

## OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARDS

Each year, the University of South Florida seeks to recognize employees who demonstrate “above and beyond” performance excellence and support the values in USF’s Strategic Plan. Congratulations to the Outstanding Staff Award recipients from the Office of Administrative Services pictured below with Rich Sobieray Senior Vice President (Left) and USF President Rhea Law (Right)!



## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

**NICHOLAS SLOSS**  
STUDENT ASSISTANT / TRANSIT BUS DRIVER  
PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Nick joined OAS in October 2019 as a Transit Bus Driver Student Assistant and has recently begun working as a dispatcher for PATS as well. His work schedule varies from day to day, but you will typically find him doing charter operations for the Bull Runner and driving the buses around campus for dispatching.

His favorite part about working in OAS is the people he interacts with daily and the healthy work environment. He enjoys the company of the passengers, fellow student drivers, and PATS employees.

Nick’s advice for new Student Drivers is to take things slow and don’t rush the training. He

says some drivers want to be done as fast as possible with the latter, but there is no need for that. The training is crucial in becoming a transit bus driver, so take your time and enjoy the ride.

Nick was born in Virginia and moved to Tampa with his family when he was three. He went to school in Tampa and graduated from USF last Spring with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology.

In his free time, Nick enjoys working on personal projects involving software development, and he would love to take flight lessons in the future. Nick loves watching *The Witcher* on Netflix and recommends going to Ford’s Garage in Wesley Chapel for some really good burgers.

## THE MIDTERM ELECTION IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8



# RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS



Edgar (Center-Left) poses with his co-workers at the end of his retirement party. Edgar spent 24 years supporting the University of South Florida.



Matthew “Gene” Palmer spent 42 years working at USF spending nearly his entire career with the university. Thank you for your dedication Gene and best of luck in retirement!

# WORK ANNIVERSARIES

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Gregory See	37
Valerie Chapman	33
James Campbell	23
Matthew Knowles	21
Ralph Pettus Jr	13
Wayne Sharp	12
Suchitramba Daniels	12
Saul Ponce	11
Edwin Tidwell	11
Jean Desir	11
Paula Darby	11
Dusan Alavanja	11
Eliezer Rodriguez	8
Carmen Cruz	8
Olga Slavick	5
Frederick Berrian	4
Natalja Konovalova	4
Terry Pilon	3
Christopher Young	1

# WELCOMING NEW ADDITIONS

**Kendall Fetzer**  
Maintenance & Repair Worker  
Facilities Management

**Trelice Williams**  
Transit Bus Driver  
Parking & Transportation Services

## PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

Christina Moss	6
James Groover	6
Mahan Moghaddam	1
Jean Claude Jean	1

# RETIREMENTS

**Matthew “Gene” Palmer**  
Building & Maintenance Operations Manager  
Facilities Management  
42 Years of Service

**Edgar Robinson**  
Senior Custodial Worker  
Facilities Management  
24 Years of Service



## TRICK OR TREAT

With all the benefits of candy without having to go out, OAS employees were treated on Halloween this year. VP Post and the Employee Engagement Team visited every area of OAS to drop off candy to celebrate

the holiday. Over 250 bags of candy were given out over the course of the day as part of the reverse trick or treating. We hope everyone enjoyed their spooktacular Halloween and all the candy they could find!



## SUPPLIER DIVERSITY DAY

The USF Office of Supplier Diversity hosted their second USF Supplier Diversity Day on October 28. With a commitment to increasing our spending on diverse suppliers, the Office of Administrative Services came to network with local diverse vendors as part of the events trade show. Facilities Management, Parking

and Transportation Services, and the Administrative Services Business Center each participated and made valuable connections with local minority and women owned businesses.

Picture above, Lincey Araya and Ray Miller represented the Facilities Services department at the event.

## HOMECOMING PARADE

The Office of Administrative Services traditionally takes part in USF's Homecoming Running of the Bulls Parade. After being canceled the last two years, the parade returned with this years new homecoming theme "Forever Green and Gold." The Employee Engagement Team hosted a parade decorating contest to celebrate and prepare our units for the parade. After judging from a student panel outside of OAS, the following departments were recognized:



1<sup>st</sup> place - Grounds / Vehicle Maintenance



2<sup>nd</sup> place - Administrative Services Business Center



3<sup>rd</sup> place - Parking and Transportation Services



# HURRICANE IAN RECOVERY

October 2022 - Office of Administrative Services

## PREPARATION AND RECOVERY EFFORTS

The preparation process for the Hurricane season began long before the storm.

The Maintenance and Utilities team started by verifying the integrity of the sandbags used in the previous year, re-palletizing them, and putting them back in storage for the upcoming hurricane season.

Once Hurricane Ian became a potential threat to the campus, the team checked daily for clogs in all roof and exterior drains. After the campus was closed, they put out about 600 sandbags across 35 different locations, prioritizing areas prone to flooding.

After it was safe to return to campus after the storm, the team took all sandbags from the buildings back to storage, following a priority line that comes through the Emergency Operations Center.

“I am very proud of our staff and how they work during these emergencies,” said Glen Aleo, “they come together and work very hard.”



Members of the Maintenance and Utilities team put out nearly 600 sandbags across 35 flood-prone locations.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Once it was determined that the university was in the hurricane’s path, Emergency Management activated the Emergency Operations Center and prepared all departments to ensure they had all resources available.

EM had several meetings with the Executive Policy Group to ensure the team was aware of the hurricane’s path and received directions on the preparation for the storm. Additionally, they held work group meetings with all key components of the Emergency Support Functions to ensure everyone knew their responsibilities and there would be no unmet needs during the storm.

The coordinated and combined effort that is repeatedly exercised in practice allowed Emergency Management to be prepared to deal with the before, during, and after of the storm. Everyone could perform their roles efficiently because of their extensive preparation for any emergency events.

“Everybody had a positive attitude,” said Ray Miller, “I was pleased to witness everybody stepping up and doing their jobs while keeping a positive mindset.”

We would also like express our gratitude to the people selected to join the Ride-Out Teams, who sheltered on campus during the storm and were readily available to address any concerns that might have appeared once the storm hit.



Members of USF Emergency Management coordinating recovery efforts to reopen campus post-storm.

## DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

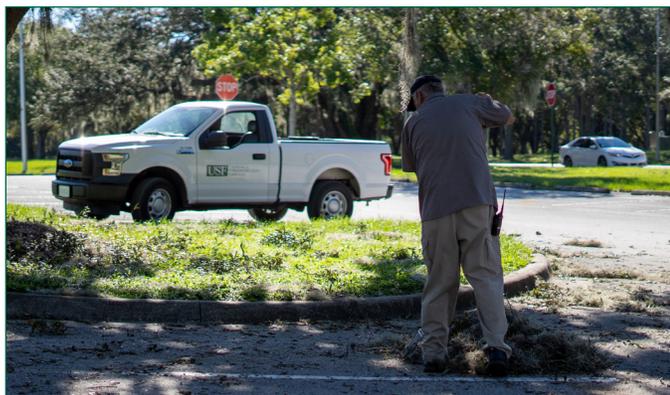
Facilities Management made every effort to get the university back up and running as quickly as possible after the hurricane.

Within four hours after the storm, FM conducted a rapid damage assessment and decided what needed to be done in the following 24 hours. The team walked around campus and inspected about 160 buildings to identify the level of the impact of the storm, and decide on how to respond based on what they saw.

Within 72 hours after the storm, Environmental Health and Safety did a cost estimate for the repairs using the information gathered from the damage assessment. The next step was to report these numbers to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), and receive reimbursement for some preparation and recovery costs.

Fortunately, Hurricane Ian changed its path and the storm did not cause as much damage as expected. There was landscape damage and a couple of trees went down, but there was no significant structural damage.

“It is incredible how people leave their homes and are willing to come to USF and spend a day and a half on their feet, managing facilities and projects with a great attitude,” said Steve Lafferty about the OAS employees who participated in the damage assessment after the storm.



PATS employee working on post-storm landscape clean up within a parking lot. Despite Tampa being mostly spared by Ian, many limbs and other debris were spread throughout campus.

## PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS

In preparing for the hurricane, the Parking and Transportation team contributed to safety initiatives by checking for clogged drains in the parking lots and ensuring no potential projectiles, such as cones and traffic signs, were spread around campus.

During the storm, a support group assisted the administrative team by checking the capacity level of the garages and helping move vehicles out of unsecured areas into sheltered areas on campus.

In addition, Student Drivers volunteered to be part of an evacuation team responsible for safely transporting the students from St. Petersburg to the Tampa campus before the storm and driving them back once it was safe. Thank you, Jayden Burgos, Eamon Connors, Amjad Daloul, Nicholas Sloss, and Eion Mulrenin, for stepping up and helping bring those students to safety.

“I am so proud of my team,” said Marie Bowen, “they recognize the importance of transporting people efficiently and giving the parents at home the reassurance that in the event of an emergency, there is a resource on campus that guarantees their child’s safety.”



The full Emergency Operations Center was activated leading up to the projected landfall of Ian, President Law stopped to see the EOC and offer words of appreciation to those staffing it.