

Welcome to the July 2021 edition of the Wharton Black MBA Alumni Association's monthly newsletter!

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Upcoming Events

August 7, 2021 – August 8, 2021

AAMBAA 101 - Alumni interested in supporting may contact Obinna Obilo at obinna.obilo@gmail.com

August 13, 2021

VIP-SF is an accelerator open to Penn alumni and student entrepreneurs in the Bay Area who are founders or leaders of early stage ventures. This four-month program runs twice per year, in the fall and in the spring. The company must have traction, and the team must be based in the San Francisco Bay Area during their time in VIP-SF.

https://sf.wharton.upenn.edu/entrepreneurship/vip-sf/?mc_cid=8e273d2a20&mc_eid=c50dcebd81

Wharton updates

Record breaking 2023 Wharton MBA Class

Wharton's incoming MBA class is more than 50% women for the first time in school history. Below is a snapshot of the 2023 Wharton MBA Class Profile https://mba.wharton.upenn.edu/class-profile/?utm_medium=organic-social&utm_source=tw-social

AltFinance Partnership

Wharton partners with AltFinance initiative to introduce more HBCU students to the influential alternative investment industry. AltFinance will be launched in partnership with Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College and Spelman College, and is intended to provide students with clear pathways to careers in the alternative investment industry. The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, the nation's oldest collegiate school of business, has signed on to



create a best-in-class virtual institute to offer educational materials and tools necessary to excel in the alternative investment industry. The virtual institute will be open to interested students at all HBCUs, and will provide participants with relevant coursework and other supplementary content developed by top professors and finance professionals.

<https://news.wharton.upenn.edu/press-releases/2021/06/apollo-ares-and-oaktree-to-launch-90-million-initiative-for-students-at-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/>

Dean Erika James' one year reflections

<https://magazine.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/spring-summer-2021/a-time-for-reflection-and-looking-forward/>

Alumni Features



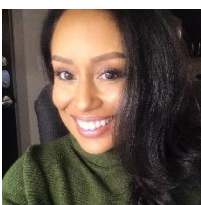
Hettie Simmons Love WG '47

A new book and a visit with Dean Erika James to honor Wharton's first African-American MBA graduate, Hettie Simmons Love WG47

Isabella Hanson, led a youth writing workshop with Philadelphia-area students in grades four through six to write and illustrate a children's book, Hettie Simmons Love: Penn Pioneer. The book depicts the story of Hettie's life growing up in the Jim Crow South, continuing her education at Fisk University, and then being admitted to Wharton, where she completed her degree with a

concentration in accounting. At that time, she was the first and only Black student, and one of two women in the program.

<https://magazine.wharton.upenn.edu/digital/telling-the-story-of-a-wharton-pioneer/>



Stephanie Desanges, WG' 2018

Where do you currently reside? Boston, Massachusetts



What do you do? Global Business & Market Development for Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies, and Digital Currencies at PayPal

What at work is currently keeping you excited, busy, and fulfilled?

I work on building and scaling the crypto platform for PayPal and one of my key areas of focus is understanding and working with regulators within the crypto space. I also focus on developing our work/thought leadership on Central Bank Digital Currencies. Ultimately, PayPal would like to be a distributor of Central Bank Digital Currencies.

I'm really passionate about my work because it falls at the intersection of policy, tech, and finance. My relationships in the space span across various partnerships, including academic partnerships and understanding the key pain points and thought leadership from a Central Banks' perspective.

I am truly excited about my work and truly believe that we are democratizing financial solutions and bringing services to underbanked/unbanked populations.

What have been some career and life highlights since graduating from Wharton?

I've been really excited about my entry into the crypto/blockchain space. However, I also worked in Dubai the last two years building and scaling businesses for Investors within the Middle East region.

I believe this experience allowed me to learn a lot both about myself and about people - people from all different walks of life and cultures. The people that I've worked with have really made my experiences so enriching and have allowed me to learn about so many different products, businesses, and perspectives. I think that was really important in my continuous development as a leader.

What are some of your biggest life lessons since leaving Wharton?

I have to be open minded and flexible. My career may not be exactly what I have planned but I've found, if you allow yourself to be open and flexible, so many amazing opportunities may come to you. Your career isn't this linear trajectory, there may be various different steps along the way. Some may be sidesteps, but it is a journey and it is yours. Try to enjoy it and try less to compare.

Would you be interested in webinar/event on cryptocurrency? Please take a short poll

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctztFoQd8VdAyAePYRBxtLDamMzn4DXPtaxGaxq5d6k_3cg/viewform



Graham Robinson, WG' 98

he 50 members of the inaugural Forbes CEO Next list stand on the cusp of running America's most influential and respected companies.

Robinson heads Stanley Industrial, which makes heavy machines and tools for factories, oil and gas pipelines, construction and road building. In 2020, his division did \$2.5 billion in global sales. An electrical engineer by training, Robinson joined Stanley from Honeywell, where he managed its industrial safety and IoT divisions. Prior to that, he worked at AT&T, Micron and Samsung.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevenbertoni/2021/07/16/the-up-and-coming-leaders-set-to-revolutionize-american-business/?sh=455ed3cd6faa>

Refresher: Wharton MBA Career Management Resources

Whether you're searching for a new career opportunity, in need of help negotiating a job offer, or seeking a Board position, don't forget to leverage the Wharton MBA Career Management Alumni portal <https://alumni.mbacareers.wharton.upenn.edu/> via MyPenn. The alumni career management office offers extensive resources to help you every step of the way along your career journey.

Check out the portal for useful resources, including:

Career Advising Appointments - MBA Alumni can schedule up to two complimentary 45-minute career advising appointments to discuss their resume, job search strategies, and more.

Resume resources – Tips, templates and sample resumes by industry.

Wharton Alumni Resume Book, where top MBA employers, across industry and geography search this book for top Wharton alumni talent.

Offer negotiation tools – Wharton provides relevant compensation data and resources to assist with evaluating and negotiating job offers.

Video library - Wharton has partnered with Beyond B-School, along with other select affiliates, to curate a collection of wide-ranging career support videos to help with all facets of your job search.



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Board of Directors Resources - Wharton offers senior level executives the opportunity to be considered for Board of Directors positions through Wharton's Resume Book platform. Wharton actively markets the finalized Wharton Board of Directors Resume Book to executive search and board placement firms, as well as non-profit and corporate board positions.

Alumni directory

To access these career resources visit MyPenn <https://mypenn.upenn.edu/s/> . You will need to log in with your PennKey username and password. If you are unable to log in, visit the PennKey support: <https://pennkeysupport.upenn.edu/help-for-alumni>.

Reciprocity Ring: Sharing and Paying It Forward

[Post a job or board opening](#)

[Highlight a new venture, book or initiative](#)

[Living overseas? Share your global story](#)

Support the African-American
MBA Student Support Fund

With your help, Wharton can continue to increase the number of African-American students who attend the best business school in the world. So far, we have raised \$2.4M of our \$3M goal.

If you are receiving this email, you are already a member and there is no need to sign up. If you know an alumni who is not receiving this newsletter, they may send an email with their contact information to membership@whartonblackalumni.org

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