

## Meet Author Laurie A. Richter



When Midwest mom Laurie Richter started looking at colleges and sports programs with her son Dylan, she found herself on a road she was sure must have been traveled many times by other parents, but there were no directional signs and no visitors center with information about the process of college sports recruiting. Laurie was frustrated trying to figure it out, a sentiment that doesn't sit well with her for very long. So she started comparing notes with other friends whose kids were also trying to get recruited. What she heard were a lot of stories with *unhappy* endings. Laurie soon realized that if parents really understood the process and could help navigate their kids through it, there would be a lot more *happy* endings. Through her own instincts and determination, Laurie uncovered the necessary knowledge and was able to forge a path that resulted in success for her son. She and Dylan found a school and athletic program that was a perfect fit for him.

Laurie has walked the walk and she'd be the first to say that there's no substitute for having had the experience herself. Now, a year ago, if you had asked Laurie what she was determined to do next, she probably would have told you that she wanted to find a way to help parents of student-athletes start the ball rolling with confidence. What better way than to put her college recruitment findings into a book that parents new to the process would find invaluable. In fact, there was a specific moment when Laurie decided to write *Put Me In, Coach*. She was sitting at lunch with a friend whose son was trying to get recruited to play college lacrosse. Her friend was really stressed out and jokingly said that when recruiting was all over, Laurie could look her up at the Betty Ford Clinic. Her anxiety was a reaction that Laurie had heard over and over again. Currently, Laurie's greatest hope is that her book will empower parents and their student-athletes by giving them the information they need to make informed decisions throughout the recruitment process.

When Laurie is not out on the speaking circuit or giving encouragement to student-athletes and their parents, she enjoys reading, volunteering, spending time with friends, and traveling with her husband, Jim, for fun and personal enlightenment. She also always enjoys a good basketball game. For her, the most enlightening aspect about travel is reflecting on the many different ways people view their world and the value they bring it. So it's not surprising that if Laurie weren't doing what she's doing today in regards to being an author, she'd be involved somehow in the travel industry ... or at least planning her own trip to the South Pacific!