In what sometimes seems like ten minutes rather than ten years, the 21st century is more than a decade old. As it dawned, we were relieved that the Y2K issue had turned out to be no big deal—but we had no clue what was in store. 9/11 had not yet occurred, nor the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Indian Ocean tsunami, the election of President Barack Obama, and the worldwide economic crisis were years in the future. Yet, in retrospect, it all raced by.

As the pace of events accelerates in our globalized world, the problems they present demand ever more agile responses and out-of-the-box solutions—just what we excel in here at the University of Miami. One of the nation’s most dynamic, diverse, and respected research universities, we emphasize multidisciplinary collaborations that transcend traditional academic boundaries. You might call it educational entrepreneurship. Of all our specialized programs, perhaps our most distinctive specialty is the unique way we put them together to address urgent issues.
2010 was not even two weeks old when UM’s can-do spirit, collaborative orientations, and commitment to the community were called into service by the crisis in Haiti. Miller School of Medicine team led by Barth Green, chair of neurological surgery, arrived in Port-au-Prince to begin caring for survivors less than 20 hours after the devastating January 12 earthquake. UM Hospital in Haiti, a large, full-service field hospital, was erected in just over a week. UM also coordinated the work of thousands of volunteers and ultimately raised some $7 million to save lives and rekindle hope in Haiti.

Joining the effort were nurses from the School of Nursing and Health Studies and from UHealth and Jackson Health System; Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science scientists who contributed expertise in seismologic monitoring and forecasting; and UM architects and engineers who studied how to help Haiti rebuild safely. Ultimately, virtually every school at the University made significant contributions to Haiti’s recovery and long-term survival.

Coinciding with these varied humanitarian efforts, UM’s hosting of the third annual Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) this April was timely as well as exciting. More than 400 students representing every state in the U.S. and 40 countries, as well as nearly 500 university presidents and 75 youth organization leaders attended the event, which seeks to engage young people in making commitments to address global issues. Some 267 UM students were invited to participate, the largest number from any host university in the event’s history. Just two days after CGI U concluded, UM began responding to another emergency, this one manmade: the disastrous oil spill resulting from the April 20 explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig. UM scientists and engineers worked with international partners to help develop a strategy to contain the spill.

Harnessing innovative approaches to health and well-being is the goal of the UM Life Science & Technology Park (LSTP). Developed by Wexford Science & Technology, the LSTP is a collaborative effort among the Miller School, the College of Medicine and University of Miami Health System reflecting our commitment to leadership and excellence in health care as well as our partnership with Jackson. For the seventh straight year, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute has been named the top eye hospital in the country in the U.S. News & World Report 2010-11 “Best Hospitals” annual survey. Three specialties at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center were also ranked among the nation’s best: Neurology and Neurosurgery; Ear, Nose and Throat; and Nephrology and Hypertension.

A community issue in which we are all stakeholders—health care—in the public eye this year, more so than any other year at the University, has been the forefront of fresh thinking in health care taking evidence-based treatments with an emphasis on wellness and prevention.

Even when we’re not pitching in on high-profile emergencies, we give back to our neighbors and our world in countless ways. Our students contribute more than 70,000 volunteer hours to community projects each year. Our varied outreach activities are showcased in a recently launched section of the University’s website called ‘Canes in the Community.’

The clinical programs offered by the Miller School of Medicine and University of Miami Health System reflect our commitment to leadership and excellence in health care as well as our partnership with Jackson. For the seventh straight year, Jackson Palmer Eye Institute has been ranked the top eye hospital in the country in the U.S. News & World Report 2010-11 “Best Hospitals” annual survey. Three specialties at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center were also ranked among the nation’s best: Neurology and Neurosurgery; Ear, Nose and Throat; and Nephrology and Hypertension.

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Within the College of arts and sciences, the clinical psychol- ogy graduate program registered both high student satisfaction and high career success, according to a third-party survey. In the “College A-List” of outstanding schools, the publication also ranked UM 48th in its “Great Schools, Great Prices” category. The University ascended to 47th place, coming from Parade magazine, which recently included UM in its “America’s largest charities by Charity Navigator. UM has earned the organization’s prestigious 4-star ranking ten years in a row.

The steadfast loyalty and support of our friends during the lingering economic downturn continues to pose fiscal challenges. While our overall finances are stable, we are exercising vigilance over our revenue and expenses to protect our core mission, operations, and greatest resource—our people.

The Engineering, and community and private partners, it will house cutting-edge basic and translational research while nurturing be- neficial new technologies and processes. The park also represents significant opportunities for the historic Overtown community in which it is located. With its first phase slated for completion in this fiscal year, the development will be a beacon of scientific innovation in South Florida and beyond.

Colin Stein, who has been serving as dean of the University’s largest college, he will continue its trajectory of excellence while spearheading creative collaborations to address global problems and prepare world-ready citizens.

Our steady stewardship of philanthropic funds is widely recognized. Our fundraising cash total for the fiscal year was close to $110 million, an increase from last year. Among many examples of outstanding generosity, the Goizueta Foundation announced a $5 million gift to the Miller School of Medicine’s Ear Institute. The Papanicolaou Corps, a loyal friend of our Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, recently announced a $3.2 million, the Miller School of Medicine awarded 260 out of 287 such programs nationwide, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges’ rankings, the university ascended to 47th place, continuing a remarkable rise that has seen UM climb 30 spots in just two years and become the highest-rated Florida school on the list. The publication also ranked UM 4th in its “Great Schools, Great Prices” category.

In the 2012 edition of “Women’s, Men’s & Graduate Schools,” published by U.S. News & World Report, the Miller School of Medicine moved up double digits. I am pleased and proud that we have managed our finances in ways that have allowed us to continue to advance as an institution. I am also confident that facing and meeting these economic challenges will ultimately make us stronger.

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