The University of Miami is now up to No. 51 in U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” rankings. The University, which is in the National Universities category, rose from No. 52 last year—and has moved up 15 spots in the past six years. The University improved from last year in four of the seven categories that determine overall rank: alumni giving, graduation and retention, peer assessment, and financial resources.

UM’s School of Education is ranked #45 in U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Graduate Schools,” a jump of 24 positions in one year.

UM’s Bascom Palmer Eye Institute: For the fifth year in a row the University of Miami’s Bascom Palmer Eye Institute was ranked the number one hospital in the country for ophthalmology in the 19th annual survey of “America’s Best Hospitals” published in the July 21 issue of U.S. News & World Report. And for the third year in a row, ear, nose, and throat has been the top-ranked specialty operating at Jackson Memorial Hospital, coming in at No. 18 on the survey.

New Freshman Standing: Over 40% of new freshmen graduated in the top 5% of their high school class, while two-thirds graduated in the top 10% of their high school class. UM received the highest number of applications in its history last year—21,750 for only 2,000 spots. The mean SAT was 1275.

Donna Shalala Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom: University President Donna Shalala was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by U.S. President George Bush. The medal is the nation’s highest civilian award given to an individual who has made an especially meritorious contribution to the “security or national interests of the United States or world peace or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.”

Donna Shalala Named to U.S. Soccer’s Board of Directors: The U.S. Soccer’s National Council has unanimously approved the addition of University of Miami President Donna E. Shalala to the Board of Directors as the third and final independent director. The board governs the U.S. Soccer Federation in accordance with the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, consisting of elected members representing all facets of soccer in the United States.
The University's Momentum Campaign Sets New Records: UM became the first university to reach the billion-dollar milestone in fundraising in the state of Florida, and one of the youngest in the nation to embark on this endeavor when it reached a total of $1.4 billion in fundraising raised for Momentum: The Campaign for the University of Miami. Of the universities in the United States that have run billion-dollar campaigns, UM is the only private University established in the 20th Century to achieve this high mark. The Momentum campaign was awarded the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s (CASE) 2008 Circle of Excellence Award gold medal for campaign fundraising. UM also received the highest overall 4-Star rating for its successful financial management for seven consecutive years from Charity Navigator, the largest independent evaluator of charities in the US.

Olympic 'Canes: A total of nine current and former University of Miami student-athletes vied for the gold in this summer’s 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Former Hurricanes swimmer Manon Van Rooijen earned a gold medal while Lauryn Williams and incoming freshman Kelci Bryant finished fourth in their respective events. UM alumnus Zach Railey, earned a silver medal in the Finn class as part of the U.S. Olympic Sailing team.

University of Miami To Host McDonald's All American High School Basketball Games: The University of Miami has been selected to host the 2009 McDonald's All American High School Basketball Boys and Girls Games. The games, scheduled to be played at the BankUnited Center on the University of Miami's Coral Gables campus, will be played April 1, 2009, and will be nationally televised on ESPN.

Tim Russert (deceased): Tim Russert, NBC News managing editor and moderator of Meet the Press, as well as Washington bureau chief for the network, shared his insights with UM students at Fall Convocation.

Anderson Cooper: CNN anchor Anderson Cooper shared the moving and emotional stories that have shaped his career with UM students at Senior Convocation.

Angela Lansbury: Tony and Golden Globe Award-winning actress Angela Lansbury received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the graduation ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences May 2008.

Al Gore: Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore presented a multi-media version of his bestselling book and Academy Award-winning documentary, An Inconvenient Truth, to the UM Community.
Hilary Clinton: The contest for the Democratic presidential nomination came to Florida in spring 2008, when U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton addressed thousands of supporters at a rally held at the University of Miami’s BankUnited Center.

Barack Obama: The first African-American to accept a major-party presidential nomination, U.S. Senator Barack Obama brought his campaign to the BankUnited Center on the University of Miami campus, where he addressed a full house of attendees.

Dialogue for Democracy: As our country nears one of the most pivotal presidential elections in recent history, the University of Miami is doing its part to stimulate dialogue about urgent issues and create a culture of informed voters. The University proudly presents “A Dialogue for Democracy” a dynamic calendar of events that will engage, educate and entertain members of the UM community and the general public. Featuring such noted politicians and political theorists as: George Will, Gideon Yago, John Zogby, Thomas Mann, Norman Ornstein, James Carville, and Mary Matalin.

New UM Hospital: In 2008, UM officially launched the University of Miami Health System, also known as UHealth, the new name covering South Florida’s only comprehensive network of university-based physicians and facilities and a national brand that signifies the best in advanced health care. The 560-bed, all private-rooms hospital, acquired by the University in December 2007, is the cornerstone of UHealth, the umbrella that also covers two other university hospitals, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute; three major affiliated institutions, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Holtz Children’s Hospital, and Miami VA Medical Center; as well as more than two dozen outpatient facilities.

New Research Lab: The School of Business Administration recently opened a new laboratory designed for advanced, technology-driven marketing research. The ‘Canes Behavioral Laboratory – a state-of-the-art research facility – houses 31 networked computer workstations in 800 square feet of research space. All of the research stations are outfitted with leading behavioral research software, computer joysticks and headsets for studies requiring audio. The lab will enable the school’s faculty to conduct leading-edge marketing research in a controlled environment.

Palley Pavilion Opens at the Lowe Art Museum: A new wing opened in May 2008 at the Lowe Art Museum dedicated to the art of glass. The comprehensive collection, valued in excess of $3.5 million, is considered one of the country’s finest collections of studio glass. It includes work by Howard Ben Tre, Jose Chardiet, Dale Chihuly, Dan Dailey, Michael Glancy, Harvey Littleton, Stephen Weinberg, Stanislav Labinsky, and Lino Tagliapietra, among others.
School of Law: Distinguished legal scholar, academic administrator, and attorney, Paul R. Verkuil was named as the Interim Dean for the School of Law. He is the senior counsel at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP and professor of law at Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, and previously served as dean of the Cardozo law school from 1997 - 2001, where the Paul R. Verkuil Chair in Public Law was established in his honor.

The UM Athletic Department has been selected as one of just 12 Division I schools to receive the 2008 Overall Excellence in Diversity Award from the NCAA and Texas A&M’s Laboratory for Diversity in Sport.

In 14 of the last 16 years, the UM football team’s graduation rate exceeded the national average of the American Football Coaches Association’s (AFCA) member schools. Since 1991, UM’s average AFCA rate is 71.52 percent, well ahead of the national average of 58 percent.

UM football ranks eighth academically among 119 Bowl Sub-division football programs, and its incoming football recruiting class was ranked #1 by ESPN.

- UM is one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review.
- UM was recently named by the Carnegie Foundation as “one of the most active research universities.”
- UM has added five members of the National Academy to its faculty over the past three years.
- UM faculty have received more than $330 million in sponsored grants and contracts, an increase that exceeds $20 million over the prior year.
- UM surpassed $100 million in National Institutes for Health (NIH) funding, making it the top NIH-funded research institution in the state; in addition, our National Science Foundation (NSF) grant funding increased by 24%.
- UM’s technology transfer efforts will produce an estimated $1 million in new revenue this year, and have created or are in the process of creating 20 new start-up companies.
- UM’s The Launch Pad is a career guidance component of the Toppel Career Center, providing resources to entrepreneurs and inventors. Services are for faculty, staff, students, and alumni from every school and college.
School and College Information

**School of Architecture**

**Accolade:** Student Mark Schrieber, president of the School’s Emerging Green Builders, received the award for the Most Outstanding Student by the Miami Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) at their annual awards banquet.

**On The Waterfront exhibit:** More than a year after hundreds of School of Architecture students began a comprehensive design project that could provide the blueprint for the rebirth of the city’s waterfront, the drawings, plans, and proposals of what they designed are now on display.

The On The Waterfront exhibit, which runs through November 7 at Miami Dade College’s Freedom Tower, 600 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, features some 200 student images from a semester-long initiative in which 33 design studios proposed designs and enhancements for a seven-mile stretch of the city’s waterfront as well as the Miami riverfront.

**Notable Faculty:** University of Miami School of Architecture Distinguished Professor and Dean Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk and her partner and adjunct faculty member Andres Duany have been named the 2008 Driehaus Laureates. The Richard H. Driehaus Prize for Classical Architecture, which was founded in 2003, is the most significant recognition for classicism in the contemporary built environment.

**College of Arts and Sciences**

**Accolade:** Students from the school won a first-place award for Outstanding Delegation and Outstanding Position Paper as well as three Best Committee Awards in the 2007 National Model United Nations Conference.

**Notable Faculty:** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Crafoord Prize to University of Miami Distinguished Professor Maxim Kontsevich, who was awarded a Fields Medal in 1998. The prize, one of the world’s largest scientific awards, is offered to researchers whose works have made outstanding contributions in disciplines which complement those for which the Nobel Prizes are granted.

**School of Business Administration**

**Accolade:** The University’s Ethics Society Debate Team won the 2007 National Championship Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl emerging victorious over 32 undergraduate teams from around the nation.

**Notable Faculty:** Yadong Luo, Emery Findley Distinguished Chair, Chair of the Management Department, and Professor of International Management at the University of Miami School of Business, is the most prolific author of articles published in six leading international business journals. That, according to a study published in the June issue of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*.

**New Degree Program:** In addition to new undergraduate and graduate business programs in health care management beginning in fall, the School of Business Administration will also launch a joint MD/MBA degree program in partnership with the University’s Miller School of Medicine come August 2008.
School and College Information

School of Communication

UWIRE, a free membership organization for college student media, announced the inaugural UWIRE 100, which honors the nation’s top collegiate journalists. Daniel Kaslow and Greg Linch, both seniors at the University of Miami, were named as part of the UWIRE 100, selected from more than 500 nominations submitted by students and educators at 132 schools. A UWIRE panel evaluated each candidate based on demonstrated excellence in a field of collegiate journalism.

“The Miami Hurricane” Wins National Award: The Society of Professional Journalists announced the national winners of the 2007 Mark of Excellence Awards. The Miami Hurricane newspaper staff and editor, Greg Linch, won first place in the Online News Reporting category for their coverage of “The Presidential Forum at UM.”

School of Education

Nationally Ranked Programs: The School of Education had three of its academic programs ranked in the top four spots in an annual report on universities by Academic Analytics, which brings objective academic data on faculty productivity to universities. The teaching and learning program ranked number one in the country under the Curriculum and Instruction category. The school's mathematics and science education program was ranked in the number three slot in the math education category. The school’s research, measurement, and evaluation program was ranked fourth in the educational evaluation and research category, ahead of UC Berkeley and the University of Florida.

College of Engineering

Accolade: University of Miami students from the College of Engineering, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, earned second place in the 2008 NASA Aeronautics Contest, with their futuristic plane design “The 2058 Aircraft: Quiet Ultra-Efficient Integrated Aircraft” (QUEIA).

Notable Faculty: Professors Dr. Zhenhua Jiang and Dr. Xiaodong Cai, from the College of Engineering, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, received the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award. This award recognizes exceptional scientists who, in the early stages of their profession, demonstrate outstanding potential for scientific contributions to society. Each award gives $400,000 to scientists over a period of five years to fund further research.

School of Law

Accolade: A team from the University of Miami School of Law won the Chester Bedell Memorial Mock Trial Competition. The competition, which is sponsored by the Trial Lawyers’ Section of the Florida Bar, was held during the Florida Bar’s Midyear Meeting in Miami in January 2008. Eight law schools and sixteen teams participated in the competition.

UM School of Law’s moot court board has been ranked sixth in the nation by the Blakely Advocacy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center.

University of Miami School of Law graduates taking the July 2008 Florida Bar Examination achieved the highest pass rate of all Florida law schools, with a 92.4% pass rate among first-time test-takers. The pass rate for all Florida first-time test-takers was 82.5%.
School and College Information

Miller School of Medicine
Accolade: The Miller School of Medicine for the third year in a row has been named one of the best medical schools in the country for Hispanic Students by Hispanic Business magazine; it was ranked number three this year. The School of Law was ranked number eight in the report.

Notable Faculty: Robert Myerburg, M.D., professor of medicine and physiology and a Miller School faculty member since 1970, received the Cor Vitae award for his professional accomplishments and commitments that have significantly influenced advancement in the field of cardiovascular diseases.

Frost School of Music
Accolade: The Frost School of Music was a top winner of DownBeat magazine’s prestigious student music awards competition. UM students won 7 awards last year. DownBeat magazine is one of the most respected jazz publications in the country, and its annual student music awards are among the most coveted in jazz education.

Festival Miami: This year Festival Miami welcomes Dean Shelton Berg of the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music as its executive director. Dean Berg’s vision for the 25th season of Festival Miami presents 23 concerts over a four week period, with each week having its own unique theme. The four one-week themes include “Great Performances,” “Jazz and Beyond,” “Creative American Music,” and “Music of the Americas.” This annual music festival opens the South Florida arts season, provides superior and diverse musical programming each year, and expands academic opportunities and cultural enrichment to all of South Florida and its visitors.

Creative American Music Program: The Frost School of Music, in partnership with multi-Grammy award winning University of Miami music alumnus Bruce Hornsby, presents the Creative American Music Program. The program’s curriculum is designed to develop the creative skills of talented young artist/songwriters by immersing them in the diverse traditions that form the foundation of modern American songwriting. This rigorous approach will require students to become intimate, both in understanding and practice, with the vast and varied legacy that is American music.

School of Nursing and Health Studies
New Degree Program: The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies announced a new Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) program to begin in January 2009. The program will prepare expert nurse practitioners to design, administer, and evaluate practice interventions and health care systems with a special focus on reducing health care disparities.

New Summer Program: El Centro, the University of Miami Center of Excellence for Hispanic Health Disparities Research at the School of Nursing and Health Studies inaugurates its Summer Scholars Program. The Summer Scholars program offers research opportunities for students interested in health disparities topics. The scholars will pursue research projects designed to improve the well-being of minority populations supported by a paid, eight-week internship.
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

**Accolade:** Out of 45 total American Meteorological Society (AMS) undergraduate fellowships and scholarships available this year, five were awarded to students studying meteorology at the University of Miami and its Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Put into context, the University of Miami is home to one of only 70 undergraduate meteorology programs in the nation – a relatively small program with roughly 40 students per class, compared to other programs with numbers over 300.

**Notable Faculty:** Coral reef scientist Andrew C. Bakeran, an assistant professor of marine biology and fisheries at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, was awarded the prestigious 2008 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation to help protect reef corals from climate change.