



Paige Uhr, '15
Director of Advancement, Gaylord College

After a few years in the nonprofit sector, Paige Uhr decided it was time to return to her alma mater. The 2015 journalism graduate, who minored in nonprofit organizational studies, joined the OU Foundation team in February. Now, she is serving Gaylord College as its new Director of Advancement. Uhr, who started her new role earlier this week, recently answered some questions about her time as a student, her career path and more. Please join us in welcoming her back to Gaylord College!

What is your favorite memory from your time at Gaylord College?

The many hours I spent in the building studying, writing and producing with my peers were some of my favorites. I loved the culture of the college, and you felt it as soon as you walked through the doors.

Do you have a favorite faculty/staff member at Gaylord?

John Schmeltzer and Peter Gade are two faculty members that will always

Foundation as an advancement officer on the University Initiatives team, where my efforts focused on the College of International Studies and scholarship support for students. Now I'm thrilled to say that as of August 16, I'm the new director of advancement for Gaylord College and happy to be "home."

Describe your role at the OU Foundation supporting Gaylord College.

As chief fundraiser for the college, my goal is to build meaningful relationships and help create a margin of excellence for Gaylord College through philanthropy.

What do you consider to be the most significant moments of your career so far?

Returning to my alma mater has always been a dream of mine so to be here, specifically in Gaylord, is somewhat surreal.

How did Gaylord College prepare

come to mind when asked this question. John cares deeply about his students and their success, both in the classroom and post-graduation. Dr. Gade challenges students to dig deep and as a result, enhance their critical thinking skills. Receiving an A in his capstone course was no easy feat but incredibly rewarding.

How did your career path lead you to OU and Gaylord College?

Upon college graduation, I spent several years in the nonprofit sector working in roles dedicated to fundraising, outreach and volunteerism. I specifically served agencies committed to helping children and families heal from trauma, abuse and neglect, a mission that is near and dear to me. While the work was fulfilling and impactful, I knew I eventually wanted to explore higher education advancement. In February 2021, I joined the OU

you for your future career?

While I didn't stay in the journalism field, there are many skills I learned as a Gaylord student that helped me succeed in my career. The biggest takeaways – learn to communicate well and often, build relationships, and always follow through.

What advice would you give to current students aspiring to a career in advancement?

Intern at a nonprofit organization, foundation or even student call center. Take advantage of OU Career Services – create and fine tune your resume, practice interview skills. Network and build relationships then nurture these relationships. Ask questions!

What do you do for fun outside of work?

I like to travel, read, explore new restaurants and spend time outdoors.



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