



# A Winning Combination

**Katie Leighton '05 Facilitates Charitable Giving Through Athletics**

BY EMMA DEANS

Athletes thrive under pressure. They communicate effectively, understand team dynamics, and achieve lofty goals. For Katie Leighton '05, those qualities have carried over from her playing career as a Golden Trojan to her professional career as the Manager for Consulting and Events at Fenway Sports Management (FSM)—a sister company to the Red Sox and a leading marketing agency in Boston.

Of her three sports at Thornton, Leighton credits lacrosse with changing her life, “When I was a freshman I had never picked up a stick—the fact that I was able to play in college as a four-year starter is a testament to Thornton Academy’s ability to grow a program,” she said. Leighton continued playing lacrosse and soccer at Endicott College, graduating with a degree in Sport Management in 2009.

An internship with the Deutsche Bank Championship helped land her the position at FSM where she helps corporate clients plan and execute fundraising events for charities. She assumes responsibility for everything from the logistics of signage to the

*Leighton '05 planned an event at Foxwoods Resort Casino that featured a rivalry panel with former Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek (right) and former Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte (left), which was emceed by television figure and former NFL defensive end Michael Strahan (center).*



setup of venues and the facilitation of gifts. For example, Leighton has worked on JetBlue’s Swing for Good annual golf tournament, which spans three golf courses, includes 450 players, and has raised \$3 million since its inception in 2009 for various charitable causes.

Leighton’s job requires long hours and extensive travel, but it’s the little moments she cherishes the most—like bringing a young fan out onto the field at Fenway and seeing her eyes light up with wonder.



*Leighton holds up the Commissioner’s Trophy.*



*Leighton and her boyfriend Derek Gauger display their World Series rings after the Red Sox won the title in 2013. Gauger serves as a member of the Grounds Crew at Fenway.*