



CFA Society South Africa

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1. How did you become involved in financial services – was this something you always wanted to do?

I am not sure that it was something that I always wanted to do. I remember a part of my high school years where I actually had no idea what I wanted to do when I finished school. As I looked at the opportunities available to me, I knew that I had an affinity for numbers and stats and making a difference and so through getting a better understanding of what I enjoyed doing and was good at lead me towards starting a Business Science degree. From there finance and economics was a hook.

2. What obstacles did you face on your career journey?

The biggest obstacle I faced was really getting started in the industry. When I initially tried to find a job straight out of varsity, I really didn't have a good understanding of the industry and how all the role players slotted in. Knowing where I really wanted to be was difficult and so it was difficult for me to communicate to any potential employers why they should take a chance on me given that I had no experience. As a result, I ended up leaving SA to get a global perspective and that did help but I think in anything the obstacles along the way can be many and success only comes through those obstacles and over coming them.

3. Who or what inspired you?

The need for people to retire well into the world after working hard all their lives has always been a driving force, as has been the ability to be able to steward capital in a way that improves the world, we live in. The chance to make a difference no matter how small is inspiring. This industry has a number of strong, creative and inspiring women who have gone on to successfully manage money and start their own firms in an industry not well known for its diversity. They are making a meaningful difference and provide me daily inspiration.

4. When were you introduced to the CFA Charterholder qualification and what made you decide to become a CFA candidate and pursue becoming a Charterholder?

I was still at university when I was introduced to the CFA program by a finance tutor that I had. I worked overseas for a while after graduating and while there I realised the importance of a qualification that is specialist to the finance field and also is globally recognized. In order to further my career and open more doors to me, as well as improve my knowledge of the field I decided to become a CFA candidate. I found the curriculum incredibly valuable and well worth mastering to become a Charterholder.

5. What advice or words of learning would you impart to younger women at the early stages in the career in the investment industry?

Don't be discouraged and always look for ways to improve your knowledge and skills to open the doors. Nothing worth having ever came about easily!