

History made on TPA's rental car center



Dozens of contractors, elected officials, local dignitaries and HCAA employees joined together to sign the final steel beam connecting TPA's people-mover station to the rental car center.

Workers on Tampa International Airport's expansion have placed the final beam connecting the Airport's new people-mover station to the rental car center – a historic milestone two years in the making.

At a ceremony celebrating this "Topping Out," HCAA Board members, Airport employees, contractors, lawmakers, local dignitaries and hundreds of construction workers signed the all-white beam and watched as it was gently lifted into place.

"For years to come, you'll be able to say, 'My name is on that beam,'" Airport CEO Joe Lopano said during the Jan. 17 celebration. "Hopefully, you'll be driving by and you'll be able to tell your grandchildren that your name is on this building."

Lopano named a long list of people who made the Topping Out possible, including the HCAA Board, lawmakers, construction project managers, safety officials, contractors, rental car companies, and, of course, the workers themselves.



Workers sign the beam before the Topping Out.

More than 5,600 workers have logged 2.3 million work hours on the rental car center and 1.4-mile SkyConnect system that connects the rental car center to the Economy Garage and the Main Terminal.

"Today is really a day of saying thanks," Lopano said.

The 2.6-million square-foot rental car center, which is scheduled to be finished later this year, will house 16 different rental car brands. ■

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AVIATION AWARD WINNER

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EXPANSION MILESTONE

All the concrete on the Sky-Connect's guideway is in place.



TPA PHOTO CONTEST

TPA has launched a weekly photo contest on social media.



TPA BY THE NUMBERS



24,182 tons

Construction companies working on TPA's historic expansion have recycled 24,182 tons of material since the project began - the equivalent of about 12,091 vehicles.

The Eatery opens on Airside F with local options galore



Featuring six different brands, The Eatery on Marche F is the first market-style concept to open at Tampa International Airport. Whether you are looking for a cup of coffee, frozen yogurt or an adult beverage, this spot has you covered.



Looking for a delicious cup of coffee? Want to splurge on a fresh personal pizza? Adult beverage? You're in luck.

You can now get all those options – and many, many more – in one spot at The Eatery on Airside F, the first of two marches to open at Tampa International Airport as part of TPA's concessions redevelopment program.

The Eatery features six different brands – five of which are local. The options include Buddy Brew Coffee, Bella's Italian Cafe, Yogurtology, Square 1 Burgers, Fitlife Foods and Liquid Provisions.

"We wanted local businesses and the local community to get involved in



Marche F - known as The Eatery - brings six new brands, including five that are local, to Airside F.

the airport, and it was important to us that we reflect what it is that people get out on the street," said Laurie Noyes, TPA's Director of Concessions.

Overall, the Airport is adding 69 new shops and restaurants. Of those, about 40 percent are local.

Susan Ward, the co-founder of Tampa's Buddy Brew coffee shop, said

opening a location at TPA is a fantastic opportunity.

"We're excited for what the Airport is doing with local, and that these local brands such as Buddy Brew could be one of the first tastes that people have of Tampa Bay," she said in an interview with ABC Action News. ■

Southwest
CEO Gary
Kelly was in
Tampa on Jan.
13 to accept
the 2016
Tony Jannus
award for his
distinguished
career in
aviation. At
the ceremony,
he received
a customized
Luna guitar.



CEO Gary Kelly wins 2016 Tony Jannus Award

Congratulations to Southwest Airlines CEO Gary Kelly, recipient of the 2016 Tony Jannus Award.

The award, given by the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society, is in its 53rd year honoring individuals who have made extraordinary accomplishments in the field of commercial aviation.

A press conference was held on Jan. 13 at Tampa International Airport, where Society Co-Chair and TPA Vice President of Marketing Chris Minner presented Kelly, a rock music fan and musician, with a customized Luna guitar. The guitar, signed by Kelly, became part of an auction at the Society Gala later that evening. ■



SkyConnect concrete deck now fully connected



The final concrete pour on the SkyConnect guideway is complete, allowing crews with Mitsubishi to come in and place the remaining concrete plinths (shown here).

Crews working on Tampa International Airport's new people-mover system placed the final concrete for the guideway deck last month.

A continuous concrete deck now extends from the Main Terminal to the Economy Garage and the new rental car center. Including the stations, there is 9,445 feet of concrete slab.

With this phase of work over, workers with Mitsubishi will soon be able to install the concrete running surfaces and other SkyConnect equipment.

The actual trains are scheduled to be delivered in late spring/early summer. ■



Four performers set up in front of the Tampa Museum of Art to collect stories for Oring's sculpture: "Greetings From Tampa Bay."

Artist Sheryl Oring collects stories for TPA installation

Artist Sheryl Oring and her associates visited the Tampa Museum of Art on Jan. 14 to take down Tampa Bay residents' stories as part of Oring's new sculpture entitled "Greetings From Tampa Bay."

Oring and her performers dressed the part in retro red dresses and classic hairstyles as they interviewed residents using vintage typewriters.

The stories and related photos will be integrated into her sculpture that's one of nine new public works commissioned by TPA to complement the Airport's historic \$1 billion expansion. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Want your story to be part of the exhibit? Check out one of these performances!

- March 9, 5-7 p.m. – Ybor City Museum State Park
- March 31, 6-8 p.m. – GASP! The Gasparilla Fringe Festival at the Tampa Museum of Art
- April 1, 1-4 p.m. – Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg



Oring's "Greetings from Tampa Bay" sculpture, depicted here, will be housed in the Economy Garage station of the Airport's new SkyConnect train.

TPA launches new photo contest on social media



Tampa International Airport, in late January, launched its official Photo of the Week contest on Facebook, quickly receiving hundreds of submissions from followers. A photo of a diverted Lufthansa 747 by Gary Guy (top left) won the inaugural contest with more than 300 votes. Photo credits (clockwise, starting top right): Aaron Terry, David Kocsis, Tyler Bruha, Danny Hodjaian, Adam Juriga.

People love capturing their airport experiences in images, whether it's photos from the ramp, views from the air or pics of pre-flight cocktails and post-flight reunions with family.

Now Tampa International Airport is inviting guests and passengers to share those images for a chance to win a gift card and have their photos featured on TPA's website and social media pages. TPA launched its new Facebook weekly photo contest last week, asking folks to send their favorite photos, and the response was overwhelming. The Airport's social media team received more than a hundred photos just in the first week, with the images ranging from planes and sunsets to Friday Flight bands and celebrities spotted at TPA.

Someone even sent a photo of a fellow passenger flying with a "companion turkey" on her lap, headed to Tampa. Some have sent old photos as far back as the 1980s and

many have shared interesting or touching stories behind their photos.

"I was just recently diagnosed with MS and have been using Southwest quite a bit to get back and forth for my diagnosis more testing for other issues," wrote one entrant along with her photo. "I recently got a voucher for one free round trip because of a program Southwest has with Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Thank you for helping me get to my treatment safely each time."

Anyone, including airport employees, can submit photos, as each week's contest has a theme, helping balance the categories to keep those who have access to cool plane shots from winning every week.

The photos should be of TPA or related to flights to or from Tampa and can be submitted any time to TPA's Facebook account via direct message. ■

Employee Spotlight: John Lucht

When it comes to airline loyalty, it's hard to find anyone more dedicated than John Lucht.

The United Airlines General Manager at Tampa International Airport has moved all over the country, bringing his wife and kids along with him to settle in different cities and roles with the airline.

Lucht started with United 27 years ago cleaning planes overnight. Since then, he's worked the ramp, booked tickets, hauled bags, managed workers and controlled gate traffic from the tower.

Now he and his TPA team are ready to help mark a major milestone: Launching the first-ever nonstop service between the Tampa Bay area and San Francisco. The daily United flights begin Feb. 16 and are expected to be popular among both business and leisure passengers who regularly travel between the two coasts.

"We're just ecstatic about the new service," Lucht said. "We're so thankful to the community and to the Authority for the support in bringing these flights here and fulfilling a need for our passengers. It's really

been a team effort all around." Lucht said he grew up with "aviation in my blood." Born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Lucht's father worked as a mechanic for Eastern Airlines for 25 years.

Knowing he wanted to follow in his father's aviation footsteps, Lucht earned an associate's degree in Aviation Management at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University before signing on with United.

His time with the company has included stints at airports in Miami, Denver, Nashville, Orlando, Albany

and Tulsa, where and his wife stayed put while their two teenagers attended high school.

The couple arrived in Tampa in 2012, where Lucht hopes to remain for years to come.

"The airport Authority in Tampa is phenomenal and so customer focused," Lucht said. "I've never worked anywhere in which the airlines have such a strong connection to the Authority. And I've been to a lot of airports."

Lucht knows having such a long career with one airline is unusual these days and he credits United – as well as his wife and kids for being so flexible during every move – for



allowing him to grow from aircraft cleaner to general manager.

"There's ups and downs, just like with anything, but United has been like my family," Lucht said. "I've been lucky to work with such phenomenal people and I've loved being able to fly to a lot of places and meet so many of our customers."

Lucht and his wife Jackie – whom he married when the two were 20 years old – live in Land O'Lakes and have two rescue dogs, Zoey and Faith. Lucht loves college and pro football, and he and Jackie like to go on long walks with the dogs.

Lucht also likes traveling, to see his kids and grandson. His 25-year-old daughter Brittany, still lives in Oklahoma and is getting married in October. His 27-year-old son Ryan and daughter-in-law Ashley, live in Albany and have a 4-year-old son Matthew – Lucht's first grandchild. ■

John Lucht has criss-crossed the country in his job with United, with stints at airports in Miami, Denver, Nashville, Orlando, Albany and Tulsa. Now he's ready to help with the launch of flights to San Francisco from Tampa.



JetBlue's J.D. Power Award comes to Tampa

JetBlue Airways recently ranked highest in customer satisfaction among low-cost carriers in North America for the 12th consecutive year by J.D. Power and Associates. To celebrate, JetBlue sent the award to cities throughout its network, including TPA in mid-January.



TPA in the World



Around 200 TPA employees, friends and family members participated in this year's Children's Gasparilla Parade, tossing beads and representing the Airport in the community (left). TPA officials put on their finest for this year's Tony Jannus Award honoring Southwest CEO Gary Kelly (bottom left). Dozens joined together for the annual MLK Day Parade (bottom right) and Airport CEO Joe Lopano (below) spoke at the AAAE Annual Aviation Issues Conference.



Catch the **Friday Flight** and celebrate **Black History Month** with

ACT 3 BAND

enjoy the sounds of
motown/soul/disco

#FridayFlight



February 17 | 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Main Terminal between Airsides A and C





In the News



Tampa International Airport made a great impression to thousands of guests arriving to Tampa, highlighting the important role the Airport plays as the gateway to the West Coast of Florida.

“ You always want to make a good impression when people come to call. For thousands of college football fans who visited Tampa last week for the national championship game, Tampa International Airport was the front door to what we had to offer. I don't think I'm crawling out on a limb by saying there is a lot to like about that. TIA consistently ranks high in traveler surveys. I'm an admitted airport geek and I've seen a lot of them over the years. The one we have right here is among the best.”

- Tampa Bay Times columnist Joe Henderson, Jan. 12

“ Forget the chains when you're traveling. Now five local spots are open in one place.

'We wanted local businesses and the local community to get involved in the airport, and it was important to us that we reflect what it is that people get out on the street,' Director of Concessions Laurie Noyes said.

Tampa Bay staples Buddy Brew Coffee, Square 1, Bella's, Yogurtology and Fitlife Foods, are all opening at The Eatery in the International terminal this weekend. Now, about 40 percent of the airport's businesses are local.”

- ABC Action News story, Jan. 25



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



Tampa's Airport is easily one of the best airports in the country.
Low Soul @Loso_CHE, Jan. 21

@FlyTPA shout out to Miriam at Gulf Coast Mercantile for making me smile today when I'm actually super sad for leaving.
Säde-Helin Kiis @sadehelin, Jan. 19

I appreciate @FlyTPA's new placement of all these chairs in the airport. Leading the way in comfort!
Yukon Cornelius @HossmanWC, Jan. 17

@FlyTPA @TampaBayFamily You guys have an amazing airport at TPA. One of the best I've been to and I have flown thru 100s of airports.
Michael B. @Smithand6Squad, Jan. 14

ON FACEBOOK



Out of the many airports I've been to all over the world, this is by far one of the best airports and one of my favorites!!! The parking garage & airport are easy to navigate through, there are great food & snack (including bar) options and the bathrooms are always clean ...
Isabelle Dunleavy, Jan. 31

This is one of the nicest airports that I have been to. The signs are very easy to understand making it is for lost people like me to navigate without issues. The staff there were very friendly to me and offered their help immediately upon eye contact. I greatly appreciate the staff as I traveled alone and didn't know the protocol for this airport.
Kalai Parks, Jan. 21

I'm glad it is my local airport so I can be proud of how efficient and nice it is. I almost wish it was one of my connection airports so I could have a layover to enjoy it more.
David Farrar, Jan. 18



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