



Jess McAnneny Burt

Finance and Analytics

BBA '02

Jess McAnneny Burt is an expert at looking at the big picture and solving complex, multidimensional problems. Her education at William & Mary gave her a knowledge base that has allowed her to excel in her career.

Jess studied Finance at William & Mary, but also completed a minor in Government and unofficial minor in Marketing. She knew entering the College that she intended to study business and quickly became involved with a sorority, the Mason Investment Club and as a volunteer at Matthew Whaley Elementary School. She knew she wanted to be in New York City after she graduated, but she struggled to determine which area of business she was interested in. She found investment banking and fashion alluring, but she knew that neither were the right path for her. During her senior year, she interviewed for a variety of positions in consulting firms, banks and start-ups.

Jess ultimately accepted a job at an online marketing start-up firm, Xuppa, where she worked to identify different advertisers interested in online marketing. After fourteen months, she realized the job was not the correct fit for her – she felt that she wasn't able to fully understand the advertisers' decision-making processes. As a result, she pursued a job at Bloomberg in their Global Customer Support Desk and was interested in their strong analyst program, which would give her exposure to the financial world. She would be able to see who was trading and why – a view that greatly attracted her to the position. She was offered and accepted a job in the Analytics department, where she focused on credit default swaps and mortgage-backed security product builds and client training.

After a little less than two years at Bloomberg, Jess began to weigh other options. She considered trading the assets she had learned a lot about, but accepted a job at BlackRock in 2005 on the Solutions team instead. Shortly after being hired, she moved to London to help transition newly acquired Merrill Lynch Investment Managers onto the BlackRock enterprise trading system, Aladdin. After 18 months, she returned to the US to implement foreign exchange trading through Aladdin for other firms.

Jess eventually transitioned within BlackRock from working with foreign exchange to Employee Retirement Income Savings Act (ERISA) compliance. She worked with Global Capital Markets to spearhead an initiative to automate the New Issue process for corporate debt while complying with ERISA. Currently, Jess is a member of BlackRock's Platform and Integration team. She works closely with legal and compliance to develop an electronic derivative and swap trading platform that conforms with Dodd-Frank. Specifically, she helps run a system that conforms to the additional requirements of central clearing and reporting surrounding derivatives, but still allows flexibility and flow for traders. Implementation includes the full investment cycle from portfolio strategy, trade execution to all downstream operational flows. Jess' career is an example of integrating skills in different fields. During her stints at various firms, Jess has developed the experience necessary to pursue opportunities that match her natural interests.

