

4 UNDER 40  
AWARD RECIPIENTS



## Matthew Graifer '08

Matthew Graifer is better known as “The Young Professor,” his pseudonym for the last eight years as a professional live event host. He is also known as the In-Game Host or “Chief Potassium Enthusiast” of The Savannah Bananas, the viral sensation baseball team who have reimagined the sport, having sold out over 200 consecutive games across the United States.

Matt grew up in Rahway, New Jersey and studied psychology while at Rowan, working as a student building manager in the Rec Center and as one of the founding members of the student ASSeRT (Aggression, Substance & Sexuality Research Team) lab group under Dr. D.J. Angelone.

He pursued a master’s degree in kinesiology with a concentration in sport and exercise behavior at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where he graduated in 2010. In 2012, he began working as a 25-year-old college professor at Keiser University in Florida where he spent nearly eight years across two different campuses.

In the middle of his tenure as a professor, he picked up some work on the side as a trivia night host, which eventually paved the way for pursuits in other entertainment forms. In 2018, he began working as a combat sports ring announcer in professional wrestling, and he also became the In-Game Host for the Jacksonville Sharks professional arena football team. Since then, he has gone on to host over 1,000 events across multiple sports, including two full seasons with the MiLB Single-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds; the Daytona Tortugas; the 2022 NASCAR Coke Zero Sugar 400 at the Daytona International Speedway; and he is in his second year with The Savannah Bananas as they continue to barnstorm throughout the country. Matt appears in the ESPN+ docuseries *Bananaland*, which is available to stream on ESPN+ and Hulu.

By day, Matt is still teaching, now at the high school level where he teaches world history and psychology at Matanzas High School in Palm Coast, Florida. He is married to Shanna Graifer, and they have four children: Fionn, Morrigan, Adam and Lilian. Matt is currently writing a non-fiction book on how to successfully host live events.