The University of Miami has made enormous strides in recent years, and great achievements lie ahead. That said, this was a challenging year for us, as it was for so many organizations and individuals. The powerful momentum that propelled us to set, achieve, and even surpass several key institutional goals was downshifted by the economic crisis, which devastated the national and global economies and rippled through every aspect of our operations.

While our long-term outlook remains bright, it is critical to conserve our resources in the current environment. After painstaking scrutiny and analysis, we implemented measures to help us do just that. Developed in close collaboration with senior leadership and inspired in some cases by suggestions from faculty and staff members, these actions are designed to eliminate nonessential expenditures, protect the jobs of UM employees, and preserve the excellence of our core teaching, research, and clinical care programs. They include 7 percent across-the-board budget cuts; a hiring freeze for all but the most urgently needed positions; and no new construction, except for projects already well under way, including the Robert and Judi Prokop Newman Alumni Center.

Despite the financial climate, our faculty have been extraordinarily productive. They received $320 million in funding in FY2009, which represents more than 2,500 sponsored grants and contracts led by over 800 principal investigators. In addition, more than 2,500 proposals for new projects were submitted by over 900 principal investigators, and approximately 1,400 proposals were pending review for potential funding in future years. The University continues to receive more National Institutes of Health funding than any other institution in Florida.

The Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine had a particularly challenging first half, but achieved a remarkable turnaround as the fiscal year drew to a close: Revenues were strong, and grants and contracts increased by double digits. The school is home to more than 1,500 active basic, translational, and clinical studies in crucial areas such as oncology, ophthalmology, spinal cord injury, and diabetes, ranging from leading-edge inquiries into genetic risk factors for disease to stem cell transplants and other highly sophisticated therapies.

UHealth—University of Miami Health System—now provides state-of-the-art medical services at more than two dozen South Florida locations, including University of Miami Hospital (UMH), which has seen net patient revenues rise by more than 30 percent over the past year.

The University continues to seek new ways to increase revenues through profitable programs, aggressive marketing, and federal and state support. We are also mak-
The beating heart of all we do is education: stimulating our students’ curiosity, broadening their sense of possibility, and preparing them for leadership in a changing world.

that could include up to five buildings on ten acres at full buildout—will provide outstanding resources and infrastructure for enterprises ranging from emerging University start-ups to multinational powerhouses.

The University’s commitment to growing excellence was reflected in the arrival of outstanding new leaders. Patricia White, the new dean of the School of Law, served with great distinction as dean of Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law. Renowned climatologist Roni Avissar joined UM from Duke University to become dean of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Jacqueline Dixon, a longtime faculty member and senior associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has been named interim dean of the college, the University’s largest academic unit. I’m also delighted to announce that Phillip T. George, a distinguished alumnus of the Miller School, devoted friend, and member of our Board of Trustees since 1989, has assumed leadership of the board.

Several impressive events showcased UM’s growing role as an influential global resource. Our first Global Business Forum drew distinguished business leaders including legendary former General Electric CEO Jack Welch and more than 700 attendees. The Center for Hemispheric Policy held its fourth annual Latin America Conference—its largest ever. During a weeklong outreach mission to South America in June, a UM delegation laid the groundwork for an array of new partnerships and programs in the region. And the School of Business Administration launched its highly regarded Executive MBA program in Puerto Rico.

Our continuing improvement has not gone unnoticed. This year we were ranked in the top tier of America’s best colleges by U.S. News & World Report, rising to No. 50. We have moved up 17 slots in the past eight years, making UM one of the fastest-rising national universities.

In rankings of best graduate schools, the program at the School of Education was No. 41; the Miller School of Medicine came in at No. 51; the School of Law moved up 11 spots from the previous year, with its program in tax law placing sixth; and the Department of Psychology’s clinical psychology program ranked 25th out of 206 programs nationwide. The magazine’s survey of “America’s Best Hospitals” ranked Bascom Palmer Eye Institute the No. 1 hospital in the country for ophthalmology for the sixth year in a row.

The generosity of the major gifts we received this year was all the more remarkable in light of the uncertain economic climate. Alumni and longtime supporters Allan and Patricia Herbert made an $8 million naming donation to the Wellness Center on the Coral Gables campus. Philanthropist and University Trustee Adrienne Arsht donated $5 million to UM humanities and medical programs, including the largest ethics gift in Florida history. A gift of more than $2 million from longtime benefactors E. Roe Stamps IV, a UM trustee, and his wife, Penny, will provide many talented Frost School of Music students with extraordinary learning experiences that include group performances, master classes, record-
A $2.4 million gift from the Goizueta Foundation will benefit and expand the Cuban Heritage Collection, integrating it further with the academic mission of the University by establishing a graduate fellows program with University of Miami Libraries and an undergraduate fellows program with the College of Arts and Sciences. The gift will also fund a speaker series at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies. The School of Business Administration announced eight new faculty appointments, including a new $2 million endowed professorship made possible by the estate of alumnus Warren Johnson. The School of Education received its first endowed chair—the Erwin and Barbara Mautner Endowed Chair in Community Well-Being—thanks to a $2.36 million donation by alumna Barbara Mautner.

Among several remarkable contributions received by the Miller School of Medicine was a $20 million commitment from the John P. Hussman Foundation to support the Miami Institute for Human Genomics and its groundbreaking work in autism and many other common diseases. The institute, directed by world-renowned genetics researcher Margaret Pericak-Vance, the Dr. John T. Macdonald Professor of Human Genomics, will now be known as the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics.

Generous philanthropic support of biomedical research, education, and clinical care at the Miller School also included the Bernard and Alexandria Schoninger Foundation’s gift of $3.5 million to support the neuropsychology program and the McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss; the Elaine and Sydney Sussman Foundation’s gift of $2.5 million to support University of Miami Hospital’s Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories, completing a $5 million commitment; and Nedra Kalish’s commitment of $2 million to create the Kalish Family Endowed Chair in Stem Cell Transplantation at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Our fundraising cash total for this fiscal year surpassed $153 million. While this is about 23 percent lower than last year, it is better than expected. We have also been heartened by an additional $39 million in new multi-year pledges and bequests we received during this period. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education recognized the University with its Wealth-Engine Award for three years of successful fundraising. Confirming our superb stewardship of philanthropic funds, the University also achieved a coveted 4-star rating for the eighth consecutive year from Charity Navigator, a leading national independent charity evaluator.

The beating heart of all we do is education: stimulating our students’ curiosity, broadening their sense of possibility, and preparing them for leadership in a changing world. And whether their scholarly pursuits take them to inner-city Miami, equatorial Africa, or rural Latin America, our students seek out settings, situations, and endeavors that sometimes push them past their comfort zone but always result in unforgettable learning experiences. Some of these amazing and inspiring adventures are highlighted in the pages that follow.

Certainly these are challenging times. Yet building a great research university is a complex enterprise that is never without its challenges. Tough times hone character—and the ‘Cane spirit is indomitable.

All of us here at the University are putting our best efforts toward developing, articulating, and implementing a vision for the future that will not only serve as our blueprint going forward, but will set the standard for higher education nationwide. With its intellectual distinction and prodigious energy, the University of Miami looks forward to a truly limitless future.

Donna E. Shalala
President