

CAREER, ETHICS & MONEY ADVICE



**AMANDA
CARTER**
FACULTY ADVISOR

At age 22, Amanda Carter started her career on Wall Street as a financial analyst at Merrill Lynch. After her time at Merrill Lynch, she became a VP in derivatives sales and trading at JP Morgan where she authored and presented educational seminars to over 200 clients, developed the firm's first Forward Annuity contract, and trained JP Morgan bankers on derivatives and their applications.

After more than 30 years of professional experience in the world of finance, Carter now spends her career teaching Bethel University's finance students how to navigate the world of investments. Teaching has been a welcome change to Carter's previous life-consuming job. She believes that teaching offers the opportunity to impact students at critical moments in their lives. Carter was heavily influenced by her advisor as an undergraduate economics student at Yale. He encouraged her to pursue a career on Wall Street and later gain her MBA in finance from Wharton Business School.

Wall Street is known for having a "money is god" mentality where being "number one" is a priority. Carter reflects upon her experience and remembers working 80 hours a week and how peers would try to compete to take each other's positions. Carter says that students who want to pursue working on Wall Street should study to master the material, maintain a good GPA, have a quality internship, be prepared to work a lot, and have a thick skin. She says that there are many opportunities for a career in finance in different cities across the United States that should be considered as well.

For students seeking to make the most of their educational experience at Bethel, Carter recommends becoming involved in opportunities that allow for the application of business practices. She also recommends getting involved with the Bethel Business and Economics Department opportunities for professional advancement such as the CFA Research Challenge, RIF student-managed investments, the BethelBiz Mentorship Program, and of course the Royals Investment Fund. Carter also says that adding a second emphasis to a business degree is a great way to broaden skill sets.

Carter suggests ways that students can excel and set themselves apart from their peers:

"Be incredibly valuable to your boss, make their work easier, and do your work well."

Demonstrating critical thinking and application of knowledge to real-world events are also important. Interest and dedication are shown by asking questions and completing projects that lead to greater understanding. These actions will make students stand out from their peers for the quality of their work.

If Carter could advise her younger self, she would say to not let her job become her god. It is easy to become so consumed in work and let God slip to the side, but the relationship with him should remain the priority.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has hurt the economy and lowered prospects in the job market, Carter tells students entering the workforce not to worry. Carter was on Wall Street during the bad markets in 1987 and encountered a similar situation in the recession of 2008. She says that everything will work out how it is meant to. For students and graduates concerned about finding a job, Carter advises to trust God and be flexible. Students might have to take a job that is less impressive than the one they would have liked, but it is still a foot-in-the-door of the business world and can contribute positively to a career.