

LIFESTYLE

New York Mets ^{general} assistant manager visits Lehigh

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Ben Zauzmer, ^{general} assistant manager of the New York Mets, spoke to Lehigh students about his experiences in baseball at Neville Hall.

Students from both athletic and academic backgrounds, as well as Lehigh faculty, came to hear Zauzmer speak. Organized by the Math and Statistics Society, the event took place on Nov. 15.

Philip Napoli, '23, a computer science major, said he was interested in the event because of his love of baseball.

"It really draws a bunch of people with the same interests together," Napoli said. "We just had a great time and I think this was a phenomenal lecture."

This was the first time Zauzmer was back at Lehigh in 11 years. As part of the American Regions Mathematics League, he commuted over an hour to Lehigh from his home in Dresher, Pennsylvania, every week to practice for mathematics competitions from seventh grade through high school. This allowed him to build a relationship with Lehigh professor Don Davis, the coach at the time.

Zauzmer's parents, Bob and Jan Zauzmer, were in attendance. They said they recognize how much Davis helped both their son and the mathematics league.

"For professor Davis, (the American Regions Mathematics League) is a labor of love and that was Ben's great fortune to be able to be under his tutelage," Jan Zauzmer said. "And it was the great fortune of many students — just generations of students benefited from professor Davis."

After starting his passion for mathematics with the mathematics league, combined with a love for baseball, Zauzmer became interested in baseball statistics, which he credits to the movie "Moneyball."

After interning for the Philadelphia Phillies during his senior year of high school, Zauzmer attended Harvard University, where he studied applied mathematics. During his time at Harvard, he got an internship with the Los Angeles Dodgers, which became a full-time position after graduation.

Zauzmer's parents said they weren't sure what professional path he would take, but recognized the job he has now fits him well.

"We didn't know of this specific job, but we knew he would find something that used his various skills — not just for math but also I think you can see he's a terrific communicator and he's a good leader, so it's great that he found something that puts it all together," Bob Zauzmer said.

With the Dodgers, Zauzmer worked in research and development, which consists of three sections: analytics, baseball systems and data engineering. He was at the forefront of developing these parts of the operation for the Dodgers.

After four seasons in Los Angeles, he was offered a job with the New York Mets.

The remainder of this story can be found at www.thebrownandwhite.com.