plan that is individualized to their medical needs and fits their life well. Miami has been a wonderful place to work with patients from diverse backgrounds.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

As a medical student, I have been able to give back to the community by volunteering at free health fairs and providing health services to underserved populations.



Christel Wekon-Kemeni, B.S. '15

Pediatric Resident, University of North Carolina Hospitals

What was your brightest moment at the U?

Outside of meeting the woman who is now my wife, my brightest moment at the U was when I was tapped into Iron Arrow in the second semester of my senior year. It came as a complete shock to me, but it felt awesome to be marched to the Iron Arrow mound and recognized as someone who was deserving of the University of Miami's highest honor. The tapping felt like the culmination of all my experiences in college. To this day, I think fondly of that moment and all the emotions that came with it!

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

There was so much that I learned about myself, about others, and about the world around me while I was at the U. When I received the Ronald A. Hammond Scholarship that covered all of my tuition and allowed me to attend my dream school, I started to truly believe that anything in life was possible and began to develop an unshakable confidence in myself and my potential. I also learned about the school's resilient beginnings, the intriguing history between the Miccosukee Tribe and the Iron Arrow Honor Society, and how to cheer for the 'Canes sports teams in a phenomenal way. These are all things that I know I couldn't have learned anywhere else. It's great to be a Miami Hurricane!

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

Ever since my graduation from the U, I've made it a point to engage in warm and candid conversations with anyone I meet who is either an alumnus/a or is currently a student or faculty at the U. Throughout my time in medical school and residency, I've recommended to countless people the summer enrichment programs that the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement offers at the Miller School of Medicine.

As a scholarship recipient, I've worked to pay it forward to other minority high school students across the nation by providing scholarships of my own. I've also made time to speak to students whenever an opportunity presents itself. I've spoken on a virtual panel to hundreds of incoming first-year students (Future 'Cane Day - Value Panel), gave the keynote speech to the Future Medical Scholars Program Class of 2020, and also spoke with current students about my time at the U and how I've navigated life after graduation via a program hosted by the Office of Academic Enhancement called The Next Step. In the future, I hope to become even more involved with the University of Miami Alumni Association.



Daniel Kleinman, M.P.S. '21

Founder and CEO, Seaworthy Collective

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment at the U was launching Seaworthy Collective during my first semester of graduate school at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. I was able to find members of my team and support through the school's community that helped us get our initial momentum. I left a stable job and life in San Diego mid-pandemic to move cross country to pursue my master's degree and launch my startup, and the moment I followed through on making years of hopes, dreams, and business planning a reality was incredibly gratifying.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned what it truly meant to break the mold and develop an alternative path for driving tangible and scalable impact. I learned the value of helping others at the U (and beyond) see opportunities in environmental, social and corporate governance and the blue economy, breaking silos and constructs that excluded interdisciplinary talent and kept many in the marine sciences from thinking entrepreneurially.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

Value-driven leadership is at the core of how I lead. At Seaworthy, our community is led by our ANCHORED values: authenticity, novelty, collaboration, humility, open-mindedness, reliability, empathy, and diversity. All of these values embody the human-centered work we do, ensuring our current and aspiring ocean and climate impact leaders are cared for, supported, and understood.



Daniela M. Darquea, B.S.Ed. '18

Professional Golfer, LPGA

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment at the U was being named as an All-American in 2013.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

The University of Miami was the place where I realized I had the potential to make my dreams come true. I am eternally grateful.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I've been helping fellow 'Canes to get on the LPGA. I am so proud to see former teammates and friends achieving their goals.



Danielle Cohen, B.S.C. '16

Art Director, Electric.ai

What was your brightest moment at the U?

The University of Miami is a huge part of who I am today. It's where I discovered my true passion for creative work, including branding and creative direction, and where I discovered what makes me happiest – being creative and leading a team of wonderful designers, developers, videographers, and UX/UI.

During my senior year capstone, I had a concentration in my art media around the human "eye" and all of the ways an eye can view life and the different perspectives. These pieces were featured in the Lowe Art Museum for the Michelle Edelson Photo Award and were showcased when I was presented with the Outstanding Senior Visual Journalism Award for the School of Communications in 2016. This moment shines brightly, and I am proud to carry on the tradition of my grandmother, Sheila Green Goodman (Class of 1960) who also graduated from the school and is a Golden Ibis today.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

At the U I studied visual journalism with the goal of becoming a graphic designer and creative-branding expert one day. Not only did I study design and gain experience during my internships, but the U also provided me the opportunity to work on branding the Toppel Career Center, the athletics program and the general branding of the school. This opportunity inspired my design thinking because of the magical tone, vision and voice that the University represents.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

'Canes Care for 'Canes is with me every day, with the vision that I hold true of "caring above all else." In my current role at Electric, we all truly care about one another, with flexibility to put life first (which in return makes us better teammates in the workplace). Caring and being kind-hearted are at the core of the team we are building, something that I value above all else. In my spare time, I speak with young students who are interested in pursuing a design-related communications degree at the University of Miami, sharing my experiences and the doors that have opened since I graduated. I also serve as a JASA buddy, providing companionship and support to older New Yorkers who are social distancing due to COVID vulnerabilities.



David Yankana, B.G.S.C. '17, M.H.A. '20, M.B.A. '21

Director of Operations

Amatheon Pharmaceuticals | Amatheon Animal Health

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moments at the U are many – and they have simply changed my life: walking across the stage at the Watsco Center (three times!), growing with my fiancée during my MBA in 2021 through our shared experiences, having the opportunity to work with the Hurricane football team in spring and summer 2016 as a student volunteer assistant, and working with the staff during Head Coach Mark Richt's inaugural season – these are among my greatest moments.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

Swagger! The U instilled confidence in my abilities beyond what (I believed) I was capable of. The strategic business insights learned in numerous courses at the Miami Herbert Business School from my professors, especially Robert Plant, Sheryl Alonso, and Wendy Chun, helped me overcome these perceived personal barriers. Under their leadership, I formulated specific milestones, most of which I have been fortunate to eclipse. The U prepared me to step into an organization like the Miami HEAT and immediately contribute to their marketing department. The same can be said for when I felt the confidence to join Amatheon in 2019. Wherever my career takes me, I know that I could not have gained this self-confidence (or swagger), anywhere else. It's a 'Canes thing.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I have worked to make the 'Canes Care for 'Canes values a focus each day. I have worked to build something similar to the U's DIRECCT values into the handbook, human resources package, and my current departments at Amatheon.

The mutual respect 'Canes Care for 'Canes advocates extends beyond our time at the U. Our alumni network is massive, which means that I have come into contact with several alumni throughout my time with Amatheon. A recent conversation with a Class of '98 alumnus to discuss a project showed me just how deep the alumni network runs. Despite our age difference, we had a great conversation, and I could immediately tell that our relationship is different because of our mutual connection to the U. That simple networking opportunity exceeded my expectations because we are both both 'Canes.

My entire life is connected to the University. My fiancée is a two-time alumna who was involved in several efforts on campus. We plan, through YALC or in other ways, to be active contributors to the local Coral Gables and University communities. My parents are both alumni, and are actively involved in the University, and my younger brother is graduating in May with his bachelor's degree. Our lives are completely taken up with our favorite institution.

Whether it's looking to hire a 'Cane, give back, or find ways to make an impact, my family and I are committed to helping the U. Lending a hand, even to those outside of the alumni network, to me, is what 'Canes Care for 'Canes is all about. I feel a responsibility as a member of the University of Miami network to give back to others.



Dewayne Washington II, B.S.B.A. '20

Wealth Management Analyst, JPMorgan Chase

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moments at the U were the 2017 Notre Dame game and being tapped into the Iron Arrow Honor Society.

What did you learn at the U, that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned about work-life balance at the U. The ability to live in a metropolitan city like Miami but still go to a high academic achieving school is an unparalleled experience. The U naturally teaches you to work hard, but still enjoy yourself, which helps with your professional life after graduation.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I enjoy taking the time to help other 'Canes pursue a career on Wall Street. This goes beyond the simple networking call—referring people to specific roles and advocating for them is a passion of mine.



Eric Milton, B.S.Cp.E. '17

**Owner's Representative and Chief Technology Officer
United Property Management**

What was your brightest moment at the U?

One of my brightest moments at the U was working with colleagues from the College of Engineering on the Association of Cuban-American Engineers' Cuba Infrastructure Challenge in 2015. We investigated satellite imaging of Cuba that had recently been made available, mapping vegetation growth along the Rio Almendares. As a sophomore, I worked with a group of mostly upperclassmen to evaluate vegetation trends, linking the data with political events in Cuba. We proposed a river bank expansion to control fertilizer and pesticide runoff polluting the river and endangering lives. This project brought me closer to my roots as a Cuban-American and gave me more confidence in my ability to analyze data and offer solutions to real-world problems.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

Attending the U allowed me to study and network in Miami, where my family is rooted and where I would ultimately live. My engineering courses and projects were demanding, and these challenges forced me to better balance my family, academic, and professional lives. Making sure I could attend family gatherings while being a student leader, active in academic and professional clubs and events at the U, helped prepare me for life after graduation in a way that attending another institution could not have.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I have stayed involved with campus events for the College of Engineering, including the annual Engineering Expo and E-Week, and the Miami 'Canes Community. After

graduation, I stayed connected with several students, offering mentorship on the transition to professional life.

As a student, I noticed that the College of Engineering was missing accessible meeting spaces for students and guest speakers. After graduation, I worked with my family foundation, the José Milton Foundation, and the college to redesign the old auditorium into a fresh and collaborative space, the Milton Leadership Hall. I am actively involved with the Miami 'Canes Community in planning different events to keep us 'Canes connected. Go 'Canes!



Ethan Creo, B.B.A. '15

**Vice President, Investment Banking
Guzman & Company**

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment lasted four years. The lifelong friendships that were forged during my time at the University of Miami have been incredibly meaningful to me.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned the value of a multidimensional learning experience at the U. While the courses you take are very beneficial, at the U you learn just as much outside of the classroom. Being immersed in Miami's different cultures, meeting other students from all over the world, and having the range of unique extracurricular opportunities that the U and Miami have to offer was invaluable.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

At work, I've hired 'Canes, and make it a point to search for candidates at the U. I also regularly advise current students about career paths in finance.

Regarding community, the value of philanthropy and giving back was ingrained during my time at the U. I take great pride in the volunteer work I've done since graduation, particularly my deep involvement with the United Way of Miami-Dade in various capacities and committees.



Haley Moss, J.D. '18

Owner, Haley Moss LLC

What was your brightest moment at the U?

Being selected as our Law School's student commencement speaker and having the chance to make memories with the J.D. Class of 2018 was my brightest moment at the U.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

The U taught me so much about who I was, and the true meaning of "home." Home is not a place; it's a feeling created by people who have cared about you for most of your life, whether it's your family or the team at the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. It's a warm hug on a bad day, or saying "hello" to the faculty and staff who are cheering you on actively or from the sidelines. It's the friendships you make on campus and in the community when you share an enthusiastic "go 'Canes!" with a stranger in a new city. Although I did not attend the U as an undergrad, when I got to campus for law school, I knew I was home.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I have continued to serve on the constituency board of UM-NSU CARD, staying involved with my 'Canes family, and ensuring that the next generation of autistic and neurodivergent students, their families, alums, and community members continue to have access to services and support. I also want to continue mentoring others with disabilities.

'Canes are some of the most caring, kind humans I've had the pleasure of knowing. When one of us moves up, we all move up. I want to help preserve the legacy so that I'm not the first nor the last. I want others to feel supported if they have a disability or are dealing with something that perhaps we don't know about.

I am in the legal profession, which carries a lot of stigma around mental health and disability. For me, 'Canes have been instrumental in breaking barriers and opening up those conversations, and I'm grateful for my part in that.



Harrison M. Albert, B.A.M.A. '17, M.P.S. '18

Science Education and Conservation Manager, Amoray Dive Resort
Adjunct Professor, Broward College
Adjunct Professor, The College of the Florida Keys

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment at the U was realizing that the skills and knowledge that I was learning from my professors and fellow 'Canes was the formula to be successful and accomplish anything I set my mind to.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

At the U, I learned both a plethora of information about the ocean and how to apply this academic knowledge to be a resource for other aspiring marine biologists. Together, these two skills molded me to become the person that I am today and are two essential human qualities that I know I could not have learned anywhere else.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

Since graduating from the U, I have carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into my professional field and community by promoting the core values of responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control, tolerance, and cooperation to all those around me and displaying the mantra of being kinder and gentler, because tomorrow is not promised.



Justin J. Suca, B.S.M.A.S. '16

Postdoctoral Scholar | Fisheries Oceanographer, NOAA Fisheries

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment was getting hired as a student assistant in a fisheries oceanography lab. That really sent me down my current path toward fish ecology and fisheries oceanography.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

Collaborating with a diverse network of colleagues from different countries was a great experience that I do not think is as common at other universities.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I have tried to work to improve my workplaces as I move through them. I find this particularly important in environmental research programs that have historically lacked diversity and initiatives to change their patterns. Seeing the progress and efforts at the University of Miami to improve accessibility to science and build inclusive programs helps inspire me to ensure that labs I work with are engaging in similar activities and efforts.



Nicolle Castañeda, M.P.H. '20

**Project Manager, Organizational Enablement and Transformation
UHealth**

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment was when I graduated with my M.P.H. from the Miller School of Medicine after having worked full-time and completed a capstone that allowed me to give back to my community. Another big moment was when I was able to mentor fellow employees as my direct reports and build a relationship that was professionally engaging and enriching to them.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned a sense of diverse community that is unique to our organization and geographic location. Our mission of excellence and transforming lives is a momentous feeling within our environment, and of course, I would not have met my incredible mentors had I not joined the U.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I am a big supporter of paying it forward and providing mentorship to others while also encouraging coming out of your shell to get involved in the 'Canes community. You never know what opportunities may come of it!



Roselaure Anstral, A.B. '14, B.S.N. '15

Assistant Nurse Manager, Baptist Medical Center Heart Hospital

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment at the U was my first bachelor graduation. I am the first in my family to earn a college degree; that graduation meant everything to me. It was a love letter to my parents for all their sacrifice and dedication. It was the biggest moment of my life.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned that the world is bigger than I could ever imagine and how to be bold and fierce—to never let my fears and insecurities get in the way of my success and dreams.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

As a nurse, I always carry my pride in being a graduate of the U's accelerated B.S.N. program in full view. This legacy means everything to me. I constantly share my experiences, encourage high school students to apply to the program, and in everything I do, I know I represent those who have come before me.



Sara M. Klock, J.D. '17

Associate, Holland & Knight

What was your brightest moment at the U?

The University of Miami Law Review. UMLR was filled with brilliant minds and amazing mentors from prior and subsequent years, many of whom I am fortunate to now work with at Holland & Knight. We bonded over many long nights of bluebooking, studying, and job searching. The Miami Law community is incredible, and my best friends are from law school.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

At the U, I participated in "LawWithoutWalls," a program founded by Professor Michele DeStefano. Through this program, I was able to learn, via a cross-cultural, multi-disciplinary exchange, how to propose a "project of worth." The U allowed me to immerse myself in innovation, all while working on a team made up of students from around the world.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I work at an Am Law 100 law firm, Holland & Knight, and I think it is one of the best places to work. Culture and mentorship are incredibly important to me, and I try to foster a community where my peers feel respected and appreciated.



Savanah Leaf, A.B. '14

Film Director and Photographer

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moments at the U were simply winning games and breaking records with the volleyball team while also learning psychology from some of the best professors out there. I think I've used those lessons in the career I'm in now.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

When I was in my senior year, I shadowed President Donna Shalala, and learned a lot about how to direct. She has an incredible way of managing groups of people and paying attention to individuals at the same time.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I try to encourage and introduce other athletes into the filmmaking industry, as I think there is a lot of unexpected crossover. I haven't had a huge opportunity yet to take that to the next level, but am looking forward to hiring more 'Canes in the film industry.



Shana Weisman, B.B.A. '19

Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My very brightest moment, although there were many, was graduating alongside my best friend, whom I met freshman year in the dorms. I made a lifelong friendship, all thanks to the communal environment that thrives at the U.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I learned the importance of what a melting pot of cultures provides to one's outlook on life!

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

'Canes Care for 'Canes essentially embodies the principle of "no man left behind." I have gone on many coffee dates with people in my community and industry to help ensure we all work together towards the common goal of bettering ourselves and those around us.



Sterling W. Jackson, B.B.A. '18

Agency Owner, Allstate Insurance

What was your brightest moment at the U?

There were many great moments at the U, one of which was being honored with the Laurel Award while working at the Dean of Students Office; it was a great honor. From a personal standpoint, my brightest moment was meeting my wife on the first day of college.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

I valued being surrounded by intelligent and diverse students and faculty. As a business major, it was great to have the opportunity to learn and experience different perspectives on an international scale that couldn't be replicated at any other university.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

The importance of showing respect and giving support has never been more relevant than it is today. From working with clients to working with students, everybody deserves the same level of support and respect; especially those in need.



Taiesa Heath, M.M. '18

Law Clerk, Sanchez Law Group

What was your brightest moment at the U?

Being an online student for the first time in my life and then being able to experience the campus for graduation was very memorable. It wasn't my first time seeing the school in person, but I was able to experience walking the campus with my family and an aunt who was visiting from Trinidad for my graduation. Being able to share that with the people I love, who were not afforded the same opportunities, was priceless.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

My Master of Music degree is very special. Not many schools offer this, so everything I learned while at the U I could not have learned anywhere else. At the time, I thought I wanted to be an entertainment lawyer. This degree was right in line with that, and I am so proud to be a graduate of the U.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I continue to keep track of alumni events happening in my city. But as a law student, I am not able to participate as much as I want. I encourage other people to attend the U for its unique programming, especially in entertainment.



Victoria Humphrey, B.S. '14

**Resident Physician (PGY1) – Internal Medicine
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**

What was your brightest moment at the U?

My brightest moment was having the privilege of representing the U at the Miss Florida Pageant as Miss University of Miami. It also gives me great joy to have had the opportunity to spearhead the return of the pageant to the University so that young women could have the same experience in years to come.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

The U showed me the true importance of diversity and representing your local community. Miami is one of the most diverse cities in the nation, even amongst minority communities. It's these beliefs, values, and perspectives that improve decision-making across all environments and industries.

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

I firmly believe in lifting as you climb. Because of this, as a University of Miami resident physician, I have taken the initiative to mentor current and prospective medical students. My goal is to provide them the insight and guidance to help them reach their greatest potential.



Violeta Rodriguez, M.S.Ed. '15

**Senior Research Associate
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**

What was your brightest moment at the U?

Graduating with my Master of Science in research, measurement and evaluation while working for the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine was the brightest moment for me! It was the perfect combination of professional opportunities to prepare me for my Ph.D.

What did you learn at the U that you know you couldn't have learned anywhere else?

The entire experience of completing my Master of Science in research, measurement and evaluation helped me learn quantitative skills that I have carried with me everywhere I go. I have taken many courses in quantitative methodology to continue to do my work with HIV and families, but none like the skills I learned at the U!

How have you carried on the legacy of 'Canes Care for 'Canes into your industry and community?

Despite pursuing my Ph.D. elsewhere, I have continued to work at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine with several researchers, such as Deborah Lynne Jones, Stephen Weiss, Maria Luisa Alcaide, and Mahendra Kumar on their HIV and global health projects, including a local Miami project related to HIV. I hope to continue this line of work for my community in the future.