

CAMPUS UPDATE: NEW OAKS FOR MLK PLAZA

In June, a group of six Sand Live Oaks at MLK Plaza suffered significant damage when one tree fell, exposing extensive root decay in all six trees. Shuang Hao, a certified arborist from Land Use and Planning conducted a thorough inspection and confirmed the extensive decay, which posed serious safety risks to the campus community. While options to save the remaining trees were explored, ultimately the decision was made to remove the entire group to ensure safety.

In response, Land Use and Planning has developed plans to revitalize the area, which included planting ten new live oak trees along the sidewalk where the Sand Live Oaks once stood. This effort aims to enhance the campus environment and maintain its natural beauty by providing shade and creating a space that continues to inspire and serve as a peaceful environment for the campus community.



New oak trees planted in place of the ones that were removed.



Extensive root decay affecting all six trees in the cluster (left) and severe decay in the trunk of the fallen tree (right).



EMPLOYEE PROFILE

YESSABEL MOORE

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY SPECIALIST
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Yessabel has been a member of the Environmental Health & Safety team for over a year. Originally from California, her life has been shaped by her family's military background, which has taken her to 17 locations. Today, she calls Tampa home and enjoys the local beaches almost every week.

Yessabel's typical day at work includes conducting laboratory inspections, ensuring that chemical storage spaces comply with safety standards, and answering questions related to these spaces. She also assists with risk management event reviews, ensuring student events are executed safely. One of her recent projects involves developing a social media platform for EH&S to promote awareness.

Moore's advice to new employees is simple but powerful: always ask questions. Questions are the foundation of learning, and if you are unsure about something, don't hesitate to seek guidance from someone with more experience.

Outside of work, Yessabel's favorite hobby is cooking, with soups and chicken quesadillas being her top dishes. Although she didn't grow up cooking, she discovered a passion for it about two years ago, and it has since become one of her favorite activities.

Another one of Yessabel's hobbies is reading, and she's currently making her way through the Harry Potter series, enjoying every moment. When it comes to movies, she loves action comedies, with the Marvel franchise being her favorite.

OAS TOWN HALL

Wednesday, October 2

Two sessions:
10 AM and 4 PM

Marshall Student Center
Oval Theater

HIGHLIGHTING CAMPUS RESOURCES

On August 15, the New Faculty Orientation Expo took place in the MSC ballroom. The event was an opportunity for new faculty and staff from all three campuses to learn more about campus facilities and departments.

Representatives from OAS including USF Emergency Management, Facilities Information Services, and Parking & Transportation Services were tabling at the event. EM provided an overview of the challenges that new faculty might face, especially those coming from out-of-state or international backgrounds, in dealing with Florida's severe weather conditions. Additionally, FIS introduced the Interactive Campus Map to new faculty members, a helpful tool to assist new faculty in navigating the campus in real-time. The Expo was a great opportunity for new faculty and staff to get to know the campus and essential resources!



Representatives from USF Emergency Management and Facilities Information Services tabling at the New Faculty Orientation Expo.

PREPARING THE CAMPUS FOR NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

With the start of the new academic year, the OAS grounds team has been working hard to ensure the campus looks its best for students and staff. Recently, team member Roy Banks was spotted pressure washing the walkways at Student Services, helping to keep the area clean and safe. This is just one of the many ways OAS shows its commitment to keeping the campus clean and welcoming!



Roy Banks pressure washing the walkways at SVC.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

BUSINESS CENTER

Jaiden Nieves	2
Krista Schmidt	2

ATHLETICS DISTRICT FACILITIES

Jack Budzban	2
--------------	---

BUILDING SERVICES

Gloria Murphy	26
Alba Loaiza	14
Vasant Amin	14
Luis Roman Sanabria	10
Alfred Murray	6
Joseph Castaneda	6
Cynthia Taylor	6
Valencia Norton	1
Amari Howell	1

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Clarissa Grant	1
----------------	---

FACILITIES INFORMATION SVCS

Jacqueline Gahagan	18
Jordan Richardson	8
Daniel Gessman	6

CELEBRATING EUSTACE JOSEPH'S CITIZENSHIP!

Eustace Joseph, originally from Dominica, is now officially a U.S. citizen! Since moving to the United States in 1999, he has worked hard, spending two years at Ford Motors and nine years at USF Grounds, where he is a valued team member.



Eustace Joseph with his citizenship certificate.

Eustace passed his citizenship test on June 13 and proudly attended his naturalization ceremony on June 17. He celebrated this joyful moment with friends, feeling both relieved and happy. Eustace is excited to visit Dominica next year for a family reunion. Congratulations, Eustace!

WORK ANNIVERSARIES (CONTINUED)

GROUNDS

Antonio Gonzalez	29
Kayshun Brown	14
Eustace Joseph	9

KEY SHOP

Hill Tong	18
-----------	----

MAINT & SPECIAL ALLOCATION

Michael Fetzer	28
Cory Rugg	12
Rachel Leonard	7
Eric Rios Gonzalez	4

VEHICLE SHOP

Jimmy Davis	12
Gary Shadwick	5

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

Teresa Kasman	15
Steven Kopp	5
Keiara Reed-Scott	2

WELCOMING NEW ADDITIONS

John Doe
General Maintenance Tech II
Maint & Special Allocation

John Yetto
Custodial Superintendent
Building Services & Vending

Lauryn Aydoner
Fiscal & Business Analyst II
Business Center

Lawrence Veague
Groundskeeper
Grounds

Samuel Hicks
General Maintenance Tech I
Maint & Special Allocation

Sean Arnold
Asst Dir Campus Svcs
Grounds

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PROMOTION

Jason Ramos
HVAC Mechanic II
Maint & Special Allocation