



AUM NIBUS

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Curtiss the Warhawk: A Tradition in the Making

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Fearless. That is the motto for the Warhawks here on campus. The Curtiss P-40E Warhawk was a fighter plane used by the U.S. Air Force in the 1940s and was considered one of the best around. I find it appropriate that our Warhawk mascot is named Curtiss, a fearless force to be reckoned with. Although Curtiss is only 3, it has already made a big impact on and off our campus. Just recently, it gained nationwide recognition for placing fourth in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National Championship, which is a great feat considering this is the first time that AUM was invited to the event. I spoke with the mascot coordinator Joel Hughes and SGA President Marie Reuter about the mascot program at AUM, and how it has grown through the years.

What do you do as the mascot coordinator for Curtiss?

Joel Hughes: My official title you could say is coach and advisor. We have a Curtiss Committee that is made up of four students, and they are actually the coordinators. We call it the "Curtiss Coop." There is a student who is the Coordinator of Development, who plans a lot of philanthropy stuff as well as raising funds. We have a Coordinator of Scheduling who handles all of Curtiss's requests that come in. Next, we have a Props Coordinator. So anytime that there is a skit where there is a fun day or an athletic event happening, they actually look and see what event Curtiss is heading to and they make the props for it.



Curtiss and his cousin Aubie with their trophies from the UCA National Championship.
Photo courtesy of Tim Lutz

And last but not least, we have a Video Coordinator. Now I can tell you in the mascot world, everyone wants to know who is in the suit. That is kind of the sacred part of being the mascot. So the term that we use is "friend." So we have students who are "friends" of Curtiss. And so we have our students who are made up of the committee, and they do a lot of the legwork. And then two students are "friends" to Curtiss.

So what do you look for in a mascot?

Marie Reuter: Well, as far as friends go, we host

