

Alumni Beat Issue #8

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August 2013

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HARVARD | BUSINESS | SCHOOL  
SUMMER VENTURES IN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## Alumni Beat Issue #8

August 2013

### The Mission

*To encourage and promote the empowerment of SVMP Alumni through information sharing, strategic relationship development and social activities.*

In this Issue:  
**Kick-Off 2013 & Alumni Development**

Glimpse into the Issue

Center Panel

[Kick-Off 2013 Review](#)  
[SVMP and Kick-Off Winners](#)  
[Exclusive Wall Street Prep](#)  
[Opportunity](#)  
[MBA Confidential](#)  
[Letter from the Editor](#)

Side Panel

[SVMP AA International Trip](#)  
[Mentorship Program Launch](#)  
[Alumni Perspective: King of](#)  
[Quotes](#)



Like what we have to say?  
Feel free to follow/friend your  
fellow alum via the social icon  
next to their name.

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**Upcoming Events**

[SVMP AA International](#)  
[Trip](#)

Would you love to travel  
internationally with your  
fellow SVMP Alumni in  
2014?

The SVMP AA is beginning  
to plan our first international  
trip. We need to know your  
interest!

[Take the Survey](#)

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## Reconnecting at Kick-Off 2013



*Over 30 SVMP Alumni gathered on the morning of Kick-off to receive a presentation on HBS Admissions from the SVMP Director, Les Williams.*

During Kick-Off alumni engaged in a fun icebreaker where they stated something exciting they've done that they think no one else has - yet to no surprise, each alum was just as adventurous and experienced as the next. Following the icebreaker, alumni participated in a speed networking activity in which they were paired with each other and spoke about their experiences according to several topics that were chosen by the moderator - Andrea Giraudo. At the end, Alumni collaborated in small groups to discuss their challenges and ambitions. After a morning of meaningful exchanges, the alumni headed to lunch until they met again during the HBS panel discussion.



*Alumni spending some quality time together after the Kick-off Event at John Harvard's.*

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## SVMP & Kick-Off 2013 Raffle Winners

*During both SVMP and Kick-Off, annual raffles were held sponsored by our corporate sponsors Bell Curves, Manhattan GMAT, and Veritas Prep. Six lucky SVMP alumni won a GMAT prep course or book set as a result of these raffles.*

### Bell Curves Winners



Joshua Buenrostro 

SVMP 2013

Joshua Buenrostro attends the University of Southern California and won a Bell Curves certificate at SVMP this year. His winnings will provide him with the financial assistance to pay for GMAT & LSAT study materials. This prize will provide him with the resources to score well on the GMAT exam and attend a great graduate school. Thanks to the certificate, he believes he will be successful in his career goals after graduate school.



Krste Ruiz 

SVMP 2013

Krste Ruiz attends Indiana University and the Bell Curves books will provide him with study methods to prepare for the GMAT. His goal will be to prepare for the GMAT and develop the skill set necessary to perform well in a top 10 MBA program. Krste was shocked when he won. He shared, "I did not expect to win as one of the last participants to turn in my ballot, and I am very fortunate to have won such a prestigious prize that will impact the rest of my life."

### Manhattan GMAT Winners



Crystal Ramjattan 

SVMP 2013



Christopher Ramos 

SVMP 2011

## SVMP AA Mentorship Program Launch Event

The SVMP AA is excited to announce it has officially launched its FIRST-EVER Mentorship Program! We are taking the SVMP experience off-campus and are excited to see the types of goals mentees will set and accomplish with the help of their amazing new mentors!

To toast to the launch of the new SVMP AA Mentorship Program and reunite alumni in the NYC area, the SVMP AA NY Chapter hosted a rooftop summer happy hour at Latitude Bar & Grill on Thursday, July 25th in Manhattan, New York.

The event was incredibly successful and gathered over 25 alumni to reconnect, meet new faces, and hear more about the new program. Thanks to all alumni for attending and we hope to see you at the next event!

*For any questions regarding the program please feel free to [contact Andrea Giraudo](#), Director of Professional Development & the Mentorship Program.*

*For information regarding SVMP AA events in the Greater New York area, please [contact Michael Crawford](#), New York Regional Events Coordinator.*

## Alumni Perspective

Crystal Ramjattan participated in SVMP 2013 and is a student at Cornell University. As a Manhattan GMAT Books winner at SVMP this year, winning the at home prep course has given her the belief that business school is a serious path for her. Crystal has begun to read some of the material. She shared, "I was hesitant about business school, but after winning, I took it as a sign, and decided that this might be the right path for me."

Christopher Ramos from the SVMP Class of 2011 currently works at the U.S. Department of State and is an alum of Virginia Tech. He believes winning the free GMAT prep course from Manhattan GMAT gives him an avenue of opportunity to pursue and obtain an MBA. Christopher would like to thank Manhattan GMAT for giving him this opportunity and the push to go after his goals.



### King of Quotes

by Ronald AngSiy   
Member of SVMP 2011 and  
Strategy and Transformation  
consultant for IBM

I have collated 10 contemporary and classic quotes from my collection in context of professional advice, complimented by my own experiences for enrichment

1

*"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up."*

You only work at one company. **It only takes one offer.** Your rejections don't cumulatively count (like bad test grades). I applied to over 160 internship positions my junior year, and only had two offers. The offer I took changed my life and also led me to SVMP.

2

*"The rainbows of life follow the storms."*

People talk about work-life balance, but if you do it right, then there shouldn't have to be a balance because you love what you do. It's a common theme CEOs recently speak to (most recently Marissa Mayer). I think that living 5/7th of your life simply to enjoy the 2/7th is a terribly bad value proposition.

### Veritas Prep Winners



Carolina Baca   
SVMP 2012

Carolina Baca, of the University of Georgia and SVMP Class of 2012, was a winner of a GMAT course sponsored by Veritas Prep. She will be taking her course for three weekends in August and is very grateful for the courses. The winnings were perfectly timed, she shared, "This summer I had been trying to figure out how to save up money for the course!"



Gidley Dorlus   
SVMP 2012

Gidley Dorlus, recent graduate of Northeastern University and alum of SVMP 2012, is a Ground Test Engineer for Sikorsky Aircraft. At the 2013 SVMP Kick-Off Gidley won a Veritas Prep Course. He did not anticipate winning at all but knows the Veritas Prep Course will prepare him for the GMAT and take him a step further to attending business school in the near future.

### Exclusive SVMP AA Opportunity

### Free Wall Street Prep Tutorial

**WALL STREET PREP**

This year, we are extremely excited to have a partnership with Wall Street Prep, a global full-services financial training firm that offers crash courses that prepare and enhance the competitive profile of students and young professionals who seek a career within the financial services industry.

Their Clients: Some of the most prestigious academic institutions and corporations in the world such as Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Williams College, Amherst, Merrill Lynch, Goldman, Blackstone, UBS, and KPMG.

Our Connection: SVMP Alumni Association board member, Victor Chen, had the privilege to work with Wall Street Prep in the past where he brought them on the Colby College campus on behalf of the Investment Association to conduct a two-day Financial & Valuation/DCF Modeling seminar. It was extremely well-attended and he knew Wall Street Prep would add value to SVMP alumni.

Our Goal: To bridge the academics and the real world. We want to leverage the courses offered by Wall Street Prep to help students and young alumni land job offers in investment banking, private equity, asset management, equity research, and sales & trading.

The Offer: Wall Street Prep is generously offering all SVMP alumni a **free online tutorial with a value of up to \$399 per person**. This tutorial includes: Financial Statement Modeling, Discounted Cashflow Model, M&A, LBO, and Excel. [More details.](#)

[Sign Up Here!](#)

*Regarding related programs or if you want to bring Wall Street Prep to your campus, please [email Victor Chen](#).*

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## **MBA Confidential**



Nicole Lindsay

Founder of Diversity MBA Prep



Daria Burke

Founder of Black MBA Women

3

*"Everyone has his burden.  
What counts is how you  
carry it."*

To go with point 2, many people do not adequately distinguish between "difficulty" and "misery." You can dislike the mundane day-to-day tasks, stress, underappreciation, or so forth. **However, there has to be something intrinsically motivating to push you forward, even if just conceptual.**

4

*"Everyone thinks of changing  
the world, but no one thinks  
of changing himself."*

Life isn't rooting "for" you or actively "against" you the way the school system is setup with grades and teachers. **Life is... apathetic.** It doesn't care; it moves along with or without you. It's up to you to make what you want of it, but many people don't take firm enough control.

5

*"A candle loses nothing if it's  
meant to light another one."*

When you go to conferences, networking events, or speaker series, the attendees can oftentimes be as valuable as the speakers themselves. **Everyone is equal, so just make friends.** Worst case scenario is that you make a new friend. I value those relationships as much as I have from any speaker I met. Sometimes they're the same person.

SVMP alumna Nicole Lindsay, founder of Diversity MBA Prep, presents Virtual MBA Coach. Virtual MBA Coach not only covers MBA application components, but also goes in-depth on relationship management, school research, application strategy, and how candidates present themselves. Virtual MBA Coach offers 24 weekly lessons, a workbook with 24 chapter assignments, one personalized profile review, two personalized Virtual Feedback reviews, over 7 hours of video, access to the Virtual MBA Coach forum, and discounted essay review services.

There is a special **SVMP discount of 25%** off program list price until September 1, 2013

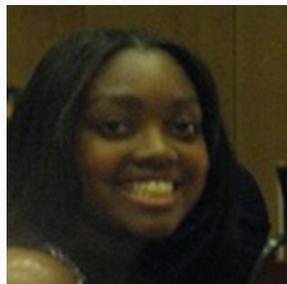
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A 2008 graduate of the New York University Stern School of Business, Daria was one of nine black women in her class of 411 students. Black MBA Women is the premier media platform that delivers content, community and career development events for current and aspiring black women from top-tier business schools. One of Daria's many inspirations to create Black MBA Women was her own incredible network of black professional women with top MBA degrees.

There is a **free annual membership**, for a limited time, to SVMP alumni who are black women enrolled in or an alumni of a top 25 MBA program. Email [Black MBA Women](#) with "SVMP Membership Offer" in the subject line for your membership.

[Read More](#)

## Letter from the Editor



Cydni Williams   
SVMP 2012

Greetings SVMP Alumni,

I would like to thank you for reading and engaging with the 8th issue of the Alumni Beat. I would also like to extend a special thanks to the alumni who contributed. I truly hope you enjoyed this issue and it brought back memories of your SVMP experience.

I am always open to suggestions for additions and improvements to increase your satisfaction with the Alumni Beat. Please feel free to [reach out](#) with any content ideas for upcoming editions. I also encourage content submissions for future editions. It is so important that you are satisfied with the newsletter and that it is meaningful to you.

Thank you again for your readership and please look forward to the next issue of the Alumni Beat.

[Cydni Williams](#)  
Director of Alumni Beat

6

*"We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done."*

**Keep perspective.** I hear people complain about their salaries or perks, but in the broader market there are so many intelligent kids with just part time jobs that will professionally scar them for their careers.

7

*"If everything seems like it's under control, you're just not going fast enough"*

**Have a plan, but be opportunistic.** Life is long and you never know where you'll end up. I wanted to be in advertising since jr. high, yet had a major life twist in my senior year of college.

8

*"All the power is from within and is therefore under our own control."*

**Find ways to constantly motivate yourself.** I went to an MBA event recently and it motivated me to perform better at work when, ironically, an MBA program takes you out of work. Not sure why. Psychology is a strange creature.

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*Summer Venture in Management Program Alumni Association Newsletter: Issue 8 Summer 2013*