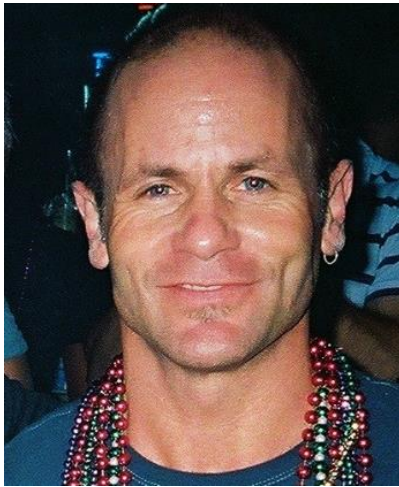




## Wisconsin Singers Alumni Spotlight on David Thurber



For David Thurber, Wisconsin Singers was much more than a creative outlet in college. During his three years as a Singer, he developed a strong work ethic, discovered his career path, and made lifelong friends. Decades after moving to San Diego, David is still a proud Badger—and when it comes to his college experience, Singers is at the top of the list.

Music was ever-present throughout David's early life in DeForest, Wisconsin. By high school, he was in band, choir, and show choir. In his sophomore year, he got involved in The Young Americans show choir and was eager to audition for Singers after his choir director saw a Singers performance and recommended that he try out for the group.

To his surprise, David was offered the opportunity to spend his first year at Madison as a Wisconsin Singer and he took it! It can be hard to find your place at such a large school, but with Singers, "the second you open that door, you've got a family." Those friendships were vital to both his academic success and his UW experience as a whole. Being a Singer meant that someone was always there to support him, whether they were at shows, at home, or in class.

David says that he was lucky to work with the "legendary" Scott Foss, Mac Huff, and Jim Bates, and to be part of a group with a characteristic work ethic and students pursuing difficult majors. In fact, it was through a fellow Singer that David was inspired to become an occupational therapist. What's more, he contends that the self-discipline that he learned in Singers helped him succeed in the competitive occupational therapy program.

After three years in Singers, David went on to join UW Cheerleading and was one of five UW-Madison graduates hired for an occupational therapy internship in San Diego. While working at a children's hospital, he became an aerobics instructor and travelled the country competing in aerobic gymnastics meets for 15 years. He now contracts for himself, seeing kids ages 0–3 in their homes, and conducts weekly or biweekly visits to address developmental delays, sensory and feeding issues, and more.

David enjoys the weather in San Diego, but he and his parents are steadfast in their support of UW-Madison sports and Singers. He's in touch with the alumni community in San Diego, and his mom hasn't missed a year of Singers shows since he was in the troupe. And after all these years, he can still sing his Singers parts, harmonies and all!