



# AUMNIBUS

Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

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Warhawk Issue - 21

## Curtiss the Warhawk: A Tradition in the Making

Holly Watford

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



tryouts every year and tryouts are generally four to five days long. They will include a skit workshop and a character workshop. During those workshops we work on the character, on his personality, on his walk and all of his mannerisms. So we can have that continuity and that fluidity going from one friend to another. During that time they get to have suit practice so that way they can work on all of the things that we look for. We look for people who can immortalize the same character that we have already established but who can also add to it through a skit or through different personality quirks. So we have an overall theme that goes on but you will notice that each friend has their own particular twist on things.

### ***How were you able to become involved with the UCA National Championship?***

**Hughes:** The reason for the video coordinator is because of the Universal Cheerleaders Association, which is UCA. And that is what Curtiss has gotten a lot of acknowledgement here for lately. Because for the first time we received a bid in November from UCA to actually compete in Nationals. The way that that works is that every November is when it (a video showcasing Curtiss) is due. They find out usually November 14 whether or not they are going to get a bid for Nationals. And then the National Championship is held in Orlando at Disney. There is Division 1A which is Aubie, Big Al, the bigger schools. Then you have the open division. And in the open division you have NAIA, community college, or any of the other organizations. So we would never compete against Aubie, who is the cousin of Curtiss.

### ***How do you think that Curtiss has grown over the years?***

**Hughes:** For me, it's been neat to sit back and watch the students grow the program how it needs to. Really, the growth part has come from the creativity of the students. Whether it be a prop or getting a bid to nationals. All of that comes within the students. It has become a situation to where yes, there is a committee of four students and their friends, but it is becoming an organization of building a brand for AUM.

### ***What do you think the future has in store for Curtiss and for AUM?***

**Reuter:** We already set the bar pretty high this past year going to nationals. I think that's a tradition that the program would like to continue to grow. I see comradery being built amongst other mascots not just within our division but with all divisions. We have



Curtiss and his skit props.  
Photo courtesy of Tim Lutz

made some connections to some schools around the area especially within Montgomery, with all of the different schools and programs that we have. I see that solidifying, and I see the opportunity for growth as people are more knowledgeable of who Curtiss is. As he does more community events, he becomes a part of Montgomery not just a part of AUM.

**Hughes:** ...This is an AUM tradition now. That, to me, I think it is a big piece to our students.

## **New Baseball Coach Back Where He Began**

### **Nicky Disbrow**

The AUM Warhawks' baseball season is in full swing as Marty Lovrich steps up to the plate for the first time as the team's new head coach.

Following two seasons as the head coach at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia, Lovrich replaces Q.V. Lowe. Lowe was AUM's only head coach prior to Lovrich, and he retired after 28 years at AUM.

Warhawks territory is no new field for Lovrich, however; he played baseball at the school until 1989 and then coached under Lowe for 22 years. After leaving his assistant position at AUM to accept a head coaching position at SPSU, Lovrich led his team to the World Series last year—SPSU came in fifth place. He also achieved an overall winning record of 85-37 while coaching at SPSU.





Marty Lovrich begins his first season as head coach of the AUM baseball team.

*Photo courtesy of Frank Williams*

Lovrich brought seven players from his previous team with him to AUM. "We are still trying to figure out our identity," Lovrich said.

"Coach Lovrich has a great respect for the game and his players," said Bryan Young, a senior first baseman on the team. "He expects his players to succeed as students as well as athletes."

It is because of these attributes that Lovrich plans to move forward with the legacy Lowe left and further improve the baseball program at AUM.

Lovrich's goal is to win the conference and ultimately go to the World Series. The anticipation builds up as the season is still underway for the Warhawks.

For more information including the Warhawks' baseball schedule and roster, visit [www.aumathletics.com](http://www.aumathletics.com).

## AUM Spotlight: Dr. Paul Hard

### Holly Watford

Feb. 9, 2015 was a day to remember for the LGBT community of Alabama. Same-sex marriage became legal. Someone who had been waiting for this moment was Dr. Paul Hard. Hard has been fighting the same-sex marriage ban for years, desiring equality for himself and other gay people in Alabama. Hard, an associate professor of Counseling in the College of Education, is also the faculty advisor for the Gay

Straight Alliance at AUM.

Hard has an extensive educational background with more than 13 years of counseling and 25 years in theology. In high school, he was very active in his local church and felt a strong calling to help others through Bible ministry. Hard attended Baptist College in Mobile, now known as the University of Mobile, and then went on to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Hard achieved a Master's in Divinity and then a Master's in Arts and Religious Education. For 19 years, Hard went into church work as a pastor and a youth/college minister in Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. He ultimately decided to leave the ministry full time in 2000.

"There was a growing awareness in me that my sexual orientation wasn't going to get 'prayed away,'" Hard said. "The folks that say you can change, you can pray it away, if it could have been prayed away, I think in 38 years I would have managed."

Once he came to such self-awareness, Hard began living a life for himself. By this time, Hard had finished his Master's degree in Counseling and soon began to work in his area of expertise: substance abuse and mental health.

Due to his extended experience as a pastor and as a student of the Scriptures, I asked Hard, with his critics in mind, how he reconciles Bible teachings with gay rights. "First, I figured out that I was okay with me," Hard said. "Then just through praying it through, I came to realize that God was okay with me. My whole thing is if you can look at Jesus and the person that he was and the passion that he had, I really don't get the sense that he was a condemning person. So it came from knowing Christ and knowing that he did not condemn me, then coming to those Scriptures and saying is there another way of looking at this?"

But there is more to Hard's story than just his religious background. Hard is currently in a legal battle with the state of Alabama that has gained him worldwide attention. Hard and his husband David were married in Massachusetts on May 20, 2011. Tragically, David was killed in an automobile accident a little over two months after the wedding. Because Alabama did not recognize same-sex marriage then, Hard was denied access to his husband in the emergency room, and David's marital status on his death certificate declared he was never married. In February of 2014, Hard and his attorneys at the Southern Poverty Law Center filed suit against the state of Alabama challenging the constitutionality of



fall in the new curriculum with the advising staff of the College of Business. The goal is to make the transition as seamless as possible for students. "We think we have a good enough system in place that it won't be detrimental to any of our students," Ingram says. "...It'll be an evolution to get it right, but I think we're heading in the right direction."

## A Day in the Life of a Warhawk

### Darya Farsinejad

Do you remember what it was like coming to AUM for the first time? Was it intimidating and nerve-wracking? First coming to a college campus can be a bit frightening for incoming students. Luckily, the AUM Office of Admissions hosts an event twice a year called "A Day in the Life of a Warhawk," one in the fall on Veteran's Day and one in the spring on President's day. During the day, Warhawk Recruiters and SWOT Team members take the visiting students to sit in on an AUM class and go on a tour of campus, the residence halls and the Wellness Center. They also eat lunch at The Roost to get a true college day experience.

SWOT Team leaders participating in the event were asked what they hoped new students would gain from this experience. "I hope that they will gain that we are a good family-oriented campus and that we have a lot of activities, clubs and organizations they can join to make their transition from high school



SWOT team leaders Matthew Robinson and Keimon Henderson with the visiting students.  
*Photo courtesy of Darya Farsinejad*

to college a really fun experience," said Amaris Hart, SWOT Team leader.

This event gives the visiting students a perspective of what a day in college will be like. "I would hope that the students would be able to see that here at AUM we have an AUM family and that when they get here they will all get adjusted and things will be easy," added Keimon Henderson, another SWOT team leader.

Amanda Brasington, Coordinator of Admissions Events, said, "Overall, I hope that students leave at the end of the day feeling like they are now a part of the Warhawk family."

These events not only provide a plentiful amount of information about our campus, but also extend the welcome to prospective students in becoming a Warhawk.

## New Support Group to Help with Stress

### Cory Donde

I predict that if you are reading this article, you are a student at AUM. I also predict that at one point in your college experience, you have suffered from stress or anxiety. Luckily, there is now a support group that helps those who are plagued by stress and anxiety on a daily basis. It's called G.R.O.W. (Get Rid of Worry).

Jennifer Bradley, Director of the Counseling Center, started G.R.O.W. in early February to give group counseling to students who have anxiety or feel stressed. Bradley, a counselor of 18 years, has been an AUM faculty member since 2012. She says that group counseling does not have the awkwardness as individual counseling because there are others there who will be able to relate.

Meetings are held every Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in 316 Taylor Center. Before the meeting begins, new members have to sign a confidentiality consent form, which gives peace of mind to those joining that no information will leave the group.

If you are dealing with stressful situations or facing anxiety, feel comfort in knowing that there are people in G.R.O.W. who are willing to help. When you attend, not only will your mood improve, but your grades may as well.





*Photo courtesy of Silvia Giagnoni*

the anti-gay marriage laws, the Marriage Protection Act and the Sanctity of Marriage Amendment the Alabama Constitution added in 2006. The day that same-sex marriage became legal in Alabama, Hard and his attorneys were able to correct David's marital status on his death certificate. "It's kind of sad, you know, it's bittersweet," Hard said. "The state is finally recognizing my marriage but it's taking a death certificate to do it."

Now that same-sex marriage is legal in Alabama, Hard believes that a gay-straight alliance can be built within the state. He stated that the more you get to know people, the harder it is to hate. "It's harder to hate or discriminate against the person you know," Hard said. "And sometimes it's just a matter of letting people know."

Hard is now looking forward to an even brighter future for the LGBT community. "I come to look forward to a day when we don't have to think of it as gay rights," he said. "...It's just human rights. It's just treating people as the golden rule would say, do unto others as you would have them to do unto you."

## College of Business Implements New Curriculum

**Jessica Klinner**

Starting in the Fall of 2015, the AUM College of Business will be implementing a brand new curriculum for students. This innovative mode of education will better prepare students for what they'll face in the

work force after graduation. Dr. Rhea Ingram, Dean of the College of Business, and the faculty of the college have been working for nearly two years to put this new system into practice. As Ingram sits at her office desk on a Friday morning, she speaks enthusiastically about the new curriculum, and what it means for students and future of the College of Business.

"What we want to do is get very competent graduates who will immediately go into a company and not just focus on their solid business function but have the exposure to that bigger picture of the business model," Ingram says. "Just like a university, a company can't succeed if they don't all work together."

The point of the new curriculum is to help students get a better grasp of the business model as a whole. Currently, Business majors take a core business curriculum and an additional eight hours in a concentrated field of their choice: Marketing, Information Systems, Finance, Economics, Management or Accounting. With the new curriculum, Ingram and the faculty of the College of Business will link classes together through common case studies. This will involve classes looking at the business model of one major company to understand how all the parts of a business work together. The five concentrations will study the same business in order to create a uniform understanding across the board. Ingram hopes to partner with the business and bring their professionals into the classroom so students can see firsthand how the business model works in the real world rather than in theory. Under the new curriculum, students will still be able to concentrate their studies in a certain field, but they'll also graduate with a better understanding of the business model.

"The biggest [benefit] would be that we hope when students walk across that stage, they will be exposed to a much bigger picture, a much more valuable picture for them to be employable at the companies they want to be employed at," Ingram says.

The new curriculum is being set in place to benefit students in the long run: it cuts back on credit hours as students will be able to complete their degree in a shorter amount of time. This also decreases the cost of earning the degree. Ingram and staff want to help Business students get the most out of their education without spending more money than necessary.

The implementation of the new curriculum will vary from student to student. It will be easier to integrate freshman and sophomores into the program, but juniors and seniors will need to evaluate where they



# Saint Patrick's Day: More than Just the Luck of the Irish

## Rachael Fairchild

Irish flags, leprechauns, pots of gold, shamrocks, beer, the color green and lots of pinching all come to mind when one thinks of St. Patrick's Day, but why are these things associated with it? How much do you really know about St. Patrick's Day?

The celebration originated as a religious feast to remember the anniversary of the death of Saint Patrick. While St. Patrick's Day is closely tied to Ireland, the saint is not of Irish heritage: he was kidnapped from Roman Britain and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. Shortly after his escape, he returned to Ireland to spread Christianity and became known as the patron saint. One sophomore, Austin Barnett, would be surprised to find out the history of the saint. "I can't imagine that Saint Patrick isn't from Ireland, but if he isn't then he must have been involved with Irish Independence," Barnett said.

The shamrock is associated with St. Patrick's Day because legend has it that Saint Patrick used the three-leaf plant to explain the Christian trinity. People began to wear the shamrock on their clothing in remembrance, and it progressed into a tradition of wearing green.

While there is no clear origin of leprechauns and their pots of gold, today's leprechauns are closely related to Irish folklore and the Irish god, Lugh.

Finally—Beer. The most commonly associated beer with St. Patrick's Day is Guinness, which is an Irish stout; however, for most, any beer will do.

Whether you're celebrating in remembrance of Saint Patrick or celebrating just because, make sure to wear green so you do not get pinched. "I usually don't do anything special for Saint Patrick's Day, but I always make sure to wear green to avoid pinching and snag some treats," said Jessica Defee, a junior at Auburn University Montgomery.

For any holiday you choose to celebrate, including Saint Patrick's Day, dig into the history behind it. What you find out will be surprising and provide a new motive for celebrating; I know I have a new outlook on Saint Patrick's Day.

# Harper Lee's New Book Causing a Stir

## Robert Lemons

In Southwest Alabama lies my hometown of Monroeville. It is home to approximately 6,500 people, but none as significant as Harper Lee, author of "To Kill A Mockingbird." It has been 55 years since "To Kill A Mockingbird" was released, so it comes as no surprise that many people were skeptical when it was announced that Nelle, as Lee's family and friends call her, would be releasing a new book titled "Go Set a Watchman" in July of 2015. Nelle is now 88 years old and resides in an assisted living facility in Monroeville.

Monroeville is a small town approximately 100 miles south of Montgomery that attracts people from all across the country to have a firsthand look at the town that inspired the novel.

Nelle suffered a stroke in 2007 and has very poor eye sight and hearing. Since releasing "To Kill a Mockingbird," she has been a very private person and has never been one to do many interviews. In fact, I lived just two blocks away from her sister, Alice Lee, for 18 years and only saw Nelle a handful of times. She is represented by her attorney, Tonja Carter, who, according to a statement released by Nelle's publishing group, is the one who found the manuscript in the fall of 2014. Carter is a former law partner of Alice, who died in November 2014 at the age of 103.

"I was so stunned," said Carter in an interview with *The New York Times* when asked about finding



Photo courtesy of G.M. Andrew/The Washington Post/Getty



the manuscript. "At the time, I didn't know if it was finished." Carter said that when she asked if it was complete, Nelle told her, "Complete? I guess so. It was the parent of 'Mockingbird.'"

However, skepticism weighs heavy in Monroeville, where many people believe there is more to the story. In an article released by *The Press Register* as many as four friends of Nelle believed that her "wishes for her career are not being respected." The article also quotes Alice, as saying Nelle would "sign anything put in front of her." One source, who wishes to remain anonymous, told me in a recent interview: "I don't believe Nelle is capable of making this type of decision. I hope I'm wrong in saying that, but I don't feel like this decision was all hers."

Another source told me, "She is fully capable of making decisions. She can't hear or see good, but she has her mind." No matter the situation, the new book will be released in July of 2015. It certainly will be another great story.

## Club/Organization Highlight: Rotaract Club

### Saporsha Riley

Take your mind back to the early 1900s. What do you think about? Cowboys, long dresses, wagons? What's missing from this list? Rotary.

In 1913, Rotary International left its stamp on Alabama with the establishment of the Montgomery Rotary Club. This was only eight years after the founding of the first Rotary Club, which made the Montgomery chapter one of the oldest in the world.

Now, flash forward to 2015. AUM is leaving its stamp on Montgomery with the establishment of the AUM Rotaract Club, the first in Montgomery.

The Rotaract Club, a branch of the Rotary International, is sponsored by the local Rotary Club. Each Rotaract Club is sponsored by a Rotary Club. It is designed to be a service club for young people ages 18-30, but it has grown into something much bigger.

As president, I have an insider view on the Rotaract Club. Though the club is in its beginning stages, we are working hard to live up to the legacy of our sponsor.



Founding members of AUM Rotaract stand with Montgomery Rotary Club officers and members to receive their Certificate of Club Installation from Rotary International.

*Photo courtesy of Alex Hood*

AUM students have many options when choosing an organization to join. Like other clubs, we offer many volunteer and community service opportunities that would look great to any future employer.

But the difference between the Rotaract Club and other clubs is that we focus on building values for the future: selflessness, personal connections and professional development make the Rotaract Club a priceless resource to the AUM campus.

"I think it will help students who don't like being in organizations break out of their shell," said Rotaract member Chesley Morris.

The Montgomery Rotary Club had a similar vision in mind when they decided to sponsor a club at AUM.

"I always credit my first job with the contacts I made through the student chapter of a statewide professional organization," said Rosemary Blackmon, Montgomery Rotary Club president. "Having a student group as an extension of our club will hopefully provide great networking opportunities for its students and will benefit our club and others by instilling in these emerging leaders a sense of what Rotary is all about. We're hoping that their experiences will lead to a lifetime of service above self!"

The Rotaract Club motto is "Service above Self." Put simply, we hope to grow as individuals while we give back to our community and our campus.

The AUM Rotaract Club has a long and trail blazing journey ahead of it, but the future looks bright. Rotaract's first service project will begin in March as a tribute to World Rotaract Week, which is March 9-15.



# Warhawk Squawk

## LaTara Holloway & Holly Watford

This March we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March, a pivotal moment in the civil right movement and in the history of the United States. What do you think has changed since 1965?



Local artist finishes the mural commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March in downtown Montgomery.

*Photo courtesy of Silvia Giagnoni*



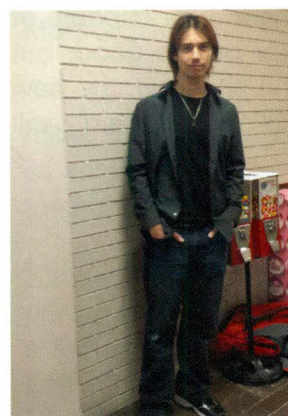
Brianna Preston  
Communication  
Senior

"I guess the environment as a whole probably changed. I see more African Americans and whites conversing with one another. Because back then, they wouldn't even give us the chance to even speak with one another."



Marren Ellis  
Business Management  
Senior

"The main thing I think that has changed is the culture in the United States. Back then, the mistreatment of blacks and minorities was common, and it was accepted. But because of the march that day, it really changed the conscience of the country and was able to get the civil rights act moved through."



Andrew Parrish  
Graphic Design  
Senior

"I think we're kind of gradually heading towards a better direction in terms of equality and fairness. I wouldn't think that there is 'equality' yet. Things could be better, but based on things I've read and heard, that's my interpretation and how I feel. I don't know if that's true or not."

## Newsroom Hours

Thursday March 19  
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Monday March 23  
12:05 PM - 2:05 PM

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