THERE IS NO "I" IN CHORAL ENSEMBLE: Redefining team-building strategies in UWL choirs influenced by keywords and aphorisms from UWL and nationally prominent basketball and volleyball coaches.

ABSTRACT
This poster reflects the results of my efforts to redefine the methodology used in creating "group or team unity" with my UWL choirs. I gained athletic perspective on this topic by gathering information from live interviews with four current and former UWL-La Crosse volleyball and men's and women's basketball coaches and from several books written by former and current nationally prominent collegiate and professional basketball and volleyball coaches. The resultant similarities are fascinating and the changes in semantics from one idiom to the next, in order to make the words and phrases understood, are miniscule.

"Pyramid for Successful Team-Building"

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WORD(S) OF THE WEEK: to reflect upon as individuals, as teammates, as team leaders

**Core Values**

**Eye/I Contact**

**Feel the Rhythm of Life**

**Preparation**

**Balance**

**Ownership**

A COMPARISON OF QUOTATIONS

Coaches

"The first level of communication is established with bonding activities done off-campus such as camping, or a ropes course, then spending a large amount of pre-season time together.
Lois Heeren, UWL. Women's Basketball Coach
Lillian Hallock, UWL Volleyball Coach

"We try to build our basketball team on trust"
Lois Heeren

"Each team member must care deeply about each human being that sits in front of them, and trust them."
Phil Jackson, former NBA player, coach and current general manager

"Teammwork is what makes common people capable of uncommon results."
Pat Summitt, former U. of Tennessee Basketball Coach

"A group only becomes a team when it has a clear goal or destination."
Terry Pettit, II. of Nebraska Volleyball Coach

"Collaborative teamwork is a conspiracy literally defined as "we breathe together."
Terry Pettit

"At first some of the younger players are uncomfortable functioning on such a closely knit team."
Lillian Hallock

Choir Directors

"We create a comfort level among choir members through choir retreats and bonding get-togethers among sections, with communication as the goal.
I'm much more comfortable singing next to a choir member when I know them as a friend and creative partner."
Gary Walth, UWL. Director of Choral Music Studies

"Choral conductors must be able to communicate the beauty, the joy and the artistry that defines choral music. That communication is built upon trust."
Gary Walth

In order to truly be a successful ensemble, each member must have the ability to recognize, accept and trust each other."
James Jordan, Choir Conductor, Westminster Choir College

"When ensembles subordinate themselves for the benefit of the whole amazing results can be expected!"
Eph Ehly, former U of Missouri-Kansas City Choral Conductor

"Great ensembles have a common conviction." Ward Swingle, founder/director of the Swingle Singers

"When we work together, we breathe and think together. It's a CHORAL CONSPIRACY."
Gary Walth

"There are three important ingredients to successful ensembles:
James Jordan

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(a bibliography is available upon request)

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