

THE MINARET

THROWBACK EDITION | APR. 13, 2026 | THEMINARETONLINE.ORG



The cover of The Minaret's inaugural issue, published on Sept. 14, 1933. Photo courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Macdonald-Kelce Library.

From Its First Issue to Today: A History of The Minaret

By Alyssa Cortes

The earliest archived copy of The Minaret isn't a newspaper, but a single bulletin page. On Dec. 16, 1931, a bulletin for the Second General Assembly was published. By 1932, a weekly-issued bulletin titled "Tampa Junior College Bulletin" was created by the Publications Committee of the Student Council.

In the Nov. 30 issue of that year, the lighthearted voice of what would become The Minaret was clear, "Did you know: That Dean Coulson and Dr. Becknell went fishing at Port Tampa, Thanksgiving? By wrapping the lines around the piles and breaking them on the barnacles, the fish outwitted the pair

for a while, but, undaunted, the two fishermen exchanged their lines for antennae wires and landed a fine twelve-pound Rab 10. Fishing is not only a holiday, but also the Saturday diversion of the Dean and Dr. Becknell."

May 1933 marked the final bulletin, renamed "The University of Tampa Bulletin." On Sept. 14, 1933, the first official issue of the newspaper we now know as The Minaret was published. The inaugural issue included a few articles, a letter from the mayor, a complete schedule of classes and advertisements from local businesses such as The Plant Park Pharmacy and Peninsular Telephone Co.

From 1933 until Oct. of 1940, the paper's appearance remained largely unchanged aside from a logo switch. Over the years,

minor changes and additions were made to the newspaper, such as an increase in images, specialty covers, letters to the editor and the occasional logo change. Each decade introduced its own unique style. During this time, The Minaret office was housed in the Howard Hall dormitory.



The cover of the Nov. 1967 issue of The Minaret, incorporated accents of blue into the print, a first for the publication that would later become the norm. Photo courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Macdonald-Kelce Library.

In 1967, the publication introduced its first print with color accents, followed in 1982 by color images. Throughout the 1990s, each

continue reading on Page 9.

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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) What does The Minaret mean to you now, looking back?
- 2) What is your favorite memory from your time with The Minaret?

Doha Madani

News Reporter, Multimedia Director,
2011-2015

The Minaret was so valuable not just in the skills it taught me, but in the relationships I made with my fellow reporters and editors. There is something about the bond from late nights in the office putting out fires to ensure the paper is ready to print, that really cements people together. I genuinely believe everyone, regardless of their major, should do a stint on their student newspaper.

One of my favorite Minaret moments was from my senior year as we were putting out one of our special-edition magazines. Some writers had fallen through in the last minute, and I was in the office until maybe 3 a.m. with our managing editor and editor-in-chief pulling together last-minute columns and adjusting spreads to make it all work. It was a night of hard work and laughs as we pushed through a bit of sleepless delirium.

Brianna Kwasnik

Staff Writer, 2013 to 2016

The Minaret kick-started my career as a reporter, leading me to find work at The Tampa Tribune and The Tampa Bay Times while still in college. I found a great group of like-minded people, whom I still stay in touch with today, more than 10 years later.

My favorite memories are the brainstorming meetings and the excitement of sharing ideas and having the potential to claim an article to work on for the week.

Cassandra Carithers

Senior Graphic Designer, 2024 to 2025

The Minaret was my first opportunity to work closely with a larger creative team and be part of helping revive something that felt meaningful on campus. Looking back, it was where I realized how much I love print design and how rewarding it is to work in a space centered around informing people, communicating ideas, and creating something that could have a real impact.

One of my favorite memories was attending the College Media Association conference, where I got to meet student designers from other colleges and hear directly from professionals in the field. It was inspiring to exchange ideas, learn industry insights, and come back energized, and honestly, our weekly meetings were always fun too, because they were such a fun space to pitch ideas and get creative together!!

Rebecca Turner

Opinion Writer, Features Editor, Head Copy Editor,
2014 to 2016

The Minaret provided a creative outlet to express myself and think critically, which set me up for success in my early law career. It allowed me to meet peers I may never have otherwise, some who I still keep in touch with a decade later. And, of course, the pocket change I earned (back when minimum wage was ~\$8) meant the world to a broke college kid hundreds of miles from her parents for the first time.

We had many late nights in the office, making each other laugh, creating newspaper hats, and having far too many energy drinks. One week that really sticks out for me was when we ranked all of the local pizza places, which naturally meant The Minaret funded our sampling efforts. Of course, going to college journalism conferences with the editorial staff was always a blast - I still laugh thinking about our editor-in-chief getting us lost in the woods outside of Austin, Texas.

Leah Burdick

News Section Editor, 2023 to 2025

The Minaret helped me learn more about working as a team and get more hands-on experience of what it's like to be a reporter. During my time as News Section Editor, I learned to grow and love working in a newsroom-style setting that you can't always get in a classroom.

My favorite memory is going to NYC and speaking at the CMA event. I really got to bond with everyone who attended, and it was great being able to share our experience with The Minaret to help other schools and learn how they run their paper to help us too.

Faith Montalvo

Opinion Editor, News Editor, 2024 to 2025

Looking back, The Minaret prepared me to work really hard, and I developed relationships there that I still have even after college. It strengthened my skills in writing and communication with a team and helped to build my confidence.

I think my favorite memories were the times when we all hung out in the office before our meetings. It was so much fun having a group to chat with as I did schoolwork or worked on my articles. I was able to get to know some amazing friends that way, and it felt like we were all there for each other.

Kiley Petracek

Staff Writer, News Editor, Editor-in-Chief,
2021 to 2025

The Minaret gave me the freedom to explore roles in a newsroom that I'd be interested in pursuing post-grad, from what beat I enjoy covering to the different roles that contribute to a publication. I've also made a handful of connections that I'm lucky to stay in contact with after college, that are all now in the same media market as me. The Minaret was the root of my budding journalism career. Plus, the likelihood of getting a job post-grad was greatly increased because of my time in a leadership role for The Minaret.

My time with The Minaret was full of so many in-between laughs, inside jokes, memories, and bonding over the tribulations of running a newspaper. But a memory that really stands out to me was going to New York City in spring 2025 for the College Media Association's ProCon with other seniors on the editorial team. I learned so much about public speaking (I can moderate a panel now!) and what other budding journalists are doing to prepare for a career post-grad. Plus, the most fun part was when I won tickets from a reporter at the Philadelphia Inquirer to see a band in Brooklyn the day-of (shout out SNACKTIME), and all of us from The Minaret wound up going! Don't ask us to navigate the New York metro system again, but we made it back to the hotel safely.

Shane Petagna

Staff Writer, Head Copy Editor, Managing Editor,
2021 to 2025

The Minaret helped build the foundation for my media career. I had little formal journalism experience before my first meeting, but the stories I undertook throughout my four years of college helped me become the writer I am today.

My favorite memory is my trip to the 2025 CMA conference in Times Square with other members of the executive board.



Photo Courtesy Special Collections & Archives, Macdonald-Kelce Library

2016 to 2026: A Decade of Conflicts in the Middle East

By Nicole Droeger Stephens

This report is accurate as of 11:59 p.m. on April 9, 2026.

In 2016, Donald J. Trump campaigned for the presidential election with the stance that he was against the United States waging war in the Middle East.

During the first debate against Hillary Clinton, Trump stated that he spoke with Fox News journalist Sean Hannity about the situation.

"He and I used to have arguments about the war," Trump said, according to PBS Newshour's coverage of the debate. "I said, 'It's a terrible and stupid thing. It's going to destabilize the Middle East.' And that's exactly what it's done."

President Trump won the Republican primary vote in 2016. The New York Times reported that Trump launched bombs against an ISIS cave complex on April 13, 2017, countering his campaign stance that he was against U.S. involvement in the Middle East. Middle East Conflict: 2016

The war in Iraq began on March 19, 2003, as a response to Saddam Hussein's regime. According to George W. Bush's official government library, the U.S. joined with other countries to initiate Operation Iraqi Freedom. This followed the campaign against terrorist activity in the Middle East and the Global War on Terror, which was initiated by former President Bush after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack against the World Trade Center.

Though Hussein was captured in 2003, the war in Iraq continued into 2016. According

to the Human Rights Watch's (HRW) 2017 World Report on Iraq, the U.S. led a coalition with other countries against the Islamic State (ISIS) in Iraq in 2014.

In 2016, ISIS kidnapped hundreds of children in the city of Mosul for religious and military training. Other human rights violations mentioned in the report are restricted rights for women, the destruction of Arab villages, and the placement of children in war zones, which often led to sexual violence and exploitation. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq reported a total of 9,153 Iraqi deaths in 2016.

The U.S. was also involved in a war against Syria. According to PBS News, the conflict began on March 15, 2015, when protests occurred against then-Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. In response, Assad "moved quickly to crush the protests," leading to many casualties and deaths.

HRW's 2017 World Report on Syria stated that in Feb. 2016, the death toll in Syria reached 470,000. Around one million civilians were living in besieged areas, and 4,557 had been detained by the government between Jan. and June of 2016.

Trump pulled U.S. troops out of Syria in 2018, declaring victory over ISIS. The joint coalition against ISIS in Iraq withdrew troops in 2021, leaving fewer than 2,500. However, the U.S. left military base occupation in the country, signaling that tensions remain.

The aftermath of an elementary school in Iran when struck by U.S. and Israeli missiles. Photo courtesy of Felton Davis via Flickr, PDM 1.0.



Iran War: 2026

On Feb. 28th, the U.S. and Israel launched missile strikes at Iran, targeting government compounds. The New York Times reported that the former Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in the attack. As a response, Iran launched missiles against Israel as well as U.S. bases in the Middle East. One of the retaliatory attacks was against a U.S. base in Kuwait, which killed six service members.

The attacks followed President Trump's warning in Jan. 2026, vowing to intervene after the Iranian government killed protestors.

On March 6, The Associated Press reported the missile that struck an elementary school in Iraq on Feb. 28 was most likely from the U.S. Satellite images and military information suggested that the order may have come from Central Command in MacDill Air Force Base, which is located in Tampa, FL.

On April 7, the U.S., Israel, and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire after Trump's threats against Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a global trading route between the Persian and Oman Gulf. However, Israel launched attacks against Hezbollah in Lebanon, claiming it was not part of the ceasefire deal. The attack killed more than 180 people in the city of Beirut.

As of April 9, the latest update from the Associated Press reports that Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu agreed to talks with Lebanon. J.D. Vance is to lead the U.S. delegation with Iran in Islamabad, Pakistan. So far, both the U.S. and Iran have declared victory during the ceasefire.

OUR TEAM

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Science & Technology Editor	Hayden Randolph
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At Juicy Couture, bold style and velour dreams coexist with everyday luxury and soft glam. Photo courtesy of Leirus Yat Shung, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Juicy Couture: A Generation Defined by the Velour Legacy

By Jaide Edwards

Few companies in the early 2000s were able to capture the essence of casual elegance and celebrity culture like Juicy Couture. The brand became a mainstay in both pop culture and everyday fashion thanks to its distinctive velour tracksuits, rhinestone decorations, and daring, irreverent attitude. Juicy Couture is currently experiencing a comeback as Y2K trends revive, reminding a new generation of why brand once dominated both red carpets and closets.

When Pamela Skaist-Levy and Gela Nash-Taylor founded Juicy Couture in 1997, it was a tiny brand that sold maternity trousers before changing its focus to loungewear. The velour tracksuit, which combined comfort and glitz, was the brand's breakthrough. The style of the tracksuit, which included fitting zip-up hoodies, low-rise pants, and frequently a rhinestone "Juicy" logo imprinted across the back, was just as distinctive as the fabric.

According to Worth Point, Juicy Couture started as a small casualwear brand.

"Juicy Couture began as a small casualwear brand with a touch of urban glitz. Skaist-Levy and Nash-Taylor had previously produced a line of maternity clothes that was both comfortable and fashionable together. Once they launched their brand, they also made Juicy Couture t-shirts, jeans, and accessories."

Around the early 2000s Madonna set the rise for Juicy Couture.

"After they sent free tracksuits to several tabloid favorites, Madonna wore hers around London in 2001. After paparazzi photographed her personalized outfit—

complete with "MADGE" emblazoned on her bottom—the tracksuit was in instant demand."

Celebrity endorsements, both natural and calculated, drove Juicy Couture's early success. The brand's tracksuits were often seen on celebrities like Britney Spears, Kim Kardashian, and Paris Hilton when they were traveling, running errands, or just being seen in public. These off-duty ensembles gained equal prominence to red carpet appearances during a period when paparazzi culture was flourishing.

Juicy Couture swiftly came to represent a particular early-2000s style that was feminine, ostentatious, and blatantly enjoyable. Young ladies were drawn to the brand's phrases, which were frequently printed in vivid pinks and metallic hues. It was an identity, not just a set of clothes.

Juicy Couture has grown well beyond tracksuits by the mid-2000s. The company solidified its position in the fashion business by introducing accessories, handbags, and fragrances. Liz Claiborne Inc. purchased the business in 2003 for about \$226 million, indicating its increasing prominence and financial success.

However, Juicy Couture's power started to wane as fashion trends changed in the late 2000s and early 2010s. The brand's hallmark style seemed out of date as minimalist fashion gained popularity and logo-heavy styles declined. A major fall for the once-iconic brand occurred when Juicy Couture liquidated all of its retail locations in the United States by 2014.

According to Forbes, "Authentic Brands Group (ABG), the new owners of Juicy Couture, have announced all existing locations will be shuttered by the end of the summer," ABG says it has a new vision for the company and hopes to open 127 stores and in-store shops over the next five years."

Despite, Juicy Couture never completely vanished from this downturn. Rather, it changed to a licensing business under the ownership of Authentic Brands Group, which bought the name in 2013. This action made it possible for Juicy Couture to keep manufacturing goods while looking into new partnerships and distribution methods.

The rebirth of Y2K fashion trends in recent years is partly responsible for the brand's comeback. Juicy Couture has been reintroduced to younger audiences thanks in large part to social media sites like Instagram and TikTok. Velour tracksuits with rhinestone logos have been popular again due to vintage shopping, thrift culture, and nostalgic content.

The resurgence has also been aided by contemporary influencers and celebrities. Artists such as Doja Cat and Kylie Jenner have been spotted sporting revamped Juicy Couture outfits that combine modern fashion with vintage aesthetics. Juicy Couture has been relaunched into mainstream retail settings through partnerships with companies like Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters.

The brand's comeback is a part of a broader cultural cycle, according to fashion experts. Every 20 years, trends tend to resurface, and the early 2000s are currently a big source of inspiration. Juicy Couture is in a unique

position to profit from its comeback because of its daring personality and close ties to celebrity culture.

A Business of Fashion article from 2022 states that nostalgia-driven fashion has grown to be a major influence on consumer behavior, especially among Gen Z consumers. The study emphasizes how digital marketing and storytelling help companies with a rich cultural heritage, like Juicy Couture, reestablish a connection with consumers.

In the same way, Vogue has highlighted how younger customers are adopting fashions that formerly characterized their parents' generation by pointing out the revival of velour tracksuits as part of the larger Y2K trend. Juicy Couture's comeback represents a desire for uniqueness, comfort, and lighthearted self-expression in addition to apparel.

According to Vogue, "Celebrities aren't ready to give up the 2000s aesthetic, either. Ice Spice, the princess of rap and Gen Z's It Girl, redefined streetwear with her ultragirlly McBling ensembles, reviving matching tracksuits, bedazzled baby tees, and bubblegum pink."

Hailey Bieber, Gigi Hadid, and Emily Ratajkowski also switched from leather blazers to boxy bomber jackets. The contentious newsboy cap was brought back by Anne Hathaway alone, and for those who are skeptical of the Moon Boots' comeback, Rihanna has one, thus they must be fashionable.

Not only are publications highlighting Juicy Couture. But a fan in Tampa, FL, Kayla Watts honors Juicy Couture and not just their clothes.

"Juicy contour is literally the best! I recently just bought Champaign lotion and body scrub. It literally always smells so good, very soft and elegant on my skin," Very affordable I bought it for \$10.00."

For many, Juicy Couture is an emblem of a particular era more than merely a fashion brand.

Juicy Couture must have a balance between innovation and nostalgia as it develops further. The brand is playing around with new designs and partnerships to stay relevant in an evolving fashion scene, even if its iconic tracksuits continue to be an integral part of its identity.



From Vine to Musical.ly, to TikTok, generations did not just scroll, they have become rewired.

By Emily McLaughlin

The internet did not just change how we communicate, it changed how we think. The pivotal shift of this can be traced back to the days of Vine, Musical.ly, and TikTok, the three platforms that did not just shrink attention spans but rather actively reshaped them.

Vine, which was the social media app that allowed users to create and share six second, looping videos. The concept of Vine seemed limiting, even absurd. But, it revolutionized social media with creators quickly adapted, compressing humor that attracted viewers. The result becomes addictive.

No one had to invest time or energy when watching and even creating these videos. You would normally watch, laugh, and scroll. Over and over again.

Vine popularized raw, comedic, and creative micro-video content, acting as the start to modern platforms such as TikTok,

Instagram Reels, and YouTube Shorts. At the time, Vine gained so much popularity it attracted over 40 million users.

While Vine started in 2013, it unfortunately ended near October of 2017. But, Vines culture impacted so many social media strategies and provided a space for diverse voices to shine.

Then came the amazing Musical.ly, for those who are reading and have no clue what Musical.ly is, congratulations! You just made me feel very... very old. Similar to Vine, Musical.ly encouraged users to create short music videos clips where "Musers" would lip-sync or dance or even do a comedy routine to a popular music or audio.

Even though Musical.ly launched in August 2014, explained by the Digital Innovation and Transformation, the prime of Musical.ly "quickly grown to a 200 million user base globally by September 2017."

With this continued evolution of apps shrinking the attention span of viewers, the main reason why Vine and Musical.ly became

so popular was because of the fast-moving cultural loops these apps create for people. Musical.ly trained users to think in the short clip, quick cut, mindset for getting people's attention.

Then of course came the beloved TikTok known by many.

TikTok's algorithm did not just respond to attention, it engineered it. Videos became shorter, hooks became sharper, and content became more personalized to viewers.

TikTok, in a broader context, is Vine and Musical.ly but more advanced. Created in September 2016, TikTok did not become popular until 2018.

The "For You" page on TikTok learns what you like within seconds, feeding you an endless amount of relevant content. There is no need to search or even choose a video to watch anymore. Just think about it, when you open the TikTok app, you already have a video in your face to watch, then you just continue to scroll.

Attention spans did not just shrink, they became conditioned. The brain is constantly rewarded with these quick videos. Even moments of boredom, once a space for creativity and reflection, has been filled with just another swipe.

Research by Gloria Mark from the American Psychological Association found evidence in the last five to six years that our

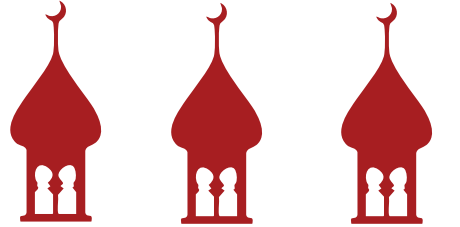
attention spans have shrunk, measured by how long people spend on tasks and screens.

"The average attention span on any screen dropped to 75 seconds by 2012 and sits around 47 seconds... Others have replicated this result within a few seconds. So it seems to be quite robust."

With these findings, it's important to understand that through the evolution of social media apps, attention spans have declined within the last decade. It seems what these platforms actually did was retrain cognitive habits as new technology and generations grew.

Social media apps such as Vine, Musical.ly, and TikTok have helped generations process streams of content and decode trends and humor. But does that mean it will help them in the long run?

Probably not, because ultimately attention is power and right now, it has been shaped with a few seconds or minutes at a time.



Endless scrolling, endless amounts of videos to watch. Photo courtesy of Pxhere.com, CC0, via Public Domain.





The Bob Martinez Athletic Center. Photo courtesy of Terry Hunsicker.

Throwback: The University of Tampa Spartans in 2016

By Terry Hunsicker

As the 2026 spring semester comes to a close, some University of Tampa Spartans athletic teams continue their seasons while others have already finished. Throughout the 20 recognized athletic teams, looking back at just ten years ago provides a window into familiar trends, changes, and evolutions.

In 2016, the University of Tampa had not yet even introduced beach volleyball as a collegiate sport. Of the 20 teams, only four had won their respective Sunshine State Conference (SSC) tournaments and titles.

Now, with much of the spring season yet to play, the Spartans have won six conference titles during the 2025-2026 academic year

and have six spring sports teams still actively seeking to defend SSC conference titles.

The men's swimming team won the DII national championship earlier in the 2025-2026 period, and three teams are in the midst of protecting their national championship titles from last year.

For some teams, the 10-year difference has led to significant improvements. In 2016, the softball team went 18-21 and missed the SSC tournament entirely. In 2026, they already have 23 wins and are looking to earn a fifth straight SSC title.

The women's swim team placed third out of seven participating teams at the SSC championships in 2016. Ten years later, they swept the SSC conference meets and

finished the 2025-2026 season as national championship runner-ups.

In 2016, the Spartans did not have a beach volleyball team. The UTampa beach volleyball team was officially established starting with the 2017-2018 season. Since their creation, they have gone on to win five American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) titles, including three in a row.

For other teams, results rhyme. The 2016 Spartans baseball team sought to defend a national championship title from the prior year, just like the present day. The 2015 national championship team was the seventh in program history, and fourth under head coach Joe Urso. Winning the SSC under Urso in 2016, they made it back to the NCAA tournament but ultimately failed to capture a title.

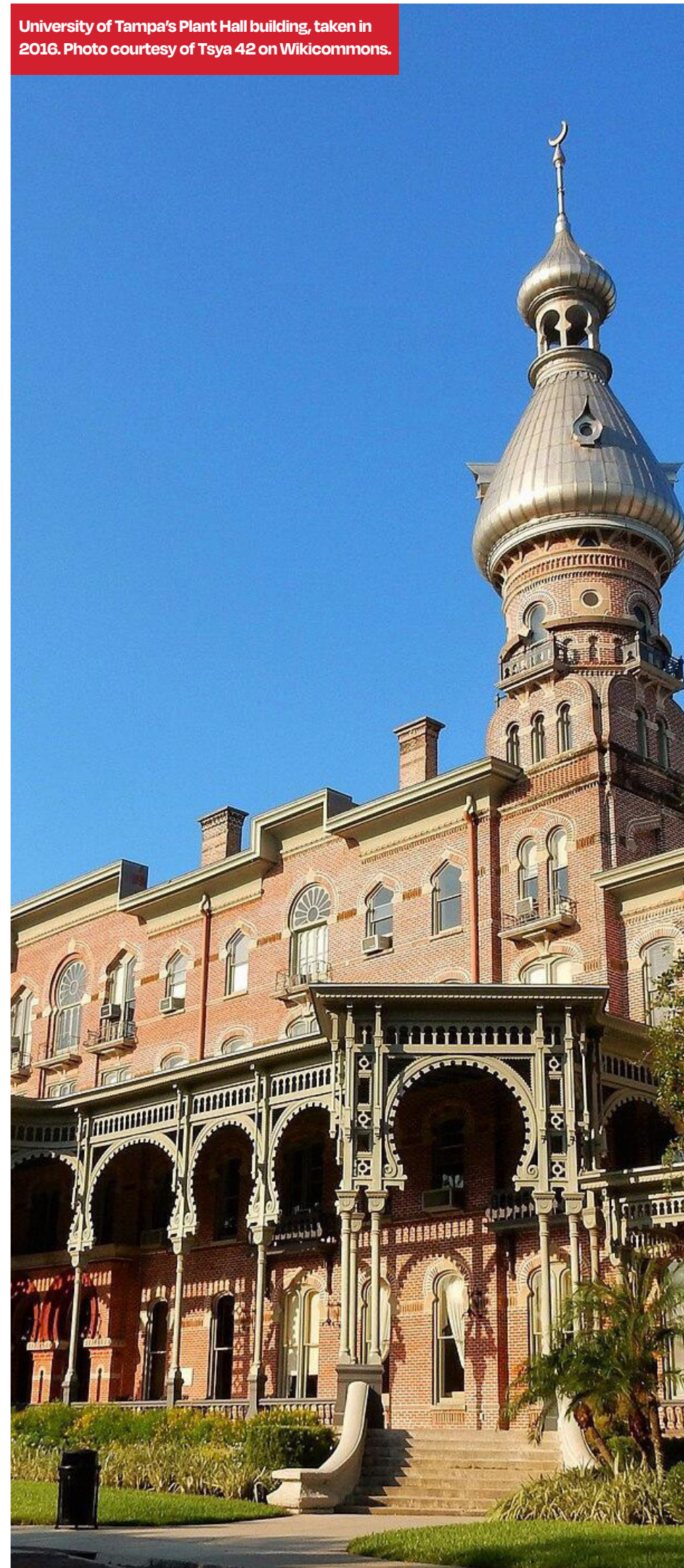
Now, in 2026, the Spartans seek to defend yet another national championship from the prior year under the very same head coach, Urso. As head coach of the Spartans, Urso

has matched the previous program high by coaching seven national championship teams, leading the Spartans to break the DII record for baseball national championships with their tenth in 2025.

On some teams, time has brought significant changes in their programs. Beginning in 1984, Chris Catanach coached the UTampa volleyball team for 41 years. In 2016, Catanach led the volleyball program to a 23-9 record. Just eight years later, Catanach coached his final season before retirement. Catanach won four national titles as head coach and 28 conference championships.

Turning the reins over to assistant coach Brian Imperiale for the 2025-2026 season, Imperiale led the volleyball team to a 32-1 record and won the SSC title in his first year as a head coach.

University of Tampa's Plant Hall building, taken in 2016. Photo courtesy of Tsya 42 on Wikimedia.



College Life at University of Tampa: 2016 vs. 2026

By Marissa Johnson

Since 2016, the University of Tampa has undergone numerous changes to its campus, student population, and even its official, shorthand nickname. But students from previous decades still remember what campus was like before the demolition of the Rescom dormitory, or before smoking was officially banned on campus.

Dr. Madhura Nadarajah, Assistant Teaching Professor of English and writing at UTampa, talked about her experience at UTampa before her graduation in 2017.

"I attended for four years. I started in 2013, and I graduated in 2017, so all four years of my undergrad," Dr. Nadarajah explained. She attended to "get [a] degree in English [with a] minor in writing," and "really loved it." She explained that "when [she] was looking at schools, there was something about the university, about the location, that really drew [her] in."

Sophie Thomas, senior environmental studies major, explained that she was drawn to UTampa after an initial visit. "I really loved the school," she said.

Like many other UTampa students, Dr. Nadarajah and Thomas both came from north-eastern states. Both also spent time living on campus.

"I lived all four years on campus," Dr. Nadarajah explained. From Vaughn, to Brevard, to Jenkins, to Urso, she said that while she did have trouble getting housing in the specific building she wanted, she was always able to get a spot somewhere in the dorms.

She commented that she believes "the new building will help" students who are struggling to get housing on campus now.

Just recently, the university announced its plans to construct a new residence hall, with 833 available spaces for first and second year students.

Dr. Nadarajah said the growth the university is experiencing is a good sign that the university is "doing well," and that "lots of students want to come here."

Thomas had a different experience with housing. "My first full year I lived in Austin, and my second full year I lived in Jenkins," she explained. But after her first two years, she wasn't sure she'd be able to stay.

"Based on what I knew about the housing system," she said, "I wasn't confident I'd get housing." At the same time, she also felt like she "wanted to get more comfortable with adult living," so she signed up for the housing waitlist and began looking into apartments, eventually making the switch to off-campus housing.

Of the available dining options, Thomas's favorite place to eat on campus is "definitely

Fresh Creations. I still get it sometimes when I'm on campus," she said. Thomas feels that the updated dining options on campus are "better" and "fresher."

Dr. Nadarajah said her favorite was "the Vaughn Dining Center" because "it felt very comfortable." She explained, "I went there sometimes just to do homework while I was eating, and then if I needed coffee, I would just keep getting coffee. Other places you would go, eat, and be done." She described it as a good option whether "you're eating with other people, or just by yourself." Her other favorite was the ICB Starbucks, as she "would spend a lot of time there studying" with her friends.

Dr. Nadarajah said that she really enjoyed getting to attend "Party in the Park" during her time at UTampa. "We had Big Sean and Mike Posner when I was a student," she explained. "I had never really gone to concerts before, so it was a cool way to go to a free concert as a student."

She also really enjoyed attending Spring Happening at the Falk Theater, where her friends gave dance recitals.

Thomas, said that she most enjoyed attending events that her friends have participated in, like watching interpretive dances at the Falk Theater's "Spring Happening" — the same event Dr. Nadarajah remembers enjoying back in 2016 — or attending the intramural soccer games hosted on campus.

The biggest change that Dr. Nadarajah has "seen, in a really wonderful way, are the brand new education buildings." Stepping back on campus after eight years, she was "really blown away by how much they had improved," and how much the university had prioritized infrastructure.

She said it was wonderful to see "how much the university has put back into the university."

Thomas said she hopes to see the school continue to expand their academic catalog, and listen to student requests for changes.

"They're making a lot of plans to keep expanding and keep growing, but I think they know there has to be more space for student housing, and hopefully parking," Thomas joked.

Dr. Nadarajah agreed, saying she felt the biggest change in campus life for students in 2016 and students now is the availability of housing. Moving forward, she said it would be nice to see students able to easily receive on-campus "housing all four years."

But even with the stress of college life, "there's something still so special about being at UTampa," Dr. Nadarajah said.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and general fees are listed on the next page. Other costs vary in relation to the course taken. These include the use of books, laboratory fees, optional materials and special fees. The cost of room and board varies according to the cost of room and board of the individual. A full explanation of fees is found in the admission literature of high schools.

Basic fees include a fee for a regular full-time student, 12-17 hours, at \$1,674 per semester. This is made up of the following items:

Tuition for 12 to 17 hours	\$1,674.00
Registration and Library	18.00
Activity Fee	18.00
Student Center Fee	18.00
Health and Accident Insurance	18.00
Total	\$1,746.00

Expenses for a full year (two semesters) beginning September at the University of Tampa may be budgeted as follows:

Tuition and Fees	\$3,492.00
Room and Board	2,000.00
Books	200.00
Personal Expenses	1,000.00
Travel	500.00
Total	\$7,192.00

The above fees and other charges without income. Parents and friends help to develop leadership and to provide personal enrichment activities. Student publications, outdoor recreation, recreational activities and physical fitness activities are available in university locations.

Map of the campus

Tampa

Aerial view of campus 1963

Map of the campus

The Minaret

CAMPUS MAP 2026

Aerial view of Tampa U.

University of Tampa Throwback: Campus Layout Edition

Since 1931, the University of Tampa has undergone countless changes as it has developed. From tuition for two semesters priced at \$1,674-\$1,814, nicknamed from TampaU to UT to UTampa, to countless construction projects, the University of Tampa looks drastically different in 2026 than it did back then. Although there have been many changes, there is still a remembrance of what used to be. Campus maps from 1931-2026, provided by the Special Collections & Archives, Macdonald-Kelce Library, provide an expansion timeline of the university over the decades.

Photo Courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Macdonald-Kelce Library, and Lexi Smith



University of Tampa Throwback: Campus Then and Now Edition

With so many changes to the University of Tampa in the 21st century, the campus looks very different from how it did when it was founded in 1931. From the construction of new buildings, like Sykes College of Business, or the deconstruction of the original pool, boat house, and old dorms, to watching the growth of downtown Tampa. While there is plenty of new growth and development at the University of Tampa and Downtown Tampa, if you look closely, you will find remnants of the history of the university's development.

Photo Courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Macdonald-Kelce Library, and Lexi Smith



continued from Page 1.

year brought a distinct theme, logo and color scheme; culminating in 1999 with the red color scheme still used today. By the 2000s, the paper had become fully colorized.

The Minaret became a reliable source of news for students, documenting major historical events, including the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001. By the 2010s, The Minaret office had relocated to the second floor of the Vaughn Center. In 2011, special-edition magazines were introduced to the publication's circulation. In 2015, the online version of The Minaret was born, theminaretonline.org. That same year, The Minaret came close to eviction from its Vaughn Center office, but it remains there today.

Brianna Kwasnik, an alumna who wrote for The Minaret from 2013 to 2016 and later returned to the University of Tampa as the Digital Content Editor and Writer for

the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, credits The Minaret for kickstarting her career as a reporter.

"I found a great group of like-minded people, whom I still stay in touch with today, more than 10 years later," said Kwasnik of her time with The Minaret.

In 2017, the layout of the print was changed to a magazine-like format with an image-filled cover page. From

2019 to 2024, The Minaret experienced inconsistency in print production and lacked a cohesive online aesthetic. Print frequency declined from daily or weekly to none, then once per semester, due to the pandemic and decreasing newspaper circulation.

"If I'm being honest, when looking in the

previous archives of the newspaper, it felt like there was no visual style," said Cassandra Carithers, Senior Graphic Designer from 2024 to 2025.

This began to change with the Fall 2024 staff, led by former Editor-in-Chief Kiley Petracek and Managing Editor Shane Petagna, who emphasized the importance of physical media and reinstated biweekly print issues.

Carithers said the previous print style varied widely, so she prioritized creating a unified visual identity, drawing inspiration from the 2013 to 2016 designs. The first issue she worked on in the fall of 2024 marked a strong comeback.

"It was special to me because I had the full creative control and was in charge of being 'the face' of the newspaper," said Carithers. "I was worried, but it worked out in the end."

Carithers initiated The Minaret redesign, which the current team continues to build upon.

In its more than 93-year history, The Minaret has expanded to the web, gone through numerous redesigns and relocated



The Sept. 14, 2001, issue of The Minaret, published in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, highlighted the student body's reactions and their thoughts on what would come next. Photo courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Macdonald-Kelce Library.

Is Vinyl Making a Comeback? One of Tampa's Favorite DJs Hopes So.

By Kailey Aiken

Justin "Casper" Layman, known to Tampa's music scene as DJ Casper, is bringing his vinyl records to a brand new high-fidelity listening lounge.

Just three years ago, Casper helped open Water Street's staple music club, Alter Ego. Now, he's teaming up with Matt Kaye, hospitality entrepreneur, to bring a new concept to St. Pete's EDGE District called Easy Tiger.

At Easy Tiger, no stone has been left unturned when it comes to detail around the guest experience. Music, sound, and ambiance is at the center of this project. "[The sound] is not an afterthought, it's a part of the room, part of the design. It's part of the whole essence of it," Casper said.

Both Casper and Kaye have a long history of working in the bar and music industry. Casper led Crowbar's thirteen year run of Dirty 'Ol Sundays in Ybor City up until



Photo courtesy of Matt Kaye, Easy Tiger.

2024, which was a weekly event dedicated to DJs spinning funk, hip-hop, soul, disco, and reggae tunes. For Kaye, Easy Tiger marks his fourth venture in St. Pete. He owns and operates The Bends, Wild Child, and Slim Charmer as well.

At Easy Tiger, Casper said they're ready to bring people something new. As a self-proclaimed audio-head, Casper said he's most excited about the hi-fi audio system he and Kaye have put together. The crowd in St. Pete is different from the one he's leaving at Alter Ego in Tampa, he said, and he's hoping



Photo courtesy of Matt Kaye, Easy Tiger.

to experiment with more vinyl – if the crowd is ready for it.

"I'd like to showcase [vinyl] at first, really showcase beautiful music on a really amazing sound system," Casper said. "But, we don't know what's going to happen until the doors open up. Every room is different. Every scene is different, and until people get in the building, we don't know what the people are going to want."

The system is built around Klipsch Heritage speakers and McIntosh amplification, allowing music to fill the room without overpowering conversation.

"We just want it to be a place with incredible sound, great cocktails, and great vibes," Kaye said in an interview with St. Pete Rising.

While Spotify and Apple Music still run the show, vinyl is on the rise. In the United States, vinyl revenue surpassed \$1 billion in 2025, according to the RIAA's end of year report, and has seen steady growth over the last couple of years.

Whether vinyl can reclaim a place on today's dance floor is still up in the air. But at Easy Tiger, Casper is giving it the space (and the sound system) to try.

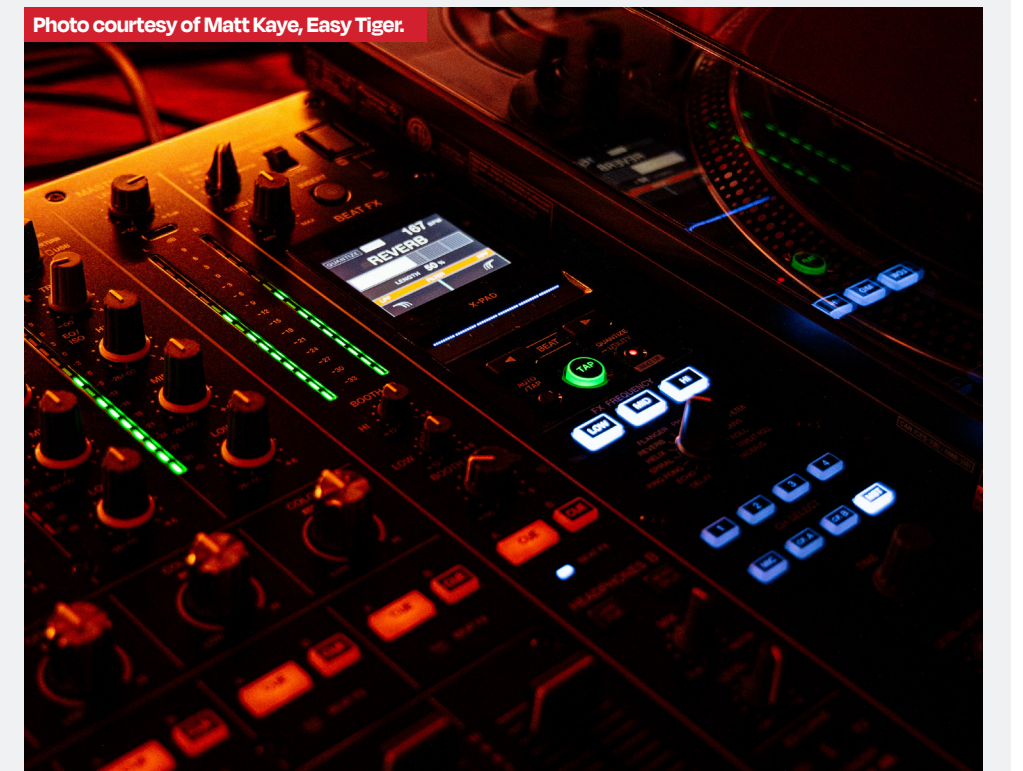


Photo courtesy of Matt Kaye, Easy Tiger.

offices, but through it all, it has persevered. "Every time you look at the newspaper, you know it's The Minaret!" said Carithers.



Cassandra Carithers, Senior Graphic Designer from 2024 to 2025, won first place for front page design at the 2025 Sunshine Awards for this issue. Photo courtesy of The Minaret.



Photo of an iPhone 17 Plus. Photo courtesy of Kārlis Dambrāns from Latvia under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.

Apple Products in 2016 vs. 2026: How They've Changed

By Hayden Randolph

Apple has made significant changes to its personal technology models since 2016 compared to its models in 2026. These changes can be observed through its iPhone and MacBook hardware.

In 2016, Apple released the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus along with the iPhone SE, according to CNBC. The iPhone 7 models featured improved cameras, audio, and a new design, according to Apple Newsroom. The starting models of the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus were priced at \$649.

Last year, the iPhone Air, iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Pro, and iPhone 17 Pro Max were released in September, according to the El Paso Times. Different from the iPhone 7

models, the iPhone 17 models keep with the trend of having no home button. The new models feature improved displays and cameras, and are currently priced at \$699 for the base model.

In 2016, Apple released a version of the MacBook Pro. The 13-inch model started at \$1499 and was the first model to implement the touch bar, according to Forbes. The model received criticism for its high price, with experts saying it allowed other companies to increase sales.

In March 2026, the new MacBook Air by Apple was released, according to Apple Newsroom. The new model included the M5, which doubled the starting storage and improved wireless connectivity. The new model also included advancements in artificial

intelligence and other operations. Apple also released the MacBook Neo this year. This model is priced at \$599, significantly cheaper than other versions, according to Apple.

Genesis Muckle, a sophomore communication and media studies major at the University of Tampa, said that the introduction of the MacBook Neo is a step in the right direction.

"Making the products accessible to people and not having them pay so much, but also get good products," Muckle said. "Especially, as a college student, not a lot of people have the money to just drop \$1000 for every single laptop they get."

Muckle said she got her first iPhone in 2016. She mentioned the differences between her products now and back then.

Sami Linares, a sophomore graphic design major at the University of Tampa, said Apple offers more products now.

"It offers a lot of different programs for designers and video editors," Linares said. "It

also allows you to have a lot more documents and files in tech."

Linares said she is able to download applications outside of Apple's software.

Gabriella Di Nardo, a senior dual major in environmental studies and public relations at the University of Tampa, expressed what she thinks has changed in Apple products.

"I think it's definitely evolved physically with different changes of touch screen and just more advances," Di Nardo said.

Di Nardo said Apple could improve on some features, however.

"I think some things that it can improve on are definitely explaining more user-friendly tactics," Di Nardo said. "I think that a lot of the apps are just not clearly laid out."

Apple remains on track for releasing a foldable iPhone and iPhone 18 in September 2026, despite recent engineering challenges.

SENIOR SEND-OFF

- 1) What will you take with you after graduation from your time on The Minaret?
- 2) What are your plans after graduation?



Alyssa Cortes

Editor-in-Chief, 2023 to 2026
Journalism Major, Writing Minor

The Minaret taught me what it truly means to be a leader and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in journalism. It opened the door to so many incredible opportunities I once only dreamed of, like getting invited to Universal and interviewing actors I admire. While it challenged me in many ways, it's an experience I'm grateful to have had.

After graduation, I will be participating in the Disney College Program (DCP) through January, and I hope to continue pursuing a career in the entertainment industry.



Marissa-Bell Johnson

Copy Editor, 2025 to 2026
English Major

I'll take with me everything I've learned about the publication process, and all the incredible friendships I've made along the way. I look forward to reading new editions of The Minaret every few weeks and keeping up with the school, even from wherever I end up!

I accepted a job working and living at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, and I plan to spend that time applying to graduate schools for the following year.



Nicole Droeger Stephens

News Editor, Spring 2026
Journalism and Communication and Speech Studies double-major

The Minaret provided me the opportunity to work alongside my peers and cover important events that affect us as students and Floridians. I am so thankful for the friends and connections I made along the way. Thank you to everyone who assisted me during my time with the newspaper.

I'm hoping to be a multimedia journalist near Fort Myers and spend time with my family in Port Charlotte.





Terry Hunsicker

Sports Editor, 2023 to 2026
Journalism Major, Writing and History Minor

I think that I will be taking a lot from my time in The Minaret. Working within a professional journalism space and working around and with everyone on the board has been so positively impactful for me personally and professionally. I'm going to really, really miss being with The Minaret and around everyone from The Minaret.

Upon graduation, I plan to go home to Nashville and fully begin my career in professional sports journalism.



Ana Ortiz

Marketing Manager, Fall 2023 to Spring 2026
Advertising and Public Relations, Creative Concentration Major, Minor in French

The biggest lesson I will take with me from my time on The Minaret is the importance of not being afraid to take risks. Whether it was pitching new ideas, stepping into leadership roles, or trying something outside of my comfort zone, those moments helped me grow the most both personally and professionally.

After graduation, I will pursue a career in communications and continue developing my creative and strategic skills.



Kailey Aiken

Feature Editor, 2024 to 2026
Journalism Major, Writing Minor

My time on The Minaret has taught me how much hard work from so many different people is required to successfully publish weekly stories, newspapers and magazines. The teamwork, collaborations, and passion that I've seen from our writers and editors will continue to inspire and motivate me!

After graduation, I plan to spend some time traveling and writing, hopefully on a beach.



Matthew Restrepo

Staff Writer, 2025
Journalism Major

As a previous staff writer for The Minaret, I learned what it takes to thrive in a news environment on deadline. The experiences of pitching, reporting, and writing articles have provided me with real-world experience to thrive in a news environment.

After graduation, I will be working as a camp counselor and then participating in the Disney College Program.



Hayden Randolph

Science & Technology Editor, 2025 to 2026
Environmental Studies Major, Journalism & Political Science Minors

After graduation, I will take away skills working in a professional environment and communicating effectively with a team. Furthermore, I will take away great friendships with my colleagues at The Minaret!

I will be attending The Ohio State University, pursuing a Master of Arts in Communication after graduation!



Genesis Aviles

Staff Writer, 2024 to 2026
Theatre Major, Journalism Minor

I will take with me that the best way to write a story is by getting out of your comfort zone and taking some safe risks. I'm going back home to work!



Amanda LaMonda

Photographer, Spring 2026
M.A. in Social and Emerging Media (MASEM)

I'll take with me the organization skills and teamwork I gained from The Minaret. Seeing how the team worked together and managed tasks has given me insight into collaborating and staying organized in any setting.

After graduation, I plan to find a full-time role in sports media and stay coaching with the TBL Youth Program.



Ebony Hanna

Staff Writer, Spring 2026
Advertising & Public Relations Major

After graduating, I will take with me the confidence I've gained in sharing my opinions openly and thoughtfully. This semester especially helped me become more comfortable expressing myself and being creative with my words, which I know will benefit me both personally and professionally.

I plan to work in the marketing field back home, as I've received a job offer there.



LETTER FROM EDITORS



Editor-in-Chief
Alyssa Cortes

Managing Editor
Franchesca Murrugarra

Dear UTampa Community,

Over the past year, The Minaret has accomplished more than we could have imagined. What began as a set of ambitious goals quickly turned into growth, creativity, and willingness that defined this team and our publication.

This year, The Minaret has been busy. We've completely redesigned our print and website, and added three new sections: Science and Technology, Photo Stories, and a Podcast. We introduced our new mascot, The Minaret Man.

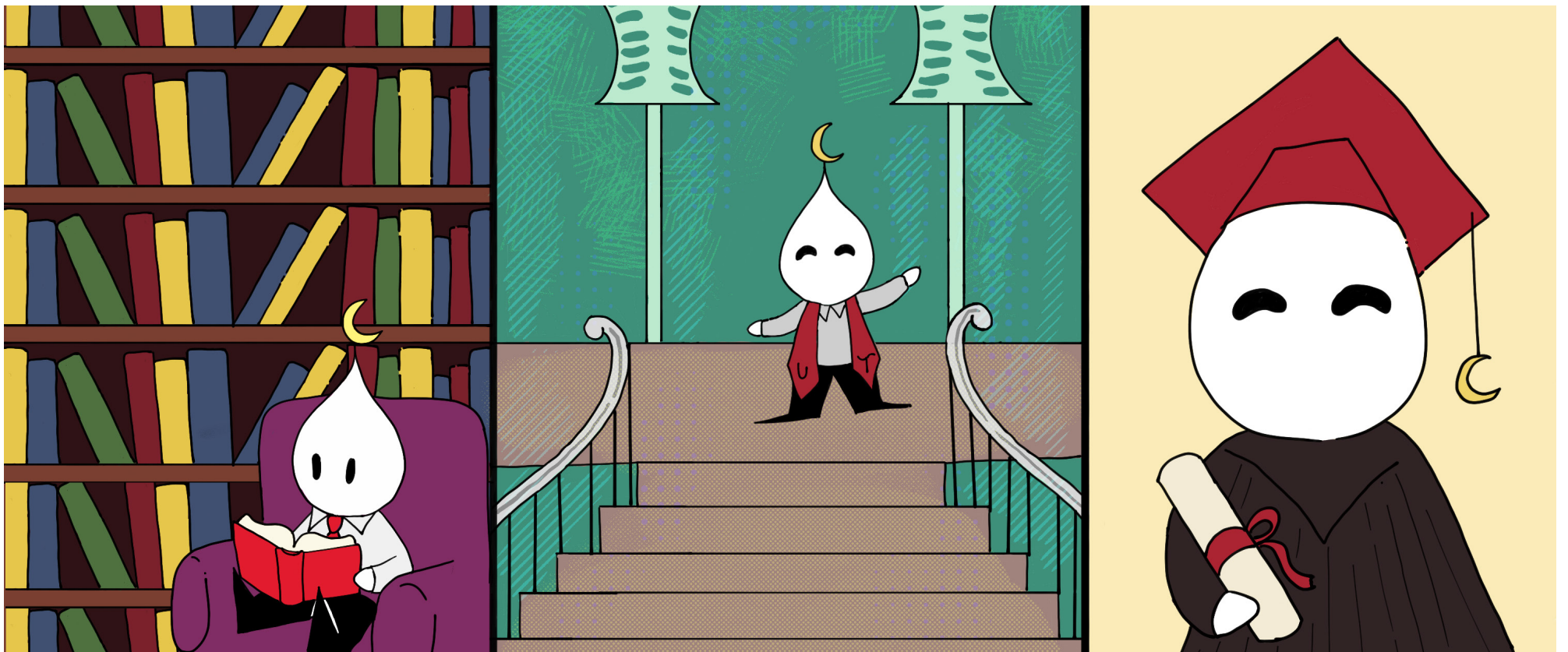
Our digital presence and social media engagement are higher than ever before. The Minaret was recognized at the 2025 Sunshine State Awards and the upcoming Leadership Awards Night at the University of Tampa.

Our team interviewed celebrities, attended events with press passes, and went to the 2026 College Media Association (CMA) conference in New York City. At the same time, we doubled our print distribution and increased our presence across campus with new stands. Allowing our work to reach more readers than ever before. From workshops to classroom visits to team-building events and weekly office hours, we not only bonded but also helped our writers grow.

We've accomplished so much this year. We've experienced firsts, and in some cases, firsts in a long time. Each milestone shows the commitment and heart that every member of The Minaret brings to this paper.

Thank you for your belief in what The Minaret can be. This year has set a new standard, and we know the future is even brighter.

Your,
Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor
Alyssa Cortes *Franchesca Murrugarra*



BULLETIN BOARD

The Minaret

The Minaret End-of-Year Celebration is happening on April 27 at 6:30 PM in Reeves Theater. Come join us for a fun night with pizza, more food, Jeopardy, prizes, and karaoke as we celebrate the end of the year together! Don't miss this chance to relax, have fun, and connect with others before the semester ends.

Macdonald-Kelce Library

Are you taking May term classes or working on campus this summer? Stop by for Breakfast in the Library on Tuesday, May 12, 9:00 am to 10:30 am. RSVP on Involve to enter a raffle for a chance to win prizes during the event!

Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry

To all senior undergrad researchers- keep believing that you can change the world. Someday you will! We will miss you! Thank you for all your help being a Research Ambassador. Good luck in Med school, Aysel! Good luck in Grad school in Texas, Holly! Good luck in life, Eugene! Good luck with your Master's, Allison!

President's Leadership Fellows

Congratulations to our graduates! From day one, you all have demonstrated your passion for making a change in the community, and your hard work has paid off. As you step out into the world, keep being a positive light for others. Keep working to make a change. Keep striving to be the best leader you can be. We are proud of what you all have accomplished during your time at UTampa, and we wish you all the best in whatever you set out to achieve in life. Congratulations!

Photography Club

As the semester comes to a close, thank you to everyone who made the photography club such a creative and collaborative space. To the next leaders, keep experimenting, capturing, and telling stories through your lenses. To the next group of leaders, you're taking over something special. We can't wait to see where you take it next.



STAFF SHOUTOUTS!

As we reach our final print of the year, it's impossible not to reflect on just how much has happened within our paper. This year brought change, growth, and a complete redesign of The Minaret, something that challenged all of us to think differently, adapt quickly, and reimagine what our publication can be. I want to take a moment to thank every single member of our team for sticking with me through it all. Your patience, creativity, and willingness to push forward have meant a lot. To our editorial board and staff writers: thank you for keeping The Minaret alive, evolving, and meaningful. This publication is what it is because of you.

-Alyssa Cortes, Editor-in-Chief