As the following school narratives and program profiles illustrate, the University of Miami provided a dazzling array of dynamic learning opportunities this year. Our students complemented academic pursuits with hands-on projects in settings ranging from campus laboratories to community-based clinics, famed foreign cities to remote rural areas. In the process, they expanded abilities and advanced knowledge, touched others’ lives and changed their own.

The year also brought distinguished additions to our faculty, ambitious research initiatives, innovative new curricula, and high-profile special events, as well as generous examples of the philanthropic support that is so vital to all we do. The highlights gathered here are just a sampling of the varied activities and outstanding resources that contributed to a remarkable year at the University of Miami.

School of Architecture

A progressive curriculum and a commitment to real-world learning and community service are cornerstones of the School of Architecture, led by Dean Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk. Students from Adibe Cure’s studio, for example, traveled to Barranquilla, Colombia, to study and make proposals for the revival of the city’s center. Last fall, students’ forward-thinking proposed designs to bring pedestrian life and commerce to a seven-mile stretch of Miami waterfront were showcased in a school-wide exhibition and symposium titled “On the Waterfront,” which drew hundreds of attendees, including many city officials.

This year, Laurie Weiss Nuell, co-founder of the Miller School of Medicine’s Jay Weiss Center for Social Medicine and Health Equity, worked with faculty members Joanna Lombard and Denis Hector to design additions and renovations to a 60-year-old hospital in Haiti. Coordinating the design studios with the nonprofit Partners in Health (PIH), cofounded by Harvard Medical School’s Paul Farmer, Weiss Nuell organized the first site visit; PIH physicians and staff then met with the studios in Miami. As the work advances, the school plans to help implement the project.

The school is also advancing understanding of how architecture and urban planning shape society, particularly with regard to health and well-being. Thanks to a five-year National Institutes of Health grant, the school’s vital research with the Miller School of Medicine’s Center for Family Studies continues. The UM Built Environment and Health Team unites architects, physicians, statisticians, psychologists, and community stakeholders in studying and addressing some...
of the most urgent concerns of our times—from childhood obesity and elder depression to public safety and sustainability. To that end, the school hopes to soon debut what may be the first-ever doctorate combining health care and architecture.

Further cementing its role as a global leader of the highly influential New Urbanism movement for compact, walkable communities, the school launched a trio of innovative yet pragmatic programs: the Master of Real Estate Development and Urbanism, Bachelor of Architecture/Master of Business Administration, and Certificate in Historic Preservation. Within months, a student team from the Master of Real Estate Development and Urbanism inaugural class won a $10,000 prize and was named a finalist in the 2009 Urban Land Institute/Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition. The seminars also offered a select group of faculty members an opportunity to teach subjects of particular interest—ranging from the role of oil in the global economy to the intricacies of complexity science.

Funded by the provost and the National Science Foundation, the college’s new SEEDS (Scientists and Engineers Expanding Diversity and Success) office coordinates University efforts to improve career opportunities in the sciences for women and underrepresented minorities. Its inaugural event, Lunch with the Pres, attracted 150 faculty to discuss diversity and career issues with President Shalala. Other activities included networking and mentoring events (including the popular, fast-paced interactive sessions known as Speed Mentoring), distinguished speaker visits, and the naming of six SEEDS Leadership awarders.

The college’s Center for the Humanities was established this year to support humanities, arts, and interpretive social science research and teaching. The center also seeks to nurture an awareness of the importance of the humanities for a more informed understanding of our own and other cultures. Through lectures, conferences, seminars, interdisciplinary research groups, and workshops, scholars will present their work, elicit critical responses, and stimulate public awareness and debate. The center has named its first class of faculty and dissertation fellows, who will pursue research in their areas of expertise. The center’s Web site, www.humanities.miami.edu, features a calendar of on-campus humanities events, as well as scholarly discussions and commentary about the arts. The center will be formally launched at a special event in fall 2009.

The Weeks Chair in Latin American Studies was established by Marta Weeks, former chair of the University’s Board of Trustees and chair of the college’s Visiting Committee. The gift will serve to strengthen the cross-disciplinary program in Latin American Studies at the University. Among other notable philanthropic contributions, a bequest of $1 million from Miami resident Jane Lawton to the Department of Psychology will support programs that assist Miami-Dade Public Schools in identifying and treating children with emotional problems.

Among many other activities of note at the college this year were the creation of ArtLab (at The Lowe, a program in which art students guest-curate an exhibit at the Lowe Art Museum) and a high-tech archaeological excavation in Jurash, Saudi Arabia, by a team of South Carolina students.

Peter Sall was one of six students who accompanied Richard J. Grant, a geography professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, to South Africa this year for a service-learning project with the Amy Beth Foundation. He wrote, “My goal for the year was to understand the intricacies that could not be had in any classroom. I organized personnel, equipment logistics, and travel plans (from jumbo jets to oxcarts); dealt with many layers of government permitting; worked hard in hand with Malagasy conservationists; and directed fieldwork in some of the most beautiful rainforests in Madagascar...”

Ozel is lead author of a research paper in progress about her study, which she hopes to publish in a scholarly journal. “Beyond the Book opened the door to a whole career for me,” says Ozel, who plans to pursue master’s and doctoral degrees in biology.

Herrera, who plans to go on to graduate school and ultimately work in international environmental education, vividly recalls "experiences that could not be had in any classroom. I organized personnel, equipment logistics, and travel plans (from jumbo jets to oxcarts); dealt with many layers of government permitting; worked hard in hand with Malagasy conservationists; and directed fieldwork in some of the most beautiful rainforests on Earth. "Conducting this study taught me invaluable lessons about doing field research. Even more importantly, it taught me lessons about life.”
School of Business Administration

Led by Dean Barbara E. Kahn, the School of Business Administration is pursuing a strategy built on research excellence, innovative cross-disciplinary academic programs, and community engagement to earn a place among the world’s very best business schools.

Over the past year, the school attracted illustrious new faculty that included several superstars from some of the world’s leading business schools, such as Wharton, Harvard, MIT, Duke, and Penn State. To further strengthen its research position, the school launched a new Ph.D. program, welcoming students in economics, marketing, management, and management science.

As part of its commitment to reach across campus to deliver cross-disciplinary programs, the school has developed a joint M.D./M.B.A. program in partnership with the Miller School of Medicine, a Bachelor of Architecture/M.B.A. program with the School of Architecture, and a Master in Real Estate Development and Urbanism program with the schools of architecture and law. Its portfolio of programs in health care expanded this year with a new undergraduate minor in health sector policy; students interested in real estate can now pursue an undergraduate major and an M.B.A. concentration in real estate management.

The school stepped up its engagement with alumni and the business community through an array of activities, from alumni events around the globe to an intensified calendar of conferences and seminars. A new required freshman course called FIRST Step—Freshman Integrity, Responsibility and Success through Teamwork—pairs teams of freshmen with area nonprofit organizations, helping students learn the importance of teamwork and ethical decision-making as they gain experience in social entrepreneurship. Last summer, M.B.A. students participated in ten-week internships with organizations such as Family Counseling Services of Greater Miami as part of the school’s M.B.A. Consultants to Nonprofit Program.

The school’s 360-degree approach to entrepreneurship has also touched the community, with entrepreneurship majors providing consulting services to 14 area small businesses this past spring. This program, along with leading-edge entrepreneurship research, entrepreneurial mentoring, and other activities, has helped the school become a model for entrepreneur education and research.

Perhaps the school’s most visible role on the community stage was its creation and hosting of UM’s Global Business Forum, held in January 2009. The forum brought together some 700 professionals for two days of forward-thinking discussion on the economic crisis, alternative energy, health care, the environment, and more. Keynote speakers at this ambitious and unprecedented event included some of the world’s most prominent business executives, from Jack Welch to the CEOs of Coca-Cola and McDonald’s.

School of Communication

There’s a reason We Media selected the School of Communication three years in a row to host its conference, which brings together the world’s top innovators to explore the realm of digital media. The two entities share a common mission—connecting people from different backgrounds through the evolving fabric of global communication.

The digitization of news, entertainment, and information yields vibrant new ways to tell stories. The School of Communication, with its Knight Center for International Media, helps future communicators employ these technologies with creativity, skill, and—above all—social responsibility.

Several new and ongoing programs build a foundation of social consciousness into the school’s curriculum. Leading the way are faculty members such as Rich Beckman, who spearheaded efforts this year to showcase Web-based stories of courage among an oft-marginalized group (see “Telling Stories That Inspire,” next page).

Sam Chatterjee, executive director of the Knight Center, vice dean of the school, and an award-winning documentary filmmaker, tackles global injustice with his lens—educating viewers on topics ranging from worldwide water scarcity to the Indian diaspora. Chatterjee’s critically acclaimed One Water, screened at festivals, universities, and venues around the world (including a United Nations conference on sustainable development) and recently enhanced with narration by Martin Sheen, has spawned Web sites, Twitter posts, and a host of educational programs that prompt action toward universal access to clean, safe drinking water.

In November 2008 the Knight Center launched its World Cities Anchor Project, whereby School of Communication faculty and students are building a knowledge base about life and well-being in major cities to help support the United Nations Millennium Development
Rich Beckman, Knight Chair in Visual Journalism in the School of Communication, is teaching his students to be story sleuths—to call the stories of greatest human impact, especially those that traditionally have gone untold.

Beckman’s students developed such stories among the more than 2,000 athletes from 85 nations who competed in the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Prior to the February games, several students spent extensive time with Florida athletes and created inspirational multimedia profiles that were posted on Special Olympics Web sites.

Thirty-two UM students then traveled with Beckman to the games in Idaho, where they joined more than 120 international students to give Special Olympics the kind of exposure typically reserved for superstars like Michael Phelps. Profiles, documentaries, video highlights, slideshow of daily events, competition results, and high-definition video and audio packages are just some of the features on live.specialolympics.org.

“Spending a week with Special Olympics athletes during the most important competition of their lives taught students a great deal about courage, joy, and passion,” Beckman says. “They learned as much about themselves as about multimedia journalism by helping these athletes and coaches tell their inspirational stories.”

Coverage of the 2009 Winter Games is the third Web-based multimedia project Beckman has spearheaded for the Special Olympics, beginning with the 2005 Global Messengers and then working with a team of 300 students at the World Summer Games in Shanghai in 2007. This kind of project, he says, exemplifies the mission of the school’s Knight Center for International Media—to integrate scholastic and creative energies in ways that address underrepresented issues of global importance.

Goals. “Journalism and media will be the glue that connects cities to address our world’s challenges,” School of Communication Dean Sam L. Groseclose says of the project. Reaching out locally as well as globally, the School of Communication recently partnered with the Coral Gables Community Foundation to create Gables HomePage, a virtual hometown newspaper that enables Coral Gables residents age 50 and older to connect with each other via a Web-based platform.

Involving and empowering local citizens through journalism is also the mission of the James Ansin/Poace Sullivan High School Work- shop in Journalism and New Media. Funded by donations from philanthropists Peace Sullivan and James Ansin and grants from the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and other media entities, the program invites underserved teens in South Florida to live on UM’s Coral Gables campus for three weeks during the summer, attend workshops taught by faculty, and visit newspapers and media outlets around town. Throughout their visit, participants generate content for Miami Montage, an online tabloid newspaper. An additional gift initiated last year by Ansin and Sullivan—and matched by the School of Communication—funds a half-tuition, four-year scholarship for a workshop participant to pursue his or her degree at the school.

By embracing and propelling the development of digital media, the School of Communication plays an important role in global connectivity. With an emphasis on fair reporting with a social conscience, the school is training the next generation of journalists to be both ethical watchdogs and agents of change.

School of Education

The School of Education is advocating a new paradigm of education in the United States, built on the belief that our nation’s educational system must not only teach our children basic facts, but serve as the backbone of a healthy, productive citizenry. This philosophy drives several programs that integrate educational, psychological, and physical aspects of well-being in multicultural communities.

This year, with support from the Dunsbaugh-Dalton Foundation, the school created the Dunsbaugh-Dalton Community and Educational Well-Being Research Center. Directed by associate dean for research Eziony Aldarondo, the center will foster research collaborations between the School of Education and community partners and serve as a resource for new knowledge on research methods and intervention strategies.

With more than $8 million in funded projects in areas such as special education, language development, math and science education, positive youth development, and disease prevention, faculty researchers in the school are already making important contributions to community well-being. The Dunsbaugh-Dalton Center will provide valuable administrative support to projects like these plus serve as a springboard for new initiatives.

One such initiative is the Immigrant Children Affirmative Network (ICAN), a faculty-graduate student collaboration that fosters positive youth development among unaccompanied immigrant children detained in South Florida shelters. These are children who may have been sent to the United States to find work, separated from their parents during a journey, or abandoned after their parents died. The ICAN program facilitates weekly group meetings that employ art, poetry, music, and dance to engage the children in self-expression.

This year also marked the continuation of a program funded by The Children’s Trust that empowers youth in disadvantaged neighborhoods to take ownership of a civic engagement project. Through the Strength, Prevention, Empowerment and Community Change for Engaging Youth (SPEC-EY) program, School of Education faculty and students train adult mentors in the Overtown area of Miami to partner with the young people, taking into account their views, insights, and wishes.

Also in Overtown, the School of Education joined other UM schools and colleges and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to help residents address issues such as transportation, urban planning, real estate, community archives, and policing.

These community-strengthening efforts received an additional boost this year from a $2.36 million endowment that established the school’s first-ever endowed chair, the Erwin and Barbara Mautner Chair in Community Well-Being. Dean Isaac Prilleltensky, a renowned international authority on community-based approaches to psychological and social health, is the first recipient of the chair.

The school’s strong emphasis on community well-being doesn’t diminish its focus on helping teachers become better educators and helping students overcome obstacles that might impede learning. The Teacher Support Network, for example, helps teachers in Miami-Dade and Broward counties with fewer than three years of experience build their skills and address classroom concerns. The Zelda Glazer Writing Institute is a summer workshop that helps teachers improve the quality of writing instruction in their classrooms. And assistant professor Maria Carlo, a champion for literacy, particularly among bilingual children, leads nationally funded projects that explore ways to help transfer reading skills from Spanish to English among primary schoolchildren.
College of Engineering

From cutting-edge research and interdisciplinary initiatives to an intensified emphasis on preparing graduates for career success, the College of Engineering is surging forward, propelled by the ambitious strategic plan of Dean James M. Tien. The college has recently refocused its scholarly activities and obtained sizeable grants in three critically strategic areas:

In technology—the merging of engineering and medicine to create innovative technological solutions to biomedical problems and health care issues—biomedical engineer Cherie Stabler is developing an ingenious technique of encapsulating transplanted insulin-producing islet cells in biocompatible materials to prevent destruction by the immune system, while professor Herman Cheung pursues the use of stem cells to repair cartilage damaged by osteoarthritis. Future research may focus on tissue specimens that could heal diseased organs and nanodevices that could restore vision and hearing.

In the field of informatics and risk, researchers at the college are advancing tools designed to efficiently integrate and analyze massive amounts of data to improve decision-making in sectors such as health care and financial services. For example, Akmal Younis, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, collaborated with IBM on a Web services-based system for bioinformatics applications that can help researchers analyze molecular data critical to the development of effective and safe new drugs. Jizhou Song, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, used sophisticated informatics-based tools to create a new design for stretchable electronics that can be wrapped around complex shapes with no loss in electronic function—and that could yield highly useful applications in fields including health care, communications, and transportation.

In sustainable systems, several studies seek to optimize energy efficiency and improve the strength of manmade structures. Zhenhua Jiang, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, is developing a “smart” electrical grid that would allow consumers to regulate their energy usage and trim their electric bills. Antonio Nanni, professor and chair of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, is leading an effort on the use of high-tech wireless sensors to monitor the structural integrity of bridges.

The college’s nine disciplinary curricula are continually evolving to prepare students for tomorrow’s global economy, which increasingly utilizes STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—methods in real-time, interactive services. Its leading-edge research and the varied learning experiences available to students reflect close collaboration with other UM schools as well as many non-UM entities. Such continuous improvements are equipping graduates with the vital skills they need to grow and thrive throughout their careers.

In the past year, seven distinguished new faculty members have been hired. Among them is Daniel Berg, who, along with Tien, is a member of the National Academy of Engineering; he is an expert on service systems engineering and plans to conduct collaborative research with the School of Business Administration. Four of the seven newcomers are women, doubling their numbers on the college’s faculty and highlighting the college’s commitment to expanding the ranks of underrepresented minority and female engineers. Of the college’s 750 undergraduate students, 44 percent are minorities and 27 percent are female, among the highest such percentages in engineering schools nationwide.

Frost School of Music

The Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music’s comprehensive curricula and outstanding programs were further energized this year by a variety of innovative initiatives and prestigious accolades.

Through the generosity of alumnus Bruce Hornsby, the school launched the Bruce Hornsby Creative American Music Program. Another new academic program, the graduate business management program in Arts Presenting, will prepare students for successful careers managing events such as music festivals, dance festivals, and theater presentations.

The school’s renowned Festival Miami celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008 by expanding into two new venues: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and BankUnited Center at the University of Miami. During the festival’s four weeks—each of them designed around an individual theme—23 concerts were presented.

Highlights included a songwriting competition among students in the Creative American Music Program and the star-studded Bruce Hornsby and Friends concert, which saw the debut of the school’s new Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra.

Thanks to a donation from longtime benefactors E. Roe Stamps IV (a UM trustee) and his wife, Penny, the school established the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation Music Scholarship Fund. Talented young Stamps Scholars form chamber ensembles upon entering and continue to learn and perform together for their entire college careers, receiving master-class training, entrepreneurial mentorship, and recording and performance opportunities. The program begins this fall with the formation of a Stamps Family Chamber Orchestra, which provides varied experiences that yield both tangible benefits and unforgettable lessons.

Knowing No Borders

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of the inaugural Stamps Jazz Quintet; subsequent quintets will include string, woodwind, and brass ensembles.

The Frost School played a key role at the University’s Global Business Forum this January, with faculty hosting panel discussions during which top music business and music technology executives discussed the impact of globalization on the music industry. And in March, musicians from the Cleveland Orchestra, a partner of the school since January 2007, were in residence at UM for activities that included performances, master classes, a side-by-side working rehearsal, and a management seminar by members of the orchestra’s senior management.

Several students and ensembles from the Studio Music and Jazz Department were honored in DownBeat magazine’s 52nd Annual Student Music Awards, winning in categories including the Best Blues/Pop/Rock Group, Best Latin Group, Best Jazz Soloist, Best Engineered Live Record, and Best Engineered Studio Recording.

In the new MusicReach program, a partnership with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony and Arts for Learning (a mentor training organization), freshman mentors from the Frost School were each paired with two seventh-grade musicians for weekly sessions that included semi-private music instruction, homework help, and general life mentoring, as well as assistance with rehearsals and team-building. The mentors will remain with the younger students for four years, nurturing them toward college and productive adult lives.

The school’s new Experiential

The School of Law has a longstanding commitment to the principle that true success as an attorney means not only doing well, but doing good. This commitment informs several law school programs that provide both priceless experience for students and pro bono services for people in need.

Through varied clinics, students provide legal services to low-income populations on topics such as bankruptcy, civil rights for children in foster care, and community improvement. Last fall saw the launch of the Health and Elder Law Clinic, which furnishes legal advice and advocacy in areas such as health and elder rights, public benefits, and immigration. The clinic has already successfully represented clients in naturalization proceedings, estate planning, and living wills, as well as Social Security claims totaling more than $130,000.

Music curriculum, which recently began in pilot form, will serve as a model for music education. Preliminary architectural plans were completed for the Center for Experiential Music, a 75,000-square-foot facility that will feature learning pods, technology studios, smart classrooms, and a 200-seat performance hall.

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Since 1998, the School of Law’s H.O.P.E. (Helping Others through Pro Bono Efforts) Public Interest Resource Center has encouraged students to give back to the community and promote access to justice. H.O.P.E. currently sponsors more than two dozen outreach projects in areas ranging from animal rights to youth literacy. This summer, 16 H.O.P.E. Fellows worked in Miami and several other locales as advocates for children, immigrants, the homeless, victims of hate crimes or abuse, and others in need. During the H.O.P.E. Day of Service on August 10, more than 350 incoming and returning students volunteered at some 25 agencies and organizations across Miami-Dade County—the largest such event in the initiative’s history.

Several students and faculty members received prestigious fellowships and appointments this year. For example, Professor David Abraham was awarded a residency fellowship from The American Academy in Berlin. Professor Jon Paulsson, the Michael Klein Distinguished Scholar Chair and one of the world’s leading experts on international arbitration, was named one of 12 new vice presidents of the International Chamber of Commerce World Council. And recent graduates Sara Gonzalez-Rothi and R. Scott Nuzum received Everglades Foundation Congressional Fellowships from the UM Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy, which will place them for one year in Washington, D.C.-based congressional or federal offices that have jurisdiction over issues affecting the Everglades.

The School of Law’s emphasis on high-quality education is reflected in its growing renown. The graduate program in tax law placed sixth, while the law school as a whole moved up 11 spots this year in the influential U.S. News & World Report graduate program rankings.

The School of Law recently welcomed its 11th dean, Patricia D. White, who has been widely recognized for her intellectual rigor and passionate advocacy of public service. Dean White describes law as “fundamentally an opportunity to use a tremendously powerful institution—the legal system—to promote the values of equality, justice, and fairness while solving particular problems.” Her dynamic leadership promises to guide the school into a new era of unprecedented distinction and extraordinary service to society.
 valuation, priceless service

On a balmy morning in the Florida Keys, UM Miller School of Medicine students are up early, grabbing cups of coffee before fanning out to staff three simultaneous health fairs for the next six hours— or until the last patient is served. The school’s Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Department of Community Service (DOCS) health fairs, held throughout South Florida since 1971, offer hands-on learning experiences while providing critically needed health screening and educational services free of charge to more than 1,500 underserved area residents each year.

Over the years, participating students have seen people with conditions that include dangerously high blood pressure, precancerous lesions, and extreme risk for cardiac arrest. More than a few of those people say the students may have saved their lives.

Big Pine Key is the spiritual home of DOCS, the place where then-faculty member Iris M. Kien asked a few medical students to provide health screenings to residents. That small, informal effort has grown into a phenomenon that has touched thousands of lives.

Today more than 90 percent of Miller School graduates have participated in at least one DOCS health fair. “Community service is an integral part of studying medicine at the Miller School, and DOCS upholds that tradition with the highest medical competency and compassion,” says Dean Pascal J. Goldschmidt, who joins faculty volunteers at some of the health fairs.

Students and residents spend hundreds of hours planning the events, recruiting volunteers, interfacing with community partners, dealing with logistical issues, organizing lab results, and arranging referral clinics for follow up. “We spend a great deal of time helping to make DOCS successful,” says Josefina Farra, who, as a fourth-year medical student, served as DOCS executive director this year. “But every patient is worth it.”
patient safety conference in March. This spring, the Pan American Health and Education Foundation funded a new “train the trainer” partnership targeted toward strengthening nurse midwifery education in Haiti, which has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere. Future activities will focus on patient safety, nursing recruitment and retention, and development of doctoral and other postgraduate nursing programs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The WHO partnership will also help to expand the school’s growing array of student exchange programs. This year, 48 students traveled to Chile, Haiti, and, for the first time, Mexico, gaining a deepened appreciation of global health issues. The school also welcomed nursing students and faculty from Chile, Mexico, and Israel.

To meet the need for nursing professionals who can implement innovative, evidence-based patient care, the school launched a new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in January. The clinical counterpart of the school’s research-focused doctorate, the interdisciplinary program, which partners with the School of Business Administration, is offered in an executive-education format.

El Centro, the University of Miami Center of Excellence for Hispanic Health Disparities Research, continues to expand its research and educational activities. The Summer Scholars program, launched in 2008, offers paid research internships for students to conduct research on health disparities topics that reflect their interests and experience. In September, El Centro received an additional grant from the National Institutes of Health National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities for a series of seminars designed to share research findings with communities statewide.

Through UM’s Contract Employee Enrichment Program, the school offers health screenings and education to UM workers at health fairs held on all three campuses. This year’s events drew about 200 employees, providing hands-on experience for nursing students while providing much-needed services.

The school’s efforts to address the nation’s nursing shortage and recruit students from groups underrepresented in nursing received a major boost with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Scholars program, launched in 2008, to fund the School of Business Administration’s new Nursing Leadership and Management program. The award provided scholarships of $10,000 each to 30 students who enrolled in UM’s Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. And the school’s mission of increasing the ranks of doctorally prepared nursing faculty gained support from a generous Florman Family Foundation scholarship for UM’s BSN program, which provides scholarships for nursing faculty at both Miami Dade College and the University to pursue the DNP at the University of Miami.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies, led by Dean Nilda Peragallo (left), launched its new designation as a PAHO/WHO Nursing Collaborating Centre with a series of events in March.

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

Students in the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science are, literally, students of the world. Some of the most important discoveries in hurricane tracking, climate change, sustainable fisheries, preservation of coral and other natural resources, and many more areas of global urgency are made by Rosenstiel School faculty and students.

The school welcomed Roni Avisar as its new dean in June 2009. A distinguished scientist and prominent scholar who has studied the way Amazon deforestation affects precipitation patterns around the world, Avisar joined the University from Duke University, where he served for five years as the W.H. Gardner Professor and chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The Rosenstiel School’s aquaculture program is spearheading research and development in the emerging fields of hatchery technology and offshore aquaculture as key strategies in the quest to develop sustainable fishing practices. Led by associate professor Daniel Benetti, the program is a pioneer in raising cobia as an alternative to species that are endangered or create ecological havoc when farm-raised. The school also is a full partner in the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch program, which empowers consumers to make smart choices when buying seafood.

Through the school’s National Center for Coral Reef Research program, more than 50 University scientists are joining forces to study, predict, and mitigate the harmful effects of global climate change on coral reef systems. Their interdisciplinary efforts address critical problems such as coral bleaching, ocean acidification, and rising concentrations of carbon dioxide.

Combining global outreach with classroom credit, Daniel Suman, professor of coastal management and environmental law, led 21 students in his Tourism: Conservation and Development course on a ten-day excursion to Bocas del Toro, Panama, an important center of coral diversity and a nesting site for certain species of endangered sea turtles. The students met with several local experts and developed individual projects on the environmental impacts of tourism in the region. Suman also worked with a team of Rosenstiel scientists to develop a coastal management plan for Bocas del Toro that was then presented to Panamanian officials. This summer, Suman led another group of students on a six-week journey to China and Vietnam to study water resources and policy in those countries.

In addition to tackling global problems through hands-on research, Rosenstiel School faculty and students facilitate community programs that educate and motivate people to act in responsible ways. This year, a partnership between the school, the F.I.N.SEA Foundation, and the Rho Rho marine and atmospheric honor society gave 100 elementary school children from underprivileged areas in Miami a close-up look at marine science. The inaugural Ocean Kids event showcased ten activity stations on the Coral Gables campus, including a touch tank of live marine organisms, a squid dissection, and a snorkeling and scuba gear demonstration.

Also this year, the Rosenstiel School hosted the Manatee Bowl, the Jeopardy-like regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. Rosenstiel School faculty, staff, and students volunteer for this event, which encourages the next generation of marine scientists, policy-makers, explorers, and environmental advocates.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies, led by Dean Nilda Peragallo (left), launched its new designation as a PAHO/WHO Nursing Collaborating Centre with a series of events in March.

Rosenstiel School students offered local children unforgettable looks at the wonders of the marine world through the Ocean Kids event.

Daniel Benetti (left), an associate professor in the Rosenstiel School’s aquaculture program, works with students to develop sustainable and productive new approaches to meeting the world’s demand for fish and other types of seafood.