



Growing the Network

KARA CUROSH '14

Just about anywhere you look in the corporate world there are Dartmouth football connections. With more than 100 players on the team each year in a program that the Big Green has fielded for more than a century, that shouldn't be a surprise.

Nor should it be surprising that another sport Dartmouth that has played at the varsity level only since 1996, one that has a roster of just 18 players this spring, doesn't have the same presence in the business world.

That's one of the reasons why former softball co-captain Kara Curosh '14 can't credit a Dartmouth diamond connection for helping steer her to the internship that led her to a career at Vanguard, the investment management company headquartered in Malvern, Pa. And it's why the Vanguard Chief of Staff feels it is important that she and other softball alums step up and do what they can to open doors for current and future Big Green players.

"When I was at Dartmouth, Vanguard didn't recruit for my program," Curosh explained, "so I found out about it through a family friend. She works here and said, 'Hey Kara, you are an Econ major, you play Division I sports. I think Vanguard would be a really good fit for you.'

"I didn't really know anything about Vanguard, mutual funds or the retirement industry and investments in general until then."

The former All-Ivy League infielder wants to make sure current Dartmouth athletes and students do.

"One of my former teammates was interviewing here and was offered a position," Curosh said. "She decided to go elsewhere but I was the point of contact for her. There have been a couple others that (DP2's Ali Hart) has sent my way and I've been happy to share with them information on what we're all about."

Curosh is optimistic that with Vanguard's relatively new investment focused rotational program and with several alumni friends at Vanguard making a push to recruit talented students out of Hanover there will be more of a Dartmouth presence in suburban Philly down the road. She's doing her part as well.

"I've done recruiting training so I have made myself available to do that in the future," she said.

Curosh is excited to see the Dartmouth softball career network continue to take shape under third-year coach Shannon

Doepking.

"I talked to her about that when I was back to watch them play a couple of years ago," Curosh recalled. "She said a big focus of hers is to kind of connect the alumni base. I know Molly Khalil, who was a '12, has done a great job sending out a newsletter doing that.

"It's such a young program. It's only 20 years old. So the more that we can kind of create this community around softball the more it will help. I can't wait to see that continue to grow, especially as the program continues to get better and grab more attention."

Curosh credits her studies in economics and Italian at Dartmouth as well as her days on the diamond for helping make her a more valuable commodity in the business world. It's why she favors bringing more Big Green athletes both into the Vanguard fold and the corporate world as a whole.

"There are two kinds of skill sets I have taken from Dartmouth," she said. "One is from an academic standpoint. It's not what you think, it's how you think. I have a kind of curious mindset and feel like I am able to learn much more quickly because I had to do that Dartmouth. I don't really use my Italian major here, but it is how I thought about what I was learning that stretched me by putting me out of my comfort zone that has been very applicable here.

"From another perspective, I see what softball and sports in general taught me. Leadership skills. How to work with other people really well. How to work hard to succeed. So both from an athletic standpoint and an academic standpoint Dartmouth has helped me so much since I started in the corporate world." **DP**

THE RECRUITING VISIT OF KARA CUROSH '14 WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF GEORGE JACOBUS '53 AND FREDERIC ESCHERICH '74 THROUGH THE ATHLETIC SPONSORS PROGRAM.