

profile:

Jamie McCourt, SF '94

Vice Chairman and President, Los Angeles Dodgers



When Jamie McCourt was just nine years old, she announced to her parents one day that she was going to buy a baseball team. After an impressive law career in both New York and Boston, followed by a continuing career in commercial real estate development, it seems that the younger version of herself wasn't too far off the mark. Now, as the vice chairman and president of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Jamie is the highest-ranking female executive in baseball.

As a lifelong sports fan, a self-described business junkie, and a person who craves both learning and meeting new people, Jamie explains her career has come full circle to a place where she couldn't be happier. "I've managed to find a business that utilizes every skill that I have picked up along the way," she says. "I've never worked so hard, and I've never had so much fun."

Jamie credits MIT Sloan with providing her with many of the tools necessary to her success. Beginning her job with the Dodgers at a time when the brand seemed to be eroding—attendance was dwindling, the team hadn't won a post-season game in 15 years, and they were losing \$50 million annually—Jamie explains it was clear that a true turnaround was necessary. "I trace my ability to understand how all the pieces fit together to my experiences at MIT Sloan. It had such an impact, whether it was through typical metrics courses or things like organizational behavior courses, it all made a difference... because the reality is that you need to assess *everything* you have going, whether it is the metrics or the human element, and understand where your strengths are and where your weaknesses are."

Coming in to the L.A. Dodgers franchise, Jamie's future goals were to field a contender every year, to create an unrivaled fan experience, and to expand the Dodgers' involvement in the community. And to anyone who followed the Dodgers during their stunning 2006 comeback to tie for first place in the western division, it is clear that she is definitely meeting those goals. Also clear, is how much she loves what she does. "It is my job to create and preserve memories here," she says. "If I think about my own background and what is important to me, I think about the times that I went to the ballpark with my father... I truly remember what it looked like, what it smelled like, what it felt like to sit next to him—how important I felt being there with him... Believe it or not, you do remember what the crack of the bat sounds like if you are a fan. You remember it all."

Still deeply involved in the MIT Sloan community, Jamie sits on the Dean's Advisory Council and the Visiting Committee. She is helping to support the development of the new campus, hosts student groups who come to visit California, and is a frequent speaker at events like the first-ever MIT Sloan Sports Business Conference where she gave the keynote address.

"MIT Sloan is the most special place that I have ever been, because it really does impact a lot of people's lives. I think, in large part, being integrated with the rest of MIT is a real competitive advantage. It is truly entrepreneurial because the School has always been about creating, inventing, and engineering solutions. MIT Sloan holds the distinct advantage of being a business school that really comes from that discipline."

Sean, Avrum, Bill, Naima and David, Todd and Caroline, etc., are also huge fun. If you are flying through the area, please make sure to give a call. We would love the chance to reconnect."

Caroline Ren, SM '94, her husband, **Todd Jackson, SM '94**, and their three children, Julia, Scott, and Emily, are "thoroughly enjoying the fall with Todd still working at Boston Scientific as VP of supply chain planning. While work continues to be challenging, we're able to balance it fairly well on most occasions... We had a blast connecting with many **SM '94** classmates, including **Sean Brown, Jill Christians, Tania Romanoff, Avrum Mayman, Tom Atkinson, Naima Hoque, and Betsy Adams** this summer at the Muddy Charles. Would love to hear from more local classmates. Just give us a call or drop an e-mail."

Steve Chaffin, SM '94, has recently been named as the vice president of marketing of LiveDeal. He brings significant consumer branding experience to LiveDeal, having previously led marketing efforts at companies such as America Online, The Clorox Company, and Bluelight.com. Steve currently resides in San Francisco.

Antoinette Atseva Muti, SM '94, and her husband Jeff finally had a sibling for their daughter, Isabella (7). Connor Richard Muti was born on Friday, October 20, 2006. He emerged a happy, healthy baby at over 9½ pounds and 22 inches. Mom is taking some time off her busy Deloitte Consulting schedule to spend with baby. The family is still enjoying New York City.

Mark Retik, MBA '95, writes, "I have been working at Goldman Sachs in New York for the last six years, most recently in equity derivatives. Presently, I am co-captain of Goldman's Sales & Trading recruiting effort for Sloan. My wife, Michelle, and I were married the month following graduation from Sloan and so are now married 11 years. We have four wonderful children—one boy (9) and three girls (6, 3, and 1), all of whom already show signs that they will be much more successful by any measure than their father—but not their mother."