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PKF

Q *Where did your corporate finance journey begin and how did you end up where you are today?*

A I initially taught Mathematics to Senior Primary students at Cambridge Academy Witbank, during the final year of my teaching studies in 2016. Although I loved working with kids, my passion for numbers and analytics persuaded me to dive deeper into what the financial industry could offer. In 2017 I had the opportunity to study BCom Investments Management through the University of Pretoria. After finishing my second degree, I had quite a difficult time finding employment as the degree dictated a specialised field. Eventually, I was employed as a paraplanner for a private wealth management firm in Pretoria. In 2020, I enrolled for the CFA® level I examination to further satisfy my curiosity for analytics. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the June 2020 examination was deferred, and I elected to sit for the August 2021 examination. During this time, I found out that I was expecting my first baby. Balancing the studies, working full-time and the symptoms of what felt like unending fatigue and morning sickness, I was pleased to learn that I had passed the examination. Not only that, but I was blessed with a little boy and the joys of motherhood. While on maternity leave, another opportunity presented itself as I was offered to join PKF Octagon Inc.'s Corporate Finance Team as an analyst. I have finally found the roll that fits my passion and curiosity perfectly.

Q *Did you have a mentor and if so, tell us about that person and include the most valuable thing you learnt from them?*

A My two mentors are both my father and my stepfather. The former has given me insight into what it means to truly add value to those around me and

how important it is to be an inspiration to others. The latter has taught me the value of knowledge and the importance of thinking ahead. I would not be the woman I am today without their guidance and support.

Q *Which deal challenged you the most and why?*

A I was charged with the task of leading a financial due diligence project for the first time as part of a potential corporate transaction for a client. It was the first time that I had flown solo. The difficulty was being set on such a tight deadline and wanting to know the detail of every aspect of the project, luckily the long hours eventually paid off and the project was one of my most successful endeavours yet.

Q *What would you say to another woman who was thinking of changing fields because the industry is so male-dominated?*

A Firstly, get yourself a power-suit. The magical self-confidence that comes with the look of 'I mean business' is the antidote for any woman who finds their professional self-confidence wavering in the presence of men. Secondly, speak your mind as much as professionally suitable and do as much as reasonably possible. For your talents and potential to be known, you have to show those around you what you have to offer. Lastly, don't be afraid to be yourself and celebrate your femininity. Accept any challenge they throw at you and blow them away with a dash of fabulous flair.

Q *Do you have any unusual hobbies?*

A My hobbies include things that I believe most women my age would find boring, such as crocheting, macrame and crossword puzzles.

Q *What is your go-to power song?*

A Any Hanz Zimmer soundtrack does the trick.

Q *What is your favourite quote?*

A "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak, it's also what it takes to sit down and listen." – Sir Winston Churchill

Q *What is your most effective time saving tip?*

A Planning, planning, planning. Have I mentioned planning? No plan can fully provide for the unexpected but having an idea of how to respond to these with contingencies, cultivates a readiness for whatever life throws at you. I find that taking a few minutes to plan my day or week saves hours in comparison to just taking things on as they come.

Q *What is at the top of your bucket list?*

A Travelling to Iceland to see the Northern Lights.

Q *What is your favourite holiday destination?*

A My favourite is a small village to the North of Mozambique called Pomene. One can expect no luxury or elaborate socials there, but the serenity of being on a remote and primitive break-away is something special to experience.

Q *If you could invite any 3 women (past or present) to dinner, who would they be and why?*

A First, I would invite Emma Thompson. I do enjoy her witty personality and excellent sense of humour. Second, I would invite Amelia Earhart, for inspiration on achieving ambitions regardless of what the norms dictate. And lastly, I would invite my mother whom I absolutely adore spending time with. 🙌