

## Airport gears up for busy travel season



*Tampa is expecting high passenger volumes on the heels of a record Spring Break season.*

**C**oming off its busiest spring break in Airport history, Tampa International Airport is now preparing for a busy summer travel season.

During the months of June, July and August, TPA expects to see a high volume of passengers and guests.

The growth in passenger numbers is in

part due to new domestic routes added by existing airlines, as well as increased international routes, which have seen a more than 100 percent increase in passengers between 2010 and 2016.

Overall, TPA has experienced a 14 percent growth in passenger traffic over the past six years. ■

## TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TRAVEL TIPS

- ✓ The Short Term and Long Term Parking garages offer the easiest and quickest transitions from vehicle to gate; the Short Term garage now has counters to indicate space availability at each level and SunPass lanes for faster and easier payment.
- ✓ In the event of heavy summer thunderstorms, check flight statuses with your airline or at [TampaAirport.com/flight-status](http://TampaAirport.com/flight-status).
- ✓ Plan on arriving at the airport at least 90 minutes before boarding to allow ample time for check-in, TSA screening and grabbing last-minute items, food or drink before flying.
- ✓ When picking up passengers, use the Cell Phone Lot, which has free Wi-Fi and restrooms, or park in the Short Term garage, which offers the first hour of parking for free.
- ✓ For information about Tampa International Airport air service, amenities, parking and other info, go to [TampaAirport.com](http://TampaAirport.com).

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#### American CEO honored

CEO Doug Parker is the 2017 Tony Jannus award winner.



#### TPA is StormReady

The Airport is the first in the state to win the recognition.



### TPA BY THE NUMBERS



## \$141,208.22

Tampa International Airport presented United Way Suncoast with a record \$141,208.22 donation at its Board meeting on June 1.

## Charles Vazquez named new TPA Chief of Police



*Vazquez previously served as Assistant Chief of Police for the Houston Police Department.*

Tampa International Airport's Police Department has a new chief at the helm. Beginning June 2, Charles Vazquez will serve as the Airport's new Director of Public Safety and Security and Chief of Police.

Vazquez served most recently as the Assistant Chief of Police for the Houston Police Department. During his tenure there, he worked in many different capacities, including Patrol Division, Jail Division, Special

Operations Division, and Vice Division among others, after initially joining the department as a civilian police dispatcher.

Although this is his first stint with an airport police department, Vazquez is no stranger to the aviation world.

The former military air traffic controller says that the job unites two of his passions: law enforcement and aviation.

Vazquez comes to Tampa Bay from Houston, Tx, and says that he's always enjoyed vacationing in Florida and looks forward to getting to know the area. His previous visits to the Sunshine State mostly centered around Orlando theme parks, but childhood visits also included stops in Miami to visit family. Vazquez is a first-generation American, born to parents who emigrated from Cuba to the United States 55 years ago.

Vazquez is a highly-decorated officer who holds a BA in Organizational Leadership and an MBA, as well as graduating from the FBI National Academy and Senior Management Institute of Police.

He was selected after a nation-wide search to replace Chief Paul Sireci, who is retiring from the department after 15 years of service. ■

## Two new concepts join TPA's concessions program



*Thirty of the Airport's 69 new shops and restaurants are now open at Tampa International Airport.*

A new Panda Express on Airside E and an Ybor City News on the blue side baggage claim are the two latest openings in Tampa International Airport's concessions redevelopment.

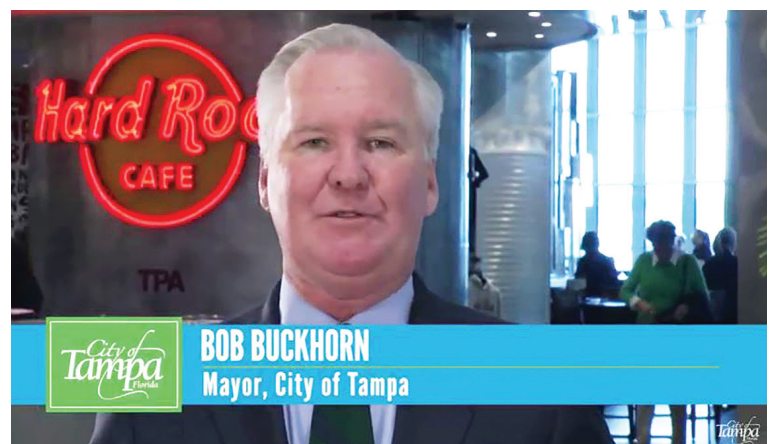
Panda Express is one of America's most popular Chinese restaurants, serving fresh and fast Chinese food.

Ybor City News is a news convenience store with grab-and-go food delivered by Alessi Bakery.

With these latest options, TPA has now opened 30 of the 69 new shops and restaurants coming to the Airport, including most of the food and beverage options. ■

## Mayor's Hour at TPA

The Mayor's Hour, starring Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn and co-host Jack Harris, visited TPA to get an update on the Airport's Master Plan expansion. They got an up-close look at the new rental car center and also learned how the Airport has reimagined concessions with new local brands, including Four Green Fields, Ulele, Goody Goody, Buddy Brew, Cigar City Brewing and many more. The show replays on CTTV Channel 15 (Frontier Communications) or Channel 640 (Bright House) on Sundays at 1 p.m., Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays at noon, Wednesdays at 9 p.m., Fridays at 3 p.m. and Saturdays at noon. ■





## Air Transat announces new nonstop service to Canada



Air Transat begins offering nonstop seasonal service to Toronto and Montreal on Feb. 18. The weekly flights will operate on Sundays through April 18.

Tampa Bay is getting two new connections to Canada. On Thursday, Airport officials announced that Air Transat, a Canadian-based leisure airline based in Montreal, will begin nonstop flights to Toronto and Montreal on Feb. 18.

The weekly flights will operate on Sundays through April 18.

Air Transat is Canada's leading holiday travel airline, serving roughly 3 million passengers annually to 60 destinations in 30 countries. Air Transat was named Best North American Leisure Airline at the Skytrax annual World Airline Awards in 2015. ■

## Southwest launches twice daily flights to LaGuardia



On Sunday, Southwest Airlines launched nonstop, twice-daily service to LaGuardia Airport in New York. The new service marks the first time Southwest has flown to LaGuardia from Tampa International Airport. It comes as Southwest continues to grow its network at TPA, strengthening existing service and adding new routes and destinations. TPA celebrated with a New York-themed cake, a Spider-Man, Statue of Liberty and a pirate for those flying into Tampa.



## Edelweiss celebrates five years at Tampa Int'l Airport

On May 25, Edelweiss Air officially celebrated its fifth anniversary since beginning service between Tampa and Zurich, Switzerland. Since then, Edelweiss has served 107,263 passengers, contributing to an increase in international passengers since 2011. ■



*Following the success of Edelweiss, Tampa International Airport has added numerous new international flights.*

## FOD hunters: TPA teams up to eliminate airfield debris



On May 31, TPA employees and tenants scoured the Airside E ramp for Foreign Object Debris (FOD) - a major potential hazard to airplanes and airplane equipment. The team of FOD hunters collected 11 pounds of debris in total, which is down from the previous FOD walk on the airside.

The Airport has also conducted FOD removal walks at the other airside in an effort to keep the Airport's airfield clean and safe for operations.

Collecting FOD is important: Each year, the industry loses an estimated \$4 billion to FOD-related damage. ■



*Airport employees and tenants work together to eliminate airfield FOD around Airside E, home of Delta Airlines.*



## American CEO named 2017 Tony Jannus winner

The Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society and Tampa International Airport announced last week American Airlines Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Doug Parker as the recipient of the 2016 Tony Jannus Award. The Society and TPA representatives made the announcement May 9 at a press conference held at Tampa International Airport.

The announcement was made ahead of the Society's Dec. 1, 2017, dinner and ceremony, at which Parker will accept the award. The Society cited Parker's successful leadership of American Airlines Group and his contributions to aviation as some of the merits by which he was selected.

"We are delighted that Doug Parker was nominated and has accepted to be the recipient of the 2017 Tony Jannus Award," said Paul Piro, Chair of the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society. "Mr. Parker knows aviation and has worked with and led some of the top airlines in North America including America West, US Airways and, since its merger, as Chairman and CEO of American Airlines Group. A vocal proponent of airline industry consolidation, Parker is a pioneer and we look forward to presenting him with his award on December 1st."

Previously, Parker was chairman and CEO of US Airways. Before the merger of US Airways and America West



American CEO Doug Parker is the 2017 Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society Award winner. He follows 2016 winner, Southwest CEO Gary Kelly.

Airlines in 2005, he was chairman, president and chief executive officer of America West. Parker became the CEO at America West just 10 days before Sept. 11, 2001, and led the carrier through the crisis.

Under Parker's leadership, US Airways achieved record revenue growth, operational performance and profit margins that outpaced most industry peers. Parker has been a vocal proponent of airline industry consolidation, which provides a more stable and competitive industry for employees, customers and communities. ■

## TPA is first Florida airport to earn 'StormReady' title



TPA's operations team was on hand June 1 to accept the National Weather Service "StormReady" designation.

Tampa International Airport's operations team joined Airport Operations Manager David Nicewinter (front right) as Brian LaMarre, Meteorologist-in-Chief for the National Weather Service-Tampa Bay Region (front left) presented the official StormReady designation sign on June 1. TPA is the first airport in Florida to receive the honor, which requires the Airport to demonstrate its preparedness for storm activity including the ability to monitor storms, have an emergency plan and operations center, communicate plans with the public and tenants and exercise the plan.

"I won't tell you that hurricanes, storms or lightning won't hit this area," said LaMarre. "But I can tell you with certainty that Tampa International Airport is prepared for it."

LaMarre also noted that June 1 is the official start of hurricane season and encourages all residents to begin preparing their own hurricane plans. ■





## Employee Spotlight: Zydrunas “Z” Rackauskas

Raised in Lithuania by his mother and grandmother, Zydrunas Rackauskas - who goes by Z - had a competitive spirit and a drive to see the world beyond his small country.

He began playing basketball at age 8, and ten years later after finishing high school, the 6-foot-5 young man was faced with two choices in Lithuania: college studies or professional basketball.

He chose a third option: Go live with a host family in the United States and play college basketball while also getting an education.

“I didn’t intend to stay beyond college,” Z said. But under the guidance of the young couple who hosted him, whom he now affectionately calls his “family,” Z found opportunities he never dreamed of – most recently as the General Manager of Tampa International Airport’s new P.F. Chang’s.

Z recalls arriving in Louisville, where he had to complete his final year of high school before going off to the University of Virginia, and speaking almost no English. He had to get a thick Lithuanian-English dictionary to learn how to tell his host parents, “I need new deodorant.”

His host mentor was A.J. Summers, whom some may now recognize around TPA as the Director of Operations for Tinsley Family Concessions. At the time, A.J. and his wife Michelle had no children and Z jokingly calls himself their “first child,” as Z’s “brother” Will and “sister” Hannah came years later.

When Z went off to the University of Virginia for two years and then Kentucky State University, he always returned to his home base with A.J. and Michelle, who continued to mentor and guide him along the



*Zydrunas Rackauskas, who goes by Z, manages the new P.F. Chang’s in TPA’s Main Terminal.*

way. It paid off. Z – captain of his college team for two years – made excellent grades in school, earning his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and his M.B.A. with a concentration in Accounting.

*“I truly am living the American dream. I would not trade anything for this journey.”*

After college, he was fortunate enough to once again follow the leadership of A.J., who had joined Tinsley Family Concessions. Z moved to Florida in 2012 to work under the Tinsleys, initially doing accounting work at the TPA corporate office for the company, then moving into managerial positions at Cigar City Brewing and Chili’s.

Last year, Z became the General Manager of the Main Terminal P.F. Chang’s and it’s a challenge he has embraced.

“The thing that has impressed me most about Mr. [George] Tinsley is

his commitment to excellence,” Z said. “He doesn’t just want to run successful restaurants. He wants to be the best in the business. A lot of his past and current restaurants are among the top performing franchises in the country. It’s a blessing to be part of a winning organization.”

Managing a new restaurant while the Main Terminal is under construction is a fun challenge, Z said, and he’s excited about the changes happening at TPA. He can’t wait for the adjacent SkyConnect station to be finished and the restaurant’s outdoor dining terrace and bar to open later this year.

Z sometimes visits his mother and grandmother in Lithuania, but now considers the Tampa Bay area his home. He still sometimes can’t believe his luck. Z is engaged to marry his fiancée Erin in September and the couple has a nearly 3-year-old daughter named Gianna. The three live in the New Tampa/Wesley Chapel area and love to spend time together as a family.

“I truly am living the American dream,” Z said. “I would not trade anything for this journey.” ■





## TPA in the World



(Clockwise beginning at the top): Members of TPA's Planning and Development/Communications team accept the award for Construction User of the Year at the Associated Builders and Contractors' 2017 Excellence in Construction awards gala on May 5. The ceremony awarded 76 projects collectively worth more than \$3 billion, including the Airport's \$1 billion expansion; TPA Director of Research and Air Service Development Kenneth Strickland and Executive Vice President of Marketing Chris Minner join members of the Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation on a trip to Germany; members of Tampa International Airport's Police Department gather for the Our Heroes Luncheon on May 23; General Aviation Senior Manager Brett Fay, Marketing Senior Manager Danny Cooper and GA Operation and Maintenance Manager Marilyn Gauthier attend Visit Tampa Bay's National Tourism Week luncheon. At the event, the trio accepted the organization's Champions of Tourism award.





## In the News



Tampa International saw its busiest Spring Break ever and expects traffic to continue to increase.

### FROM THE TAMPA BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL, JUNE 1:

Tampa International Airport saw its passenger traffic in April soar to nearly 1.8 million travelers. The airport served 1,799,519 in April, up 5.6 percent for the same month one year ago.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, which governs the airport, Chris Minner, TIA's executive vice president of marketing, said the increase was "driven up by Southwest Airlines."

Dallas-based Southwest (NYSE: LUV), TIA's largest by market share, saw its passenger total rise by 10.8 percent so far this year, Minner said. Miramar-based Spirit Airlines (NASDAQ: SAVE) and Denver-based Frontier Airlines (NASDAQ: FRNT) also had strong showings.

### FROM THE TAMPA BAY TIMES, JUNE 1:

On the first day of hurricane season, Tampa International Airport was recognized Thursday as the first airport in Florida to earn the "StormReady" designation from the National Weather Service.



The weather service awards the StormReady designation to communities and institutions, recognizing them for taking precautions and designing procedures to save life and property during severe weather.

### E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Want a digital version of the Airport newsletter?

Check out TampaAirport.com and click on "Airport Newsletter" located in the popular links section. The electronic version is published twice monthly and is mobile device compatible.



## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

### ON TWITTER



@FlyTPA, even in construction you are the champion of airports.

- Barbara @ThisBarbara, May 28

Mandy who works @Delta baggage services at @FlyTPA is the KINDEST. I could cry. #thankyou #personalservice

- R O O K L Y N @brooklynlindsey, May 25

Definitely the best airport I've ever flown through! I love @FlyTPA

- Bianca Renee, June 2

here right now - just polished off a @Uleletampa breakfast sandwich & using free wifi to tweet this. Best airport!

- Courtney Beitler, June 2

### ON FACEBOOK



I love coming home to TIA. Clean, easy, and friendly. Love the renovations. it's always fun to see what has changed since I was here last. Can't wait to see the finished product and hard to see how they can improve on the original! Best airport EVER!

- Catherine Bostian, May 30

Very easy to maneuver through this airport. Very clean no trash anywhere but in bins. I've flown in and out of this airport many times. It's been busy but never majorly congested and airport security staff very professional. Air Canada counter professional and friendly as well.

- Zenovia V. Grant Shaw, May 30

I love the Tampa airport because everything always goes smooth and I would recommend it to all travelers... The Hard Rock Cafe is always a great option for a quick snack and cold beverage while you wait...

- Jerry Mangan, May 26



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