

# ROYALS INVESTMENT FUND

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

## BETHEL DRIVE TO WALL STREET

BY EMILY ATKINSON

From the Chief Investment Officer of the Royals Investment Fund to a Global Finance & Business Management Analyst for JPMorgan Chase & Co. Lacey Benz has learned many lessons throughout her journey. She never would have dreamt that she would move from Blue Earth, Minnesota, with a population of three thousand, to New York City, with a population of eight million. She was able to give us an insight into her life, sharing lessons she learned, all the way to words of encouragement for graduating seniors.

Working on Wall Street is an experience unlike any other. Working for JPMorgan Chase & Co. has taught Benz all about how a global financial institution operates. "The exposure I have gained to key decision makers and policies that impact our financial system is unparalleled," shares Benz. Although her experience is exciting and unique, it is also extremely fast-paced. She shares that there is little room for error, and at times, it can be very stressful with long hours.

Transitioning into the workplace, Lacey is grateful for the experience she had as the CIO of the Fund for the 2018-2019 school year. She shares that, "being the CIO of the Royals Investment Fund taught me invaluable lessons about leadership." Her role required exceptional organization, communication and time management skills that are highly important in her current role at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Moving from rural Minnesota to New York City, Lacey had three obstacles she had to overcome. The first being young, second, being female in a male-dominated field and third her education coming from an untraditional background. Through these obstacles she learned a very valuable lesson; how to advocate for herself. In her role she had to learn how to speak up if she wanted to be respected and wanted her contributions to be valued.

Her time working for JPMorgan Chase & Co. has brought challenges that she wasn't expecting. She shares how she was expecting to work at a place with a similar culture to Bethel. Benz shared with us that, "at work, the culture can sometimes be hostile and competitive, and it has been difficult to build relationships with my colleagues." Through this challenge she has been able to connect with her coworkers and has gotten involved with firm-wide initiatives that support females in finance.



With the transition from college to the workplace, prayer and mentorship has been crucial for Benz. None of her team members are Christian. This has given her the opportunity to pray for them as well as be an example of faith through her actions and words. She shares, "I recently heard a message that reminded me that my job is not to be a financial analyst at JPMorgan, it is to be a Christian who also happens to be a financial analyst at JPMorgan." This motivates her to consider her most important job is being a vessel for God which she can achieve through honoring her manager, working hard for her team and being a positive example of faith in the workplace.

Finally, Benz shares a few words of encouragement for graduating seniors. "God has a plan for all of the seniors that is beyond their wildest dreams. Trust Him, take risks, and do the thing that you never thought you would do." Whether that be working in a new location or working in a role that is outside of you major, be open to what God is going to do in your life. Benz shares that, "Life is a long journey of "trial and error," and with God by our side, what could go wrong?"

