Think you know MIAMI HISTORY?

Why are Miami’s colors red and white? Where was the toasted roll first concocted? Here’s a quiz that will test how well you really know Miami history. Most of the answers are from Miami University, 1809-2009: Bicentennial Perspectives.

1. When did college classes begin at Miami? And, no, we don’t mean the grammar school’s college prep classes.

2. Name Miami’s longest-serving president.  
*Hint: Think campus buildings.*

3. Now buttered and grilled in the Shriver Center, the iconic toasted roll was first sold where?

4. When did Miami’s first campus outside the U.S. open and where?

5. How did red and white become Miami’s official colors?

6. Who is Miami’s winningest head football coach? And in hockey?

7. Where is Miami’s newest campus?
After an attempt to create a Miami University center in Asia failed, key leaders were convinced by John Dolibois ’42 that a European center would benefit students. The Miami European Center in Luxembourg opened in 1968. It was later renamed for Dolibois, a native of Luxembourg who came to the U.S. as a seventh-grader in 1931. After serving in World War II and briefly at Procter & Gamble, he became Miami’s first full-time alumni secretary, setting up office in a converted men’s lounge in Ogden Hall in 1947. When he retired from Miami to become U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg (1981-85), he was vice president for development and alumni affairs.

Two literary societies became the first organized groups on campus. The Erodelphian Society, established by 13 students in November 1825, took red as its color. The Union Society, which formed a month later, adopted white. They remained the most prominent of the university’s literary societies and lasted into the 1920s. The students spent many Friday evenings in their societies’ third-floor rooms in Old Main debating social and political issues of the day as well as literary topics.

On Feb. 17, 1945, the 136th anniversary of Miami’s charter, President Upham died in office. After having dinner with students in one of the residence halls, taking in a panel discussion, and walking his Scottie dog along Slant Walk, at 1:30 a.m. in Lewis Place Alfred H. Upham suffered a heart attack. That would be Tuffy’s, a restaurant with 21 booths and three rooms in the basement of Tallawanda Hall, a small dorm for women on the northwest corner of High Street and Tallawanda Road.

For football, that would be the late Randy Walker ’76 MEd ’81. A standout fullback on Miami’s legendary football teams of the mid-1970s, he served as Miami’s head coach 1990-98, posting seven winning seasons and a Miami record 59 football coaching victories. He went on to lead Northwestern University to an unprecedented three bowl game appearances and a share of the 2000 Big Ten title. Walker, who passed away unexpectedly in 2006, is enshrined in the Miami University Athletic Hall of Fame and the Cradle of Coaches Association.

Taking over the helm of the hockey program at age 27 in 1999, Rico Blasi ’94 is Miami’s winningest hockey coach, a four-time CCHA Coach of the Year, and a National Coach of the Year.

Classes began Jan. 12, 2009, at Miami’s Voice of America Learning Center. Near I-75 between Cincinnati and Dayton, the center is built on part of what was once the Voice of America Bethany Relay Station, which broadcast continuously 1944-95, reaching five continents in 53 languages at its peak. The center’s architecture echoes the neo-Georgian style of the Oxford campus, complete with the signature cupola, which is lit at night.