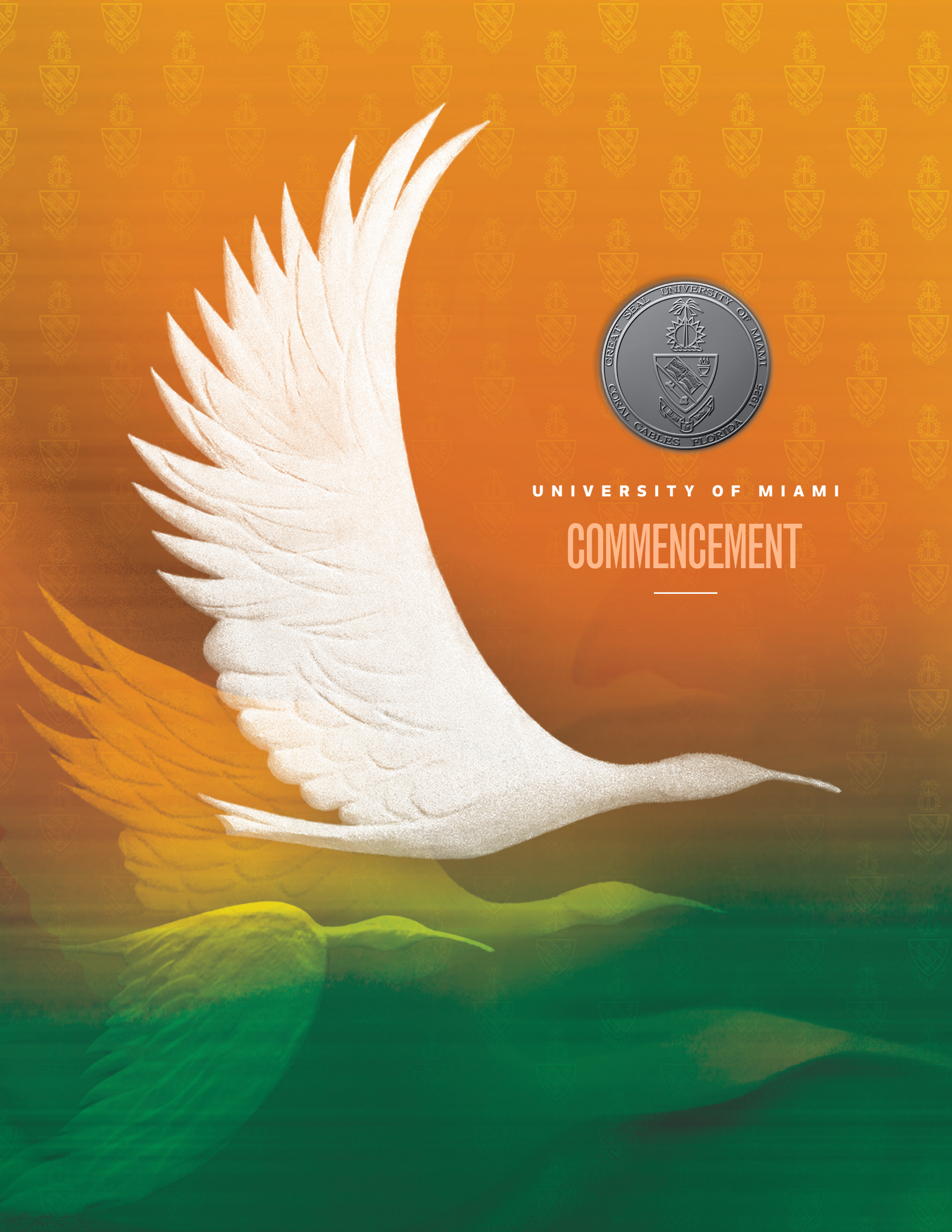




UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

# COMMENCEMENT

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# THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

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The Great Seal of the University of Miami symbolizes exceptional scholarship, a limitless quest for knowledge, and an abiding commitment to service shared by University faculty, staff, and students. The Great Seal includes a stylized sun and palm tree, as well as a shield with the traditional symbols of education—a key, a book, and a torch. The key signifies the unlocking, discovery, or re-evaluation of

learning and knowledge; the book holds the Latin words for discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge; and the torch symbolizes the spread and dissemination of learning. Below the shield is the University's Latin motto, from the Book of Esdras, *Magna Est Veritas: Great Is Truth*.



## THE MACE

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The academic mace, an enduring symbol of institutional authority and prestige, is a vestige from prehistoric times. First used as a battle weapon, the mace evolved into a ceremonial staff carried in processions of royalty, magistrates, and church or university officials.

The University of Miami's current mace, which dates back to 1986, was sculpted by former UM Professor of Art William Ward. He chose a contemporary design, one that reflects the University's timelessness and perpetual growth from a young institution to one of national prominence. The clean lines and polished silver surface are elegant, dignified, and reflective of colors, textures, and forms in the ever-changing environment. Ward indicated that timelessness is further

represented by the mace's geometric design. Rather than employing symbols like books, candles, or globes, he noted that "these geometric shapes are not tied to fad or style but are an integral part of our world. There are obvious relationships to mathematics and the sciences, and as the mace is rotated, some of the planes at the top resemble letters. Its complexity is like the unfolding plot of a good story."

The University of Miami's current mace serves as a symbolic weapon to protect the ideals of truth, justice, and learning. During the commencement ceremony, it is carried at the head of the academic procession by the Grand Marshal, whose symbolic duty is the protection of the University, its people, and its processes.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

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The University of Miami Presidential Chair, or *cathedra*, takes its place on the commencement stage as a symbol of the Office of the President. Traditionally representing the seat of learning, the *cathedra* was designed and crafted by master furniture maker Austin Matheson, an adjunct professor in the School of Architecture whose family history in South Florida predates the University's 1925 founding.

Matheson carved and joined what appear to be the seamless pieces of the chair from a single slab of highly prized and once-abundant Cuban mahogany wood. It was salvaged from a tree felled by a hurricane in nearby Coconut Grove. The fluidity of his design represents the idea that "We Are One U," while his use of a contemporary style and a few

traditional flourishes represent the University's rich past and promising future. "The chair is unique. It has no precedent. It stands alone," Matheson said.

Etched by laser, the Great Seal of the University of Miami is prominently displayed on the splat, or back, of the chair. More subtly, twin silhouettes of an ibis head, with its graceful beak, adorn each side of the crest rail. Known for its invincible spirit when hurricanes approach, the marsh bird has been the school mascot since the University opened its doors, just a month after the hurricane of 1926 devastated Miami. Like the chair, the ibis continues to be a symbol of our resilience and renewal as we approach our new century.

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND REGALIA

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The ceremonies of commencement immerse us in the rich tradition of academic honors and dress that reaches back to the early days of the world's oldest universities.

The University of Miami awards degrees in three basic divisions: the doctorate, master's, and baccalaureate, which can be traced to medieval times. The student receiving a "first degree in arts" was crowned with a wreath of laurel berries, hence "baccalaureate" and "bachelor." The master's degree was a license to teach (*Licentia docendi*), so the "master" was an appropriate title. The doctor was even better qualified to teach, for this degree required advanced study, independent research, and defense of a "thesis." These standards still apply to the doctorate, except for those conferred *honoris causa* (as honorary degrees) for meritorious service in public or private endeavor.

Some degrees are awarded with special recognition. For those who have achieved appropriate standards in their work, the words *cum laude* (with praise), *magna cum laude* (with high praise), and *summa cum laude* (with highest praise) are used. Students who have met formal scholarly demands, including both specified courses and high overall grade averages, may graduate with "General Honors." These achievements are recorded on diplomas and in official transcripts.

From medieval practice, academic dress has three items: cap, gown, and hood. In reviving the use of these items for the United States, an intercollegiate commission in 1895 drafted a code that most universities,

including the University of Miami, follow.

For all degrees, the mortarboard is the traditional cap. The tassel may be gold for a doctor or may indicate the field of study.

The bachelor's gown is black with long, pointed, open sleeves. The master's gown is black with a long, closed sleeve hanging below the elbow. The doctor's gown is black and is distinguished by three bars of velvet on a full sleeve.

The academic hood is the identifying symbol of the degree. Its length indicates which degree it represents: three feet for the baccalaureate, three-and-a-half for the master's, and four for the doctorate. The lining indicates the college or university that awarded the degree. University of Miami hoods are lined in orange, green, and white. The color of the velvet band represents the academic discipline. The most frequently seen colors are white for arts, yellow for science, pink for music, sapphire blue for philosophy, purple for law, scarlet for divinity, green for medicine, light blue for education, drab for business, orange for engineering, violet for architecture, gray for general studies, and apricot for nursing.

President Julio Frenk wears a black robe with four black velvet bars. The fourth chevron indicates this is the presidential regalia. The gown features orange and green piping as well as a doctoral hood lined in orange, green and white—reflecting the official University of Miami school colors.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

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Established by former President Donna E. Shalala in 2003 and embossed with the Great Seal of the University of Miami, the University of Miami President's Medal honors individuals for their outstanding leadership, distinguished accomplishments in their fields of expertise, or contributions to society.

President's Medal recipients include an illustrious list of citizens who have championed the community, the University, or noble endeavors that have enriched our world.

# THE MUSIC OF THE CEREMONY

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## UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FANFARE

Great universities throughout the country begin their halftime performances with a special fanfare consisting of small portions of their school fight songs and alma mater. The fanfare signals the start of halftime festivities, exciting the crowd and encouraging loyal fans to remain in their seats during the band's performance. Following the Miami Hurricane's National Championship season in 2001-2002, David Lambert, D.M.A.'05, wrote a similar fanfare for the University

of Miami. "UM Fanfare" was premiered by the University of Miami Band of the Hour during the 2004 Miami Hurricane home football opener versus Florida State University. It has since been performed as a prelude to all Band of the Hour performances and has become a part of the University of Miami's commencement to announce the opening of the ceremony.

## PRESIDENT'S PROCESSIONAL FANFARE

Commencement ceremonies are rich in history, tradition, and ritual. Over the years, the University of Miami has had a number of talented musicians and composers contribute to that history and tradition. The "President's Processional Fanfare – Toward Our New Century" was

commissioned by the Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music for the inauguration of the University of Miami's sixth president, Julio Frenk. Written by Brian Balmages, M.M. '00, the fanfare premiered on January 29, 2016, at President Frenk's inauguration ceremony.

## THE MUSIC OF HENRY FILLMORE

Henry Fillmore, the American composer and bandleader best known for his marches, was an ardent supporter, friend, and benefactor of the University of Miami band. After retiring to Miami, he quickly adopted the Band of the Hour at the University of Miami as his own. As a result, he was named "permanent guest conductor" of the band, and in appreciation of his dedication, the University awarded Fillmore an honorary doctorate in music. Fillmore's prominence as a band composer and his tireless dedication to the field of music remain his

legacy. Benefiting most from his musical passion and artistry was the University of Miami band, to which he bequeathed most of his estate. The Henry Fillmore Band Hall, dedicated in 1959 along with the Fillmore Museum, is a symbol of that legacy.

The recessional music today is but a small part of his life's work. Each selection has a unique relationship to Miami and the University. "The Miami March" was dedicated to the community of Greater Miami, which enthusiastically supported Fillmore and his music.

# ALMA MATER

*William S. Lampe and Christine Asdurian  
Arranged by Henry Fillmore*

Southern suns and sky blue water  
Smile upon you Alma Mater  
Mistress of this fruitful land  
With all knowledge at your hand  
Always just, to honor true  
All our love we pledge to you  
Alma Mater  
Stand forever  
On Biscayne's wondrous shore.

S  
A  
South - ern suns and sky blue wa - ter Smile up - on you, Al - ma Ma - ter

T  
B  
Mis - tress of this fruit - ful land, With all know - ledge at your hand,

S  
A  
Al - ways just, to hon - or true All our love we pledge to you.

T  
B  
Al - ma Ma - ter Stand for - ev - er, on Bis - cayne's won - drous shore.







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