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This issue is all about out with the old, and in with the new. Along with a completely new design, the Talon comes with a completely new Talon Team as well. (I’m not sure if that’s what we’re supposed to be called, but throughout each issue we’ll commonly refer to ourselves as the Talon Team or the Talon Executive Team.) We could not be more excited! We worked all summer, and have worked non stop since the start of the school year. We are extremely passionate about what we do, and have an incredible staff that is just as energetic!

Erin Casey Lee, Editor-in-chief
MEET THE STAFF

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If you’d like to become a contributor, we’d love to hear from you! (Photos, articles, poems, etc. we accept it all!

ON THE COVER:
Dr. Cathryn Pridal, Vice President for Academic Affairs

STAY CONNECTED
Download the QRReader app to stay connected with the Talon. Scan our QR Codes to take you directly to our Website, Face book, Instagram, and Twitter.
By Larry Shue

SEPTEMBER 24–26 AT 7:30 PM • SEPTEMBER 27 AT 2:00 PM
Dinner Theatre precedes September 25th and 26th performances.

The Nerd is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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CALL 816-501-3699 OR VISIT WWW.AVILA.EDU/THEATRE FOR TICKETS
Sign-language interpreter for the hearing impaired will be available at Friday night’s performance.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Talon News Magazine is produced by students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Talon News Staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University. The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically or in writing and should include the writer’s name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters can be mailed to the Talon News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.
… Of our brand new staff. Along with a new staff, a new design, and new technology, we were able to bring the Talon up to collegiate standards. The entire Talon Team feel it is important to have a design that relates with the readers at Avila, as well as the ones outside the Avila community. Casey Lee, Editor In-Chief majoring in Sports Communications, has incredible design skills and was able to redesign the basic format. “I am ecstatic to be the new Editor-in-Chief for the Talon. I have a strong journalism background and I couldn’t be more excited to get this year started. On top of that, I adore the people that I get to work with. We’re like a family.” Another change this year was the addition of Interactive Editor Aaron Arnzen. Aaron is a Senior majoring in Advertising and Public Relations. “I’m pretty stoked to see what this team is able to produce this year. Our Talon Team is one of the more passionate groups I’ve ever been a part of.” Zach Mize, Senior Sports Communication major, recently joined the Talon staff as the Copy Editor. He really appreciates being able to write about what he loves while also being involved on the production side as well. Rounding out the Talon staff is sophomore Sports Communication major and Managing Editor, Gracyn Reed. “I initially joined the Talon to increase my credentials, not knowing I would love it so much. I’ve always had a passion for telling people about the world and now the Talon provides me this opportunity.” The new Talon Team is excited to work alongside Dr. J Anthony Snorgrass and the students on campus to make this year, and those years to come, better than ever.
"I stink at writing!" This is a common thought for many college students on just about every campus. For many, writing is an unpleasant task to avoid at all costs. Just the thought of sitting down at a computer or a desk, pen or pencil in hand, is intimidating enough... but having to write an essay on top of that? Forget it! For most, writing is a job that requires assistance.

The Writing Center, located in the Learning Commons at Avila, is a place where students can come to find help with their writing. This can be anything ranging from simple essays to cover letters for a job. According to Dr. Abigail Lambke, the Director of the Writing Center, “[students] can bring in any type of paper or project that uses communication. They can bring in... any paper for any class that they have [from] writing a cover letter for a job, or... a personal statement... a power point. They can bring in anything at any stage of the writing process.”

The Writing Center is able to help students get to where they need to be. Appointments and walk-ins are both accepted in the Writing Center. During writing sessions, students are expected to revise their own essays. The tutors serve as a guide, assisting them with any issues that may come up, but ultimately, the work rests on the writer. Daunting? Not really, because the tutors force students to put themselves in the place of a writer.

The tutors encourage you to ask yourself questions such as, “Is my thesis statement easily recognizable?” “Is the grammar correct?” “Is the syntax of the paper what it should be?” “Do I have well-defined paragraphs and a solid conclusion?”

In short, the Writing Center is there to help you discuss your writing, move forward and have a better paper. The Writing Center tutors will give you confidence that you are on the right track, and if you are not they will help you to get there.
Not many people know that September 15th - October 15th is, “Mes de la Herencia Hispana,” which translates to National Hispanic Heritage Month. You may ask, “What is this exactly?” During this month, the United States takes a moment to recognize the contributions made by Hispanics, and celebrates the importance of their heritage and culture.

The history of Hispanic citizens whose ancestors had a positive influence to this country is celebrated because of their commitment to their family, faith, hard work, and loyalty that has helped shaped the nation. Hispanics and Latinos help diversify our country with their multicultural customs and traditions. Throughout the month, the Hispanic heritage is celebrated with festivals, music, and food that highlight the country’s history and culture.

According to a survey conducted by Nielsen, not as many Hispanics celebrate this month. It was found that only 30% of Hispanics and Latinos, who took the survey, said they actually celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. That being said, 73% still consider it important that large companies/organizations recognize this month and the importance of it towards the U.S.

Although Hispanic Heritage Month isn’t as celebrated, Hispanics are appreciative that their contributions have been recognized in the United States.
WHY DID YOU TAKE THE JOB AT AVILA?
“As a golf instructor, the number one thing you desire in a student is the willingness to work. You can be the guru of all gurus, but if the individual you are teaching does not have the work ethic or the time to devote to the development process, then you are just wasting your time. At the collegiate level, golf means something to the players. At Avila, I have the opportunity to coach the men and the women and to deal with the various levels of skill within both on a daily basis. This setup is a constantly stimulating and challenging intellectual exercise for me. I like the problem-solving aspect of each day.”

HOW IS THE TEAM LOOKING THIS YEAR?
“This is our first year to really grow and progress with all the pieces of our program in place. We added our Avila Golf Biomechanics Lab over the summer, and we have already seen expedited development even within the first week. With the technology we have and the quality of my staff, we expect to maximize the skills and talents of each player on the team over the full time period of this year.”

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE YEARS TO COME?
“Recruiting is going very well. The student-athletes we are targeting are from around the country and the world. What we have here is rare. Our facilities, our technology, our coaches, and our unique fit academically have proven to be very attractive to prospective student-athletes. We will be quite good in the coming years, but we will always do it the right way with high-character individuals that attend Avila University to get a first-class education in setting that is conducive to achievement.”

CHAD HABLUETZEL
Head golf coach’s first full year at Avila

▼ Interviews by Gunnar Kodas

Coach Chad Habluetzel will be entering his first full year as the Avila Head Golf Coach for Men and Women. He’s eager, and ready to see what his athletes can accomplish this season.
Lexi Clary / Freshman

How is being away from home?
“Being away from home is easy because I had already been away for two years prior to college.”

When did you start golfing?
“I started playing golf when I was five but I didn’t start playing competitively until high school and that’s when I fell in love with it.”

Sierra Sherman / Freshman

Why did you choose Avila?
“I picked Avila because of the small class size, which is like my school at home. Also, the biomechanics lab is a lot like my training for golf at home.”

How is being away from home?
“I enjoy being far from home. It allows new experiences to happen.”

Logan Burks / Freshman

Why did you choose Avila?
“I chose Avila because coach’s new program was different from the rest. I loved the location and the school.”

When did you start golfing?
“I started golfing when I was eight. I had a friend from a country club who played and I wanted to pick it up.”

Avila Golf Biomechanics Lab
The new biomechanics lab is a golf lab that focuses on improving all parts of one’s golf game. It’s located in lower O’Reilly. The lab has a track man that records the player’s swing as well as the stats that go along with each swing.
This green ribbon represents Mental Health Awareness. Better knowledge and awareness of mental health can help end the stigmas. The Counseling Center at Avila University offers many resources. They provide information for suicide prevention, alcohol awareness, body image and eating disorders, psychological screenings and assessments, disabilities, and many other resources. Aside from the Counseling Center at Avila, many resources are available for you. Located at Avila University in the lower level of building #8, Carondelet Hall, in the Hodes Center, Room 118 Phone: 816-501-2901

#IndtheStigma
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 3000 people on average commit suicide daily. Suicide rates are at an all time high for Veterans. In addition, for every person who commits suicide, 20 or more others attempt to end their lives. About one million people die by suicide each year (WHO). World Suicide Prevention Day, which first started in 2003, is recognized annually on Sept. 10. World Suicide Prevention Day aims to:

1. Raise awareness that suicide is preventable
2. Improve education about suicide
3. Spread information about suicide awareness
4. Decrease stigmatization regarding suicide

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LINE
“Cool, open-minded, real, mischievous, ambitious, perfect... these are just a handful of adjectives that the students and faculty of the Visual and Communication Arts School used to describe their new Dean, Nicole Esquibel. She graduated from the University of Iowa’s MFA-Film and Video Production program. She is a domestically and internationally acclaimed filmmaker and writer that won the, “Between The Lines” award at the Ann Arbor Film Festival. On top of all that, Esquibel is one of those rare people that you can have a two-minute conversation with, and leave feeling better about yourself and the world around you. The Talon team was privileged to sit down and gaze a little deeper into the heart and mind of VisCom’s new Dean.”
YOU ARE NOW THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND COMMUNICATION ARTS, BUT UNTIL THIS YEAR YOU WERE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THAT POSITION?
“My favorite part about being the Chair was probably the challenges that I faced every day. Being in the classroom for the last 8 to 9 years I sort of developed a routine, but I had to learn a whole new set of skills that I had not practiced in a while.”

IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIFIC YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR FIRST YEAR AS DEAN?
“I would like to continue the expansive growth that we have seen here, especially in the communications department. In VISCOM, I would love to just keep our recruitment numbers growing. We are definitely on pace to exceed any goals we had for recruitment of new students. Once we get them in here, my goal is to retain them and keep them coming back year after year.”

WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MEMORY YOU CAN THINK OF IN YOUR TIME AT AVILA?
“Well, VISCOM/Dallavis is probably the funniest building on campus. I have had a number of occasions where students have made me laugh, both in their projects and on a day-to-day basis. As far as the faculty and the funniest experience that I have had with them, I think I’ll just keep that to myself.”

WHO HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE? WHAT LESSONS DID THAT PERSON TEACH YOU?
“Probably the biggest influence on my life has been my father. As I have grown older and he has grown older, I have learned the lesson of unconditional love that he had shown to me throughout the years. Professionally, I have a number of different filmmakers who have influenced my work and inspire me to do even greater work.”

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?
“I think the thing that I am most proud of is getting sober. God willing and the creek don’t rise, in January I will have 17 years of continuous sobriety from a heroin addiction and alcohol addiction. That has probably been the thing I am most proud of.”

WHAT ARE YOU MOST INSPIRED BY?
“I think the thing that brings me the most inspiration changes on a daily basis. Great music gives me a lot of inspiration. Traveling and meeting different cultures inspires me. Seeing our students learn, grow, and develop into the adults that they become inspires me. Art inspires me, a lot.”

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN YOUR LIFE WHAT WOULD IT BE?
“I wouldn’t change a single thing. I have no regrets about anything. I try and live my life by that motto.”
NEW FILM ROOM UP TO COLLEGE STANDARDS
Avila gets new media room through gracious donation

Gracyn Reed

Ask any athlete on any campus how important it is to watch previous game film and they’re bound to say something along the lines of, “crucial to our careers”. Knowing this, Avila has recently installed a media room where coaches can take their teams to watch crucial game footage. This allows players to analyze what they did wrong, what they need to do next time, and receive praise for what they did right. The room will also be used as a recruitment tool. I was able to ask Brandon Droge, Sports Information Director, and Christina Cowan, Athletic Director, a few questions about the new room.

“The room was already being used for film before but it was out of date and not up to collegiate standards,” Cowan said.

Now the room has a large television with speakers, theater-like chairs, and a mascot mural made from aluminum foil.

All teams will have access to the media room, but Droge notes, “It’s mainly for football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer.”

The media room, along with improvements to the gym floor, the training room, and the men and women’s basketball locker rooms, have been funded by a substantial donation to Avila University. The project took around five months to complete and most of the renovations were completed over the summer.
Fantasy football is catching on in Kansas City. “WiseGuides” are here to give you advice on various things. This is to help you find out how to make your team the best that they can be, but to also make sure that you do fantasy football the right way. There are five tips that you should consider:

1. **GET IN A LEAGUE WITH FRIENDS**
   Trash talking is without a doubt the best part of fantasy sports. There is nothing better than beating your buddies in fantasy football.

2. **DON’T COMPROMISE YOUR FRIENDSHIPS**
   This is a game. Have competition, but don’t lose friends over fantasy football.

3. **PICK YOUR FAVORITES**
   We are huge believers in playing with your gut. Pick guys you like. If you don’t like your players, you won’t like your team throughout the year.

4. **DRAFT SEC PLAYERS**
   Even though there will be some arguments, the SEC is far and away the best conference in college football. Most of the best players in the NFL are from the SEC and your team will be very successful going with these boys.

5. **HAVE FUN**
   It’s a game. Have a blast and do the best you can. Fantasy is a lot of luck, but as I tell everyone around me, “I’d rather be lucky than good.”
October is right around the corner, which means the start of hockey, and while football and soccer are in full swing, postseason baseball has finally arrived. What a time to be alive!

Although hockey isn’t quite as big here in Kansas City as in St. Louis, it still has quite a following in its own right. Ask around campus and you will find plenty of hockey fans to catch you up on the rules of the game.

This is an extremely exciting time for football. Fantasy football and real-life NFL football make for a great October. When you can’t feel your hands and are holding a hot chocolate, you know that it is officially football season. Enjoy rooting for your team and watching as much football as possible.

Something that is very close to the hearts of people here in Kansas City is Sporting KC soccer club. With the regular season wrapping up, the MLS playoffs are right around the corner. Even though the MLS is not on the level of the European Leagues, the soccer fans in Kansas City do love their MLS team. Even if Sporting KC doesn’t make the dance, the playoffs are always a joy to watch.

Finally, and closest to our hearts, is October baseball. The Hunt for October has a different feel to it. The fine folks of Kansas City were able to get a taste of that last season after ending a 29-year playoff drought. Last year’s Wild Card Game against the Oakland Athletics was the best sporting event I’ve personally ever been to. The atmosphere in the stadium was something that even words can’t describe. This great run kept on going through the ALDS, the ALCS, and the World Series. What a season it was! The Royals have started a winning culture here and another postseason run is most definitely in the cards. The energy around the city was tremendous last season and we expect nothing less this year.

Hold on to your hats, because the pumpkin patches, leaves falling, and cold weather is about to hit here in Kansas City. But rest assured, October is here. As a sports fan, we know the excitement can never be contained.
MINISTERIAL CHANGES

Catering to the needs of youthful ministry

Aaron Arnzen

Rooted in grace and an indescribable passion for service, Avila University has always held close the concept of helping the dear neighbor*. Whether they’re providing a regular presence at the local Hospice House or engaging Avila’s youth through on-campus ministries, the spirit of Avila continues to remain a vast presence. Largely through the inexhaustible charisma that Avila’s Campus Ministry Team bestows upon the university, the founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet must be rejoicing greatly knowing their spirit burns on today. Commonly recognized as Campus Ministry, student ministry leaders have served the university as well as the dear neighbor for a number of years. Having undergone managerial changes in 2002 the presence of peer leaders and their impact on campus life has been on a continual incline and have yet again reached a time for change. This change includes no adjustments among the adult leadership, but rather a transformation focused highly on the expansion of youth leadership.

Having formerly sustained it’s reputation on the three pillars of Service, Community, and Spirituality, Avila’s Campus Ministry has responded to the influx of students eager to join in the peer ministry, by adding two new ministries of their own. Rooted in several student’s interest regarding global integrity, one of newly recognized pillars is that of Justice Ministry. With intentions of creating personal recognition, Justice Ministry hopes to create a global conversation aimed at shifting the thoughts of our negatively mediated society.

In direct correlation with each of the ministries listed thus far, the other newly found pillar is that of Outreach Ministry. Outreach Ministry was added as a pillar in light of the growth each of the other four pillars are expressing throughout their various events and means of action. Outreach Ministry has been established largely for the act of broadcasting these other ministries and services.

Among each of the changes undergone within the presence of the peer leaders, the ministry group as a whole has reflected changes as well; this change brings on a new title and public recognition. The Office of Ministry Spirituality and Action intends on catering to the heightened needs of ethnic variation, both on campus, and as global representatives for the Sisters of St. Joseph.
Tori Aziere is a 20-year old pitcher for the Avila University softball team. She is originally from Blue Springs, MO, but chose Avila because of its close knit nature and how small the campus was. Softball has always been something that she has enjoyed. Having grown up playing softball, Tori didn’t think twice about continuing playing when she got to college. Her favorite thing about the softball team at Avila is that they are so close to each other.

Matt Scaletty is a 19-year old member for Avila University’s track team. He is originally from Lee’s Summit, MO, so Avila was an easy choice for him. He chose Avila mostly because the scholarship he received would allow him to play the sport he loves and get an education at the same time. He runs 400 M hurdles, throws javelin, runs the open 400 M, and runs the 200 M dash. He loves how track is mostly an individual sport and that you rely on yourself.

Abby King is a 19-year old outfielder for the Avila University softball team. She is originally from Lenexa, KS. Softball is something that she grew up watching when her parents would play slow pitch and it helped fuel the love for the sport she plays. When she first came to Avila, she said that it already felt like home, and that the campus was great. This made it easier for her to focus on what she loves, as well as enjoy the team atmosphere that they have created.
Fall is one of the best seasons for sports. Autumn is the beginning of football, basketball, volleyball, golf, soccer, and cross country. We also have the Kansas City Royals to thank for our newfound love of October and the hopes of another World Series run on the horizon. All suspense aside, there is another time that Avila’s cross-country team will be running on this fall—“Timmy Time.”

Tim Hinton, a recruit from Grain Valley High School, is one of four freshmen running for the cross-country team this year. Tim certainly earned the name “Timmy Time” having been a two-time All-District and All-conference runner in high school. Such recognitions qualified him for State in each of his last three seasons as a high school runner. Due largely to Tim’s contributions, Grain Valley won Conference his junior and senior year. Tim is no stranger to success and expects nothing less this year.

Although expectations will remain high for Tim and several of the other freshmen, senior runner William Ennis is beyond excited to lead the squad as captain. “Will is a great leader,” Tim says. “We call him ‘Old Man Will’ because he’s 25 years old, but that makes him a great leader.” Having met with Tim personally, he stressed the importance of working as a team, noting how vital it is to succeeding in a cross-country meet.

Similar to several other sports, the team is only as strong as its weakest link. Although cross-country appears to be an individual battle, it’s more accurately a combination of the team’s individual battles, and thus, the strengths they draw from each other to win a race. Tim insists, “It’s really good to have a team that runs very close together and where their times aren’t very far apart.”
Dr. Cathryn Pridal
Avila gets new Academic Affairs Vice President
A LOOK INTO HER PERSONAL LIFE AND WHAT BROUGHT HER TO AVILA
Avila gets new Academic Affairs Vice President

A LOOK INTO HER PERSONAL LIFE AND WHAT BROUGHT HER TO AVILA

As a student at any grade level, it’s satisfying knowing who provides executive input regarding academic decisions. Although this opportunity is often overlooked at most universities, Avila provides the intimate environment necessary for developing proactive relationships between both students and the academic faculty. The Talon Executive Team was fortunate enough to meet with the new Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Cathryn Pridal. Although her history as an academic leader shines brightly, the passionate, yet creative drive Dr. Cathryn Pridal maintains shines more abundantly as an inspiration for many.

Dr. Cathryn Pridal previously worked at Cottey College for Women in Nevada, Missouri. Her time spent in Nevada was nothing short of a success, having assisted greatly with the transformation of Cottey from a two-year institution into a four-year institution. Correlating directly with her success at Cottey, an opportunity for moving her academic endeavors to Avila came across her desk. She received this invitation with great enthusiasm as she marked Kansas City her next stop. Although Avila provides clear reason for academic satisfaction, Pridal finds Avila’s Mission Statement and university values most pleasing. “I honestly really fell in love with the mission and values of the institution,” Pridal noted. While Avila and Cottey share similar enrollment numbers, Pridal notes one of the biggest changes will be catering to the presence of a more diversified student body.

In light of the new tasks at hand, Dr. Cathryn Pridal’s vast array of professional experience blends well with her personal academic background, suiting her well for what’s to come. Dr. Cathryn Pridal’s doctorate in Clinical Psychology is testimony of her eagerness to succeed. With initial interests in the nursing field, Her notion for helping the dear neighbor is a characteristic she’s always possessed. Although nursing and psychology are generally recognized as different entities of education, collectively they highlight Dr. Cathryn Pridal’s drive and genuine interest in people, recognizing the worth of each individual.

While she acts as a role model to many, she credits her vision for success to two exemplary women. “My Godmother and my Mother have been the biggest inspiration. My Godmother was in the service in World War II; she was very motivated and driven. She had her own life plan and that was a huge part of why she’s so inspirational. My mom is also a big inspiration for somewhat similar reasons; I really admire strong women.”

“I HONESTLY REALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE MISSION AND VALUES OF AVILA.”

Accepting that ‘free time’ is something rare and often unimaginable, if time allows, she enjoys reading, running, and sharing laughter with her family. If wishes were granted, she wishes she was born with the natural ability to draw and paint. But let’s not get carried away, Dr. Cathryn Pridal holds reality close, noting, “the idea of perfect happiness doesn’t exist.” This fuels her desire in reaching the goals she’s set out for, understanding that without a goal, it’s impossible to score. With warmest regards, Avila welcomes Dr. Cathryn Pridal to join the effort in carrying on the spirit of Avila, especially in overseeing Avila’s current and future academic undertakings.
The new and upcoming Avila app is surely something students will want to download ASAP. It will have features that will leave no Avila student or alumni left in the dark. The upcoming app features options that will help a student stay informed about campus happenings, as well as, keep alumni in the loop on what's going on at Avila. The Avila app will provide students and alumni with basic information about campus life.

The Senior Director of Development and Alumni at Avila, Celeste Greenlee, gave insight on what can be expected on the Avila app. “[It will be an] easier way to keep alumni connected,” she said.

This will be done through a variety of features. For example, a calendar featuring sports events, theater performances, choir performances, and even morning Mass. This will be a way for alumni to be informed about all campus events. Also the app will be the option to check out Avila social media. Whether it’s Face book, Twitter, or Instagram, students and alumni will be able to keep up with Avila from their phones. Other options for students will be a campus safety feature and the ability to call them with just a touch of a button. Also, there will be a map to help any student navigate from building to building, so no one ever gets lost. One thing Greenlee clearly states is that the app is not a mobile version of the Avila website; it has the information someone would need to stay aware of what’s going on around campus.

This is only a small part of the apps capabilities, this just gives students an idea of what to expect. The app will make campus life easier, and keep alumni connected. Keep an eye out for the new Avila app!
...the brand new bunch, the brand new bunch.
That’s the way we became the brand new bunch.
“I WOULDN’T CHANGE A SINGLE THING. I HAVE NO REGRETS ABOUT ANYTHING. I TRY AND LIVE MY LIFE BY THAT MOTTO.”

NICOLE ESQUIBEL