A Touching Remembrance of Michael S. Gordon, M.D. Ph.D.

A joyful musical celebration of the life and legacy of Michael S. Gordon, M.D., Ph.D. was hosted by Mrs. Lyndia Gordon, The Michael S. Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education and the Frost School of Music on October 12, 2018. A pre-concert reception was held at UM Libraries, Klaisak Center where members of the Fire Rescue Honor Guard presented the colors and M/C Anthony Sossio led guests in the Pledge of Alliance. President Julio Frenk welcomed guests and spoke about Michael’s long and distinguished career at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where he revolutionized medical education. In 1968 he invented a cardiological patient simulator named after his mentor Dr. Proctor Harvey that transformed simulation and medical training. In the 60 years since, hundreds of thousands of physicians, nurses, students, residents and first responders including the military have trained with the systems Michael and his team developed. Dean Henri Ford spoke about Dr. Gordon as an example academic clinician who named the simulator after his mentor and not himself, a credit to his character. Mayor Carlos Gimenez, who as a former fire chief worked with Dr. Gordon in the initial stages of curriculum development for all First Responders, spoke of his and his wife Lourdes’ longtime friendship with both Michael and Lynda. Mayor Gimenez, along with Vice Chairwoman Audrey Edmonson and Commissioner Willy Gort, co-designated the “Michael S. Gordon Plaza” located on NW 14th Street at Highland Road in the center of the Miller School of Medicine campus earlier this year.

Guests were then led by the Fire Rescue Honor Guard and the Black Pearl Bag Pipes and Drums comprised of active fire rescue personal to the Gusman Recital Hall. Police K-9 Blizzard, wearing his ballistic vest donated by Lyndia Gordon bearing the insignia “In Memory of Michael S. Gordon” and his handler, Sgt. Aaron Peterman of the Lakeland Police force were also in the procession, as were several Fire Rescue vehicles & units with their lights on and crews looking sharp standing at attention in memory and honor of Dr. Mike as he was known. Michael was extremely proud of the fact that the Center trained first responders and always praised them for their commitment and dedication to saving lives.

Lynda Gordon with M/C for the evening her brother Anthony Sossio

Mayor and Mrs. Gimenez with Lyndia Gordon and UM President Frenk

Professional firefighters from Hallah, Miami-Dade, and Miami Beach Fire Rescue Departments

The Black Pearl Pipes and Drums Band

City of Miami and Coral Gables Fire Rescue Honor Guard present colors

Sergeant Aaron Peterman with K-9 Blizzard - Lakeland Police department

Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education

director Dr. Barry S. Issenberg

Mirela LaBalle, Chair Bruce, UM President Julio Frenk, and Dean Henri Ford

Staff and instructors from the Gordon Center