

**OUR PEOPLE. ————— OUR STORY.**

*The Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on our campus and community. The people of UK Facilities Management remain the “boots on the ground” for UK, providing the essential services needed to keep our campus safe, secure, and positioned to respond to the evolving crisis. The strength each of you demonstrate daily is inspiring and represents such courage and compassion. We are in this together and we will get through it together. **Thank you for everything you do.** — Mary Vosevich, Vice President for Facilities Management*



President Capilouto has directed the University’s Facilities Team to begin the process of removing the mural in the foyer of Memorial Hall. In a message to the campus on Friday, Dr. Capilouto said, “*To many, the mural represents the work of a renowned artist, seeking in her time, to represent the evolution, however halting, of her native state. And as with all art, we seek to understand the intent of the artist and bring our own meaning and interpretation to it. To be sure, we have discussed the mural for many years and made a number of important, productive efforts to seek common ground and lasting solutions. But the spaces we have created for dialogue, and the work we have commissioned to expand conversation and contextualize art, haven’t worked, frankly.*” Read his full message here: <https://www.uky.edu/president/sites/www.uky.edu/president/files/6-5-2020.pdf>



At 3am on Friday, June 5, while most of us were sound asleep, a team from Facilities Management Medical Center (FMMC) and Utilities and Energy Management (UEM) were on campus conducting a load test of the generator at UK’s Good Samaritan Hospital. The generator will provide back-up power for the hospital if the grid goes down, and these tests ensure that it is ready if needed. The FMMC team included **Charles Feigel, Nick Mora, Nathan Stewart, Mike Thompson, Shawn Skeese, Darren Bloom, Ken Goodpaster, Paul Ducharme, Jody Bandy, and Sean Haynes.** They were joined by **Bobbie Tinch** and **Kayce Gosney** from UEM.



**Faces of Facilities – Melissa Ortega**

Melissa provides support to Facilities Management’s Work Management center. She is from Nicholasville and has been with UK for 12 years. Prior to her current appointment she worked with FM’s Business Office for 10 years. Melissa and her husband have four children (Adelina 17, Cristian 10, Lillian 6, and Juliana 2). Regarding our current situation, Melissa said, “*Normally this time of year, my family and I are at the ballpark watching my son play baseball, which is by far one of my favorite things to do. I am also a true Dallas Cowboys fan. Win or lose that is my team! I think the thing that has stuck with me the most about UK’s response to the Covid19 outbreak is how accommodating and understanding they have been to the challenges working parents have faced since it started. This was a huge change for most working parents and I feel like UK has done a great job at making sure that we were successful in meeting those challenges.*”

**Today (June 8) is World Oceans Day**



In recent years, the threat that plastic pollution poses to our oceans and the fisheries they contain has gained international attention. UK Facilities Management has launched two campaigns in recent years, PICK IT UP and HELP UK POP (pass on plastic), that are both aimed at keeping our campus litter-free and beautiful. Learn more about these efforts: <https://www.uky.edu/sustainability/campus-campaigns>