

# University of Miami Relies on IQinVision to Create Safer Campus Environment

Over 350 IQinVision megapixel cameras installed throughout main UM campus to create safer environment for students, staff, and visitors.



A private research university with more than 15,000 students, the University of Miami is located in Coral Gables in southern Florida. The University is comprised of 12 schools and colleges serving undergraduate and graduate students in more than 180 majors and programs. In 2010, U.S. News & World Report recognized UM as the No.1 school in Florida.

## The Challenge

The university had maintained video surveillance for a number of years, but as Jose Ruano, Executive Director of IT Security, explained, “Our challenge is that a university is very de-centralized. We had so many legacy analog systems, and we were looking to bring it all together into a unified system that we could manage in a centralized manner.” Campus Police are responsible for monitoring video and investigating any incidents, but this was made very difficult by the many disparate systems.

In order to integrate all the different video systems into a single unified system, Ruano and colleague Steve Weatherly, Senior Security Engineer, knew the university needed to upgrade to IP. “It was much more economical to upgrade our cameras and run them over the IP network than laying coax,” recalled Weatherly. Both Weatherly and Ruano conducted extensive research and identified the top technology

candidates with whom they wanted to conduct more extensive discussions.

## The Solution

The University of Miami, Florida, has installed over 350 IQinVision megapixel cameras throughout its main campus in order to create a safer environment for students, staff, and visitors. “When I first saw a demo of an IQeye megapixel camera, I was blown away at the quality compared to analog,” said Weatherly. “Ever since then it’s been IQinVision.” In addition to selecting IQeye Sentinel cameras, University of Miami also chose OnSSI video management software for their upgraded security system.

The university has over 400 cameras installed and approximately 90% of them are IQeye HD megapixel cameras. IQeye cameras are installed wherever image quality is critical for identification purposes—

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parking lots and areas that typically have a high density of students. The University Police also conduct regular analyses of the campus to identify high crime areas. Cameras are then moved or new ones installed to address pressing needs at the locations identified in the study.

### The Highlights

- > Of the more than 400 cameras installed, nearly 90% are IQinVision megapixel HD cameras.
- > For Miami, image quality was the critical selling point. Jose Ruano, “Often with convenience store robberies the camera gets an image, but you can’t see who the bad guy is. We’ve had several instances in which the police get a screen shot or a video clip from the IQeye camera from 20, 30, even 40 feet away and you can see the face—you *can* ID that person.”
- > The OnSSI video management software allows Campus Police to view images from all the IQeye and other cameras, while each school or separate department views only the cameras installed in their buildings or area.
- > As legacy analog cameras fail, plans call for replacing them with more IQeye cameras. Ruano and Weatherly are also testing Standard Definition IQeye cameras and they report that they are impressed with the “very good quality.”
- > Weatherly commented how those who walk the campus also appreciate IQinVision’s design prowess, “Staff and faculty notice the IQeye camera’s sleek design, which is not

intimidating, yet it has a great picture and it blends very well with the environment. They’ve seen these cameras and they feel protected.”

- > Future system improvements under study include police viewing video from squad cars and monitoring video on iPads or other mobile devices while patrolling on foot.
- > The University sees video surveillance as a critical deterrence tool. “The fact that we have a video surveillance system of this size and quality is very important for our students’ parents—they need to be assured that the university has made a major investment in the security infrastructure to provide a safer environment for their children,” Ruano concluded.

