1925: University of Miami receives its charter. Coral Gables founder George E. Merrick donated 160 acres of land and $5 million to begin building.

1926: Construction of the first building is halted by a major hurricane, but UM opens only a month late, on October 15. UM's first students, numbering nearly 130, attend classes in the hastily converted Anastasia Hotel -- dubbed "the Cardboard College" because of the temporary partitions used to divide the classrooms.

1943: UM establishes a marine laboratory, which evolves into the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science on Virginia Key.

1952: UM opens the state's oldest and largest School of Medicine. It is the hub of the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. The relationship between the Medical Campus and Jackson Memorial Hospital is unique: no other medical school in the country has a public hospital as its primary teaching facility.

1982: The University of Miami is elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

1984: UM unveils its Strategic Plan, hailed as "one of the best in the nation."

1986: The University celebrates its 60th anniversary, and Time magazine names UM among the nine best young universities in the nation.

1987: The University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center is named one of the best hospitals in America, in a book that examined the USA's top 64 hospitals. And the Best in Medicine ranks the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center among the top 16 in the country, based on peer review by 200 independent physicians.

1989: The University of Miami completed one of the largest fund-raising campaigns in higher education, a five-year campaign that raised $517.5 million in commitments in buildings and equipment, endowment, and scholarships. Giving by alumni, friends, and organizations reached a University record $67.8 million FY95, representing the top year in private giving at the University.

1990: The five-year Campaign for the University concludes in January with $517.5 million in commitments.

1992: The Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center is dedicated at the School of Medicine.
2000: The University breaks the $100 million mark in annual contributions for the first time in its history.

The School of Medicine dedicates the seven-story Lois Pope LIFE Center, home of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

2001: The School of Communication dedicates its new home, the 56,000-square-foot Frances L. Wolfson Building.

The University breaks ground on the Convocation Center, the future home of Hurricane men’s and women’s basketball and a venue for educational, cultural, and community events.

The School of Medicine dedicates its new Batchelor Children’s Research Institute, an eight-story facility that houses the many research initiatives of the Department of Pediatrics.

Donna E. Shalala takes office as the University’s fifth president.

2003: The University of Miami Convocation Center opens.

The University of Miami accepts an invitation to join the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2004-05.

On October 16, the University of Miami announced *Momentum: The Campaign for the University of Miami*. The goal of the campaign, $1 billion by mid-2007, makes it the largest campaign announced by any university in the state of Florida.

The School of Music is renamed the Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music in honor of philanthropists Dr. Phillip and Patricia Frost. Their $33 million gift is one of the largest gifts from an individual received by UM and is the largest ever made to a university-based music school in the United States.

2004: An agreement is reached between the University and the UM Neighbors Homeowners Association on University Village, a student apartment complex on the west side of the Coral Gables campus. It will be the first student housing to be built on that campus in more than 36 years.

The University of Miami Convocation Center will be the site of the first 2004 Presidential Debate on September 30, 2004.