

# STUDENT INVESTMENT FUND

2023-2024 Annual Report



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## Acknowledgements

The Student Investment Fund would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support of our program.

For their financial support of the Student Investment Fund, we thank

**Bill Child**

**D.A Davidson**

**Hal Milner**

For underwriting the Trading Floor at the Spencer Fox Eccles Business Building, we thank

### **The Okland Family**

For their financial support of our many programs, we thank the following donors who are recognized on the Okland Trading Floor

**Kurt Larsen**

**Anne Lee**

**Hal Milner**

**Steven Smith**

**Elizabeth Tashjian**

**Rex Thornton**

**David Broadbent**

**Fernando Campos**

**D.A. Davidson Companies**

**Dylan Durham**

**Burton Flynn**

**Lawrence Hill**

**Scott Holley**

**Danny Loveland**

**Jamison Manwaring**

**Richard Pugmire**

**Maulik Shah**

**Cindy Vu**

**Alex Wall**

**David Warne**

**Max Wilson**

For sponsoring the local CFA Institute Research Challenge, we thank **The CFA Society of Salt Lake.**

We thank the speakers who addressed our class and the distinguished professionals who attended our presentations. These individuals are named in the report.

We'd like to thank our TAs, Tyler Young and Cody Clifford for their invaluable guidance and support throughout this year. Their ability to challenge us with critical questions and enhance our financial modeling skills, coupled with their deep understanding, has significantly contributed to our learning and success.

Finally, we thank Jonathan Brogaard for his teaching, insightful feedback, and guidance throughout the year. Dr. Brogaard has transformed the SIF program by imprinting his unique perspective and enabling the students to work independently and take ownership of their learning. His dedication has truly enhanced our educational experience.

## Background

In October 1998, David Eccles School of Business finance students joined the D.A. Davidson & Co. Student Investment Fund program, which allows students to invest \$50,000 in a working stock portfolio. The program bolsters student learning outside the classroom by allowing students to invest in a real-world setting. The original \$50,000 remains intact year-to-year, supported by D.A. Davidson. The firm and the Student Investment Fund share any returns above five percent equally. D.A. Davidson guarantees students against any losses that cause the portfolio to fall below the original \$50,000 mark, replenishing the portfolio each year if necessary. Since October 1998, D.A. Davidson has given over \$62,000 directly to the Student Investment Fund and Bill Child, then-CEO of R.C. Willey Home Furnishings, donated another \$5,000 to the fund.

In March 2004, U students received an additional \$50,000 from Hal Milner in a program similar to D.A. Davidson's. However, Mr. Milner does not reset the portfolio's balance each year. Mr. Milner has donated over \$189,000 to the investment fund program through his profit-sharing program. The fund received \$25,000 to begin a Socially Responsible Fund in the spring semester of 2011 and received another \$17,000 in the summer of 2013. This new portfolio, which was renamed the ESG Fund in April 2022, is devoted to investments in stocks the fund managers deem to be socially responsible based on several criteria. These investments must also meet the analysts' standards in terms of financial and economic performance to be held in the portfolio. Beginning in December 1998, students formed the Student Investment Fund Club and met regularly to develop an investment strategy, research and invest in specific stocks, listen to investment professionals, and track their investments. The original club was comprised of 12 students and their advisor, finance professor Dr. Elizabeth Tashjian.

In the fall of 1999, the Student Investment Fund (SIF) developed from a club into a restricted-enrollment class. Enrollment is capped at 23 students and admission is granted based on a rigorous application process. More than 65 students have applied to join SIF in recent years. Dr. Tashjian teaches the year-round class, which meets once a week to track the fund and research potential investments. In 2003, the class became an honors course.

The Student Investment Fund's performance has varied widely from year-to-year. In 1999, the fund gained over 60% on a portfolio strong in tech, only to lose 44% in 2001 as the tech bubble burst. In the fall of 2008, the fund held a relatively large proportion of its holdings in cash and then invested in the spring of 2009 while prices were low, leading to a gain of over 45% in calendar year 2009. The Student Investment Fund has outperformed an investment in SPY, the largest S&P 500 fund, with dividends reinvested, since SIF's inception, even after trading costs, fees, and foreign dividend taxes.

In March 2003, the class made a brief live appearance on CNBC's Power Lunch, and in January 2004, the class again appeared on CNBC in a segment on D.A. Davidson's Investment Fund program. Since 2001, the class has made regular presentations to distinguished members of the Utah business community.

## A New Class With A New Professor

Having nearly completed my first year as the faculty advisor overseeing the University of Utah's Undergraduate Student Investment Fund (USIF), I have been honored and challenged to take on this role that is not only prestigious, but also pivotal in shaping the futures of aspiring finance professionals. USIF, with its storied history of providing unparalleled real-world investment experience to undergraduate students, stands at the crossroads of education and actual market engagement. My vision as the new advisor is not to refresh this foundational mission but to enhance, expand, and elevate the experience for every member involved.

**Educational:** In our commitment to offering the most comprehensive educational journey, we have revisited and revitalized the course content. We aim to create a similar decision-making structure that follows the best practices of the asset management industry. This requires regular reviews of our portfolio and setting and regularly revisiting our desired investment parameters. In addition, to expand the educational experience we now include both fundamental analysis investment ideas as well as systematic trading strategies. These changes are designed to provide USIF managers with a well-rounded perspective on the ever-evolving landscape of the financial world.

**Technological:** Recognizing the pivotal role of technology in modern finance, we began the process of integrating state-of-the-art software tools for market analysis, portfolio management, and risk assessment. This technological leap not only equips our members with hands-on experience with tools used by professionals but also enhances our collective decision-making process, allowing for more informed and strategic investment choices.

**Operational:** USIF is meant to bridge the classroom experience to the real world workings of firms. Just like an asset management firm, a lot of work goes into the structure and operation of USIF. We have consequently setup a number of Roles, or Offices, in which different groups of students take ownership of running the fund. These operational improvements ensure that SIF managers are also learning broader skills about how to work together, deal with deadlines and unexpected events, and to persevere in the face of implementation complexities.

While these changes mark a significant step forward for USIF, it is essential to acknowledge that the core of our class remains unchanged. Our mission to provide hands-on investment experience, our commitment to learning by doing, the cultivation of a strong community and network, adherence to ethical investing practices, and the pursuit of excellence in fund performance and member education remain the bedrock upon which the fund is built. These timeless principles guide us as we navigate the new directions we have embarked on, ensuring that while we evolve, the essence of USIF remains intact.

In conclusion, as the new faculty advisor, my vision is one of balance—between innovation and tradition, change and continuity. The USIF stands as a testament to the power of hands-on learning, the value of a supportive community, and the importance of responsible investing. As we move forward, these principles will continue to guide us, shaping not only the future of the fund but the futures of all its members.

## Investment Parameters

As a class, we determined a set of investment parameters that the Portfolio aligns with. Our goal is to be as close to these metrics as possible to ensure that we are diversified and maintain an appropriate risk profile. The criteria limits the Fund to be weighted in more than 25% in one sector and 10% in any one security. This enables us to ensure that the Portfolio is diversified. The Fund also aims to meet several risk metrics:

- Market Beta exposure of 1.3 in all Funds except the DA Davidson Fund. That Fund can hold riskier strategies, so we aim for a Market Beta up to 3.
- Annualized standard deviation of 22%
- Annualized Sharpe Ratio of 0.80
- No more than 30% of total risk be due to idiosyncratic risk

In following these risk metrics, we position the Portfolio to have a moderate risk appetite while still receiving substantial returns. We define this by returning 20% annually from the implementation of ten strategies that have been developed over the course of the academic year.

# Macro Updates

The purpose of the Macro Update is to highlight macroeconomic events happening within the U.S. Market, Global Market, individual equities and upcoming events, and key economic indicators. One student is to research macro events each week and compile them into an update, summarizing important data and economic news. The macro update also displays the S&P sector performance for 1 month and for the year to date along with the S&P closing prices for the past week. Additionally, the NASDAQ closing prices for the past week are also compiled and displayed. All of this data is important because it helps the student investment fund to make informed predictions about the market and easily identify sectors experiencing high returns. Commodity news is also displayed showing the 5-day and 3-month percent change in crude oil, natural gas, and gold. Lastly, the Macro Update displays a chart of the week where students can choose something of interest happening in the economic world and display it to the rest of the members of SIF.



## Weekly Macro Update as of April 17, 2024

David Eccles School of Business  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112  
[www.advancedinvesting.org/usif/](http://www.advancedinvesting.org/usif/)

### U.S. Market

- The U.S. imposing sanctions to stop Russia from taking delivery of specialized tankers needed to transport gas, crippling Russia's natural gas project (Arctic LNG)
- From Lead to Gold: Wooden Pencils becoming a hot market for elementary and high school students causing trades and local sales

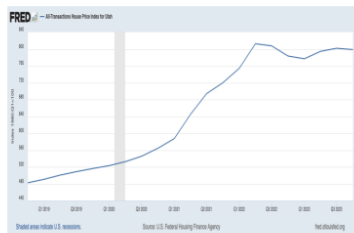
### Key Economic Indicators

- CPI Average Growth Rate: 3.50%
- Unemployment Rate: 3.80%
- 3 Month T-Bill Rate: 5.25%

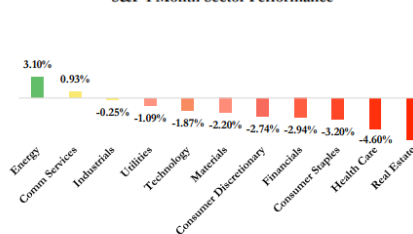
### Global Market

- Iran braces for retaliatory Israeli attack after Israel successfully repelled Iran's Saturday assault
- Zimbabwe launches new currency again, Zimbabwe gold, Zig will replace their dollar to stabilize monetary turbulence

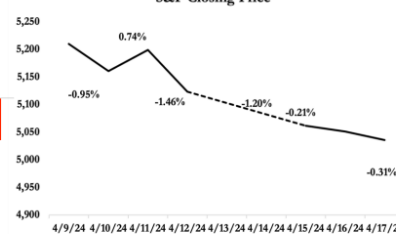
### Chart of the Week: House Price Index for Utah 5Yr



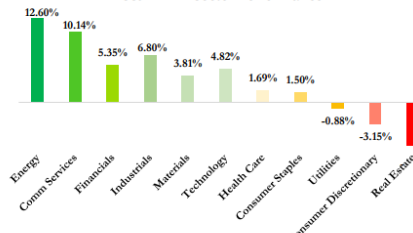
### S&P 1 Month Sector Performance



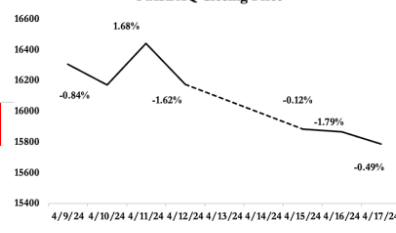
### S&P Closing Price



### S&P YTD Sector Performance



### NASDAQ Closing Price



### Individual Equities and Upcoming Events

- Tesla asks shareholders to reinstate Musk's \$56 billion pay package ahead of shareholder meeting in June
- Another whistleblower comes forward against Boeing stating that defects were encouraged to be overlooked


### Commodity News

Commodity	5-Day	3-Month
Crude Oil	-4.12%	13.54%
Natural Gas	-9.33%	-31.41%
Gold	1.54%	18.88%



# Portfolio Updates

The Portfolio Update is utilized by student managers in two primary ways. The first being that it is a summary of the fund's performance allowing for the fund managers to assess not only overall fund performance, but that of the adopted investment portfolios with the highest returns. The second being that it serves as a calculator when evaluating the effects of investment decisions on the current portfolio. These calculations are an essential part of the SIF decision-making process as they are included in every investment presentation. The information on the Portfolio Update is presented on a weekly basis and is updated by SIF managers prior to each presentation.



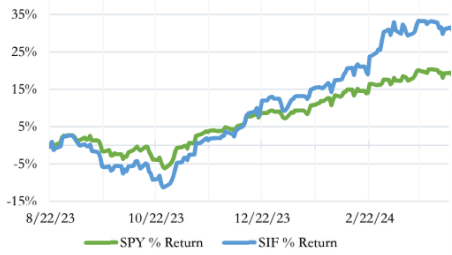
**STUDENT INVESTMENT FUND**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

## April 17, 2024

David Eccles School of Business  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112  
[www.advancedinvesting.org/usif/](http://www.advancedinvesting.org/usif/)

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**PERFORMANCE - ACADEMIC YEAR TO DATE**



**ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT**

Fund	Value	Weekly Return	Market Beta	# of Positions	Weight
<b>Overall</b>	<b>\$1,474,187.71</b>	<b>-3.05%</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Davidson	\$51,664.61	-4.90%	1.67	14	3.5%
Milner	\$581,922.19	-2.26%	1.43	53	39.5%
School	\$590,575.79	-3.68%	1.25	123	40.1%
ESG	\$250,025.12	-3.00%	1.06	27	17.0%

**STRATEGY TRACKER**

Strategy	Start	Return	$\alpha$	Sharpe	Weight	$\sigma$	MDD
Comm. Serv.	4/18/23	78.23%	53.3%	21.40	2.53%	57.81%	-36.44%
Growth	2/29/24	-5.84%	-9.9%	-4.67	3.23%	20.83%	-15.85%
Share Buybacks	2/29/24	-0.69%	-4.5%	-0.67	5.15%	23.09%	-8.48%
Semiconductors	12/22/23	20.62%	11.3%	9.44	3.91%	34.19%	-32.91%
Energy Strat	1/25/24	3.49%	-4.0%	4.13	0.52%	12.30%	-13.59%
Earn. Rev.	1/25/24	14.36%	5.8%	6.11	1.52%	36.55%	-30.52%
Industrials	4/18/23	7.97%	-17.2%	1.77	0.00%	68.81%	-35.28%
Bus. Cyc.	12/22/23	3.36%	-5.7%	2.89	3.49%	16.85%	-23.21%
Mids	1/29/24	-4.96%	-11.2%	-3.46	2.83%	24.07%	-17.70%
Small Cap	1/18/24	6.19%	1.0%	4.11	7.27%	22.77%	-18.27%

**SIF PERFORMANCE**

Horizon	Return	Sharpe	$\alpha$	Sortino	Info Ratio
1 Week	2.2%	-1.0	1.5%	-16.3	-0.6
1 Month	2.0%	-0.6	0.5%	-3.4	1.4
AYTD	27.3%	1.9	1.4%	39.7	21.6
1 Year	34.8%	1.8	7.6%	47.5	24.1

RISK ANALYTICS								MOST INVESTED SECURITIES			MOST INVESTED SECTORS			
Fund	MDD	Idio.	$\sigma$	SIZE	VLUE	QUAL	MTUM	SPY	Ticker	Value	Weight	Industry	Value	Weight
SIF 1 Mo	4.5%	0.0%	3.7%	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.1	SPY	\$269,892.08	18.3%	Info Tech	\$286,835.33	19.5%
SIF 1 Yr	33.5%	0.4%	16.3%	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.3	NVDA	\$68,183.70	4.6%	Health Care	\$82,871.97	5.6%
SPY 1 Mo	3.8%	0.0%	3.2%	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.6	1.0	INTU	\$45,861.75	3.1%	Industrials	\$87,731.38	6.0%
SPY 1 Yr	23.8%	0.0%	11.4%	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	1.0	ICLR	\$39,105.99	2.7%	Cons. Staples	\$61,685.07	4.2%

**FIRM DESCRIPTION**

The Undergraduate Student Investment Fund (USIF) is managed by a select number of students at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business for the benefit of the students and to grow their understanding of equity research, market operations, portfolio theory, and wealth management. The materials presented reflect the portfolio management decisions made by the students and do not constitute investment advice.

## Roles

### Website

The role of the Chief Operations Office is to maintain the SIF website page. This includes but is not limited to, publishing trading strategies and equity research presented by SIF members. Publishing and formatting weekly macro, and portfolio updates. Maintaining an active SIF alumni database. The successful completion of responsibilities demonstrates to potential investors the capabilities of SIF members, and showcases the strategies SIF uses to invest.

### Records

Over the year, the CFO team was responsible for maintaining records for the Fund. This included creating a new template for the accounting records and reconciling each Fund's cash position weekly. This was the most challenging task because the template required many iterations. Once the template was finalized, the team had a much more efficient method of monitoring each Fund. Additionally, a file was created to keep track of all the trades that were executed. This would be filled out after any investment or rebalance decision was made. Finally, the CFO team was responsible for maintaining weekly minutes of each class meeting.

### Technology

As Technology officers, we managed IT for the SIF. This included classroom monitors, Bloomberg terminals, the Stock Ticker Display Board, etc. We also monitored, evaluated, and structured updates in the Excel books used for weekly update presentations. Additionally, we uploaded the portfolio and macro update to the class screens each week. We offered assistance to other members of SIF in regard to tech support, especially for the Portfolio Update in the Excel spreadsheet. We also made how-to videos with step by step instructions describing how to create the portfolio updates each week.

### Social

The Social Office, including Harrison Calder, Emily Hansen, Zachary Lampkin, and Dylan Mingo, focused on several key goals: recruiting the new round of applicants, conducting interviews, hosting poker night, and organizing the end-of-year presentation. To gain applications for next year's class, they advertised the Student Investment Fund (SIF) through LinkedIn posts, flyers around campus, and Zoom Q&A sessions. When applications came in, they communicated with applicants and current SIF members to schedule interviews. They also set up SIF's first social event, comprised of a SIF poker night. This event was a huge success and plans to be continued each year as a fun tradition. Additionally, they organized a successful end-of-year presentation for alumni, donors, and relevant community members. The organization included speaking assignments, creating guest lists and invitations, and arranging refreshments.

## Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff's function is to ensure seamless communication between the professor and the class and between roles teams, make sure all teams have the resources needed, and step in where needed. A key aspect of this role has been the weekly meetings with Professor Brogaard, preparing questions and feedback from the class or own observations before, and producing material and emails to the class as discussed under these meetings. Other important tasks have included weekly Office Hours/ Meeting with class, establishing the roles teams' work flow and assisting in the adoption of this, building templates and guides for material used and presented in class, and being a point of contact for other analysts with questions about their roles or tasks throughout the semester.

## Copyediting

The Copyediting Team, including Jerry Speicher and Kaja Norbye is responsible for reviewing and revising documents prior to being posted on the website. They have also been responsible for the creation and coordination of the annual report. Throughout the semester they have been communicating closely with the website team for publications and individual analysts for guidance on formatting and visualization of data.

## Teams and Analyst Profiles

### The Tech Bulls

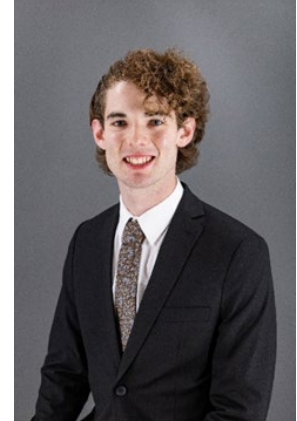
#### Trey Zobell

Trey is set to graduate with a B.S. in Information Systems from the University of Utah in spring 2024. Trey grew up not far from the University of Utah in Highland Utah.

His work highlights in the Student Investment Fund have consisted of the Semiconductor and Energy strategies, and the VFC Valuation. He has also worked on the SIF website team maintaining and updating the site, ensuring it reflects the latest information, as well as building the SIF alumni network.

During his summer break, Trey interned at KPMG in Los Angeles, working in their technology risk consulting. Post-graduation, he's headed to Denver, Colorado to join Ernst & Young's tech assurance practice.

In his free time, Trey firstly enjoys snowboarding first, but you can also find him mountain biking, fishing, or something else outdoors related.



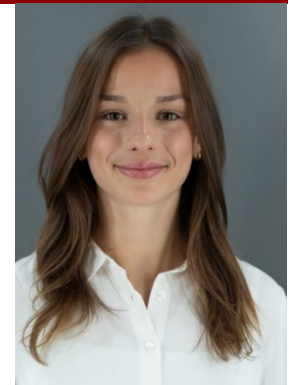
#### Karianne Dengerud

Kari is a Finance major, set to graduate in the summer of 2024. Hailing from Oslo, Norway, she grew up Nordic skiing, a sport that later gave her the opportunity to move to Utah and join the Utah Ski Team. Before moving to the US, she finished 2 years in law school in Norway, a degree she has concurrently pursued with her finance major at the U and her collegiate skiing career.

This semester, Kari took on the role as Chief of Staff, ensuring good communication between Professor Brogaard and the class. Her responsibilities included stepping into various team roles as needed and ensuring teams had the necessary resources. Additionally, she crafted frameworks for presentations and other academic tasks.

Being a part of the Student Investment Fund has truly opened Kari's eyes to a career in asset management and private equity. Besides developing two well-performing strategies during her time at SIF, Kari appreciated the opportunity to conduct a private valuation of VFC and present for their management team and investors. Pre-graduation, Kari will join Goldman Sachs Asset Management this summer with their Private Equity and Hedge Fund Solution teams. Following that, she aims to finish her law school degree before pursuing a career in finance.

When Kari is not skiing, she loves spending time with family and friends, going touring and running in the Utah mountains, and cooking. Her favorite thing is Norwegian summers, with the late sun, perfect temperature and good friends.



## Kaja Norbye

Kaja is a senior at and will be graduating in May 2024 with a B.S in Finance. She is from Oslo, Norway and has a background as a professional alpine skier where she represented her country at the highest competitive level in the world for five years.

At the age of 22, she decided to leave the national team and move to Utah where she could pursue her academic goals while still continue skiing as a D1 athlete with the Utah Ski Team. Together with the Ski Team she has won two NCAA Championships.

This semester, Kaja has been on the copyediting team with Jerry Speicher. Together, they have made sure that everything that was uploaded to the website has been proof-read and they have coordinated and finalized the end of year report.

Last summer, Kaja interned for the Norwegian Bank Investment Management (NBIM) in the equity strategies division. Next summer, Kaja will be an equity research intern at ABG Sundal Collier, a Nordic investment banking firm. Kaja has one more year of athletic eligibility, so she will continue her journey at the David Eccles School of Business and Utah Ski Team by taking her Masters in Finance. After completing her Master's degree, Kaja aspire to pursue a career in finance in the United States.

When Kaja is not skiing or doing her homework, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, being out in nature, play tennis, cook, and travel.



## SIFway Surfers

### Richard Schettler

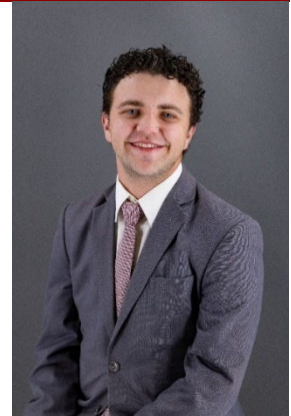
Richard is a senior and will be graduating in May 2024 with a B.S in Chemical Engineering, and a Minor in Computer Science. Richard is from Cedar Hills, UT and has represented the College of Engineering as an ambassador for the last three years.

Richard's favorite two classes taken at the University of Utah were Quantum Chemistry and Radical Quiet. His interest in finance and investing stems from a love of problem solving and seeing applications of theoretical ideas play out in the real world.

This semester Richard worked on the website team, ensuring that everything was kept up to date, and conveyed the funds updates to interested parties. He also integrated the system to publish and host the funds research and trading strategies.

Throughout college Richard has worked full time in addition to school, working at a structural engineering company, building out processes and analyzing KPI's for target improvement areas.

In his free time, Richard enjoys playing chess, golf, and learning new skills.



### Zachary Burrows

Zach is a senior and will be graduating in May 2024 with a B.S. in Finance, with an emphasis in Advanced Financial Analysis. He is from Salt Lake City, Utah and developed a passion for finance in high school.

Throughout high school, Zach completed 24 credits towards a business degree. Going into the University of Utah he knew he was going to be a Finance major, be a part of the finance club, and hopefully be a member of the Student Investment Fund.

This semester, Zach has been a part of the website team with Rich Schettler and Trey Zobell. As a team, they were responsible for creating the website and publishing trading strategies and equity research presented by the students. Also, the team completed an updated list of alumni for members to reference.

Zach's first experience in the finance industry came during fall of his junior year. He interned at a buy-side investment bank called Vermillion Rock Advisors. Last summer Zach interned at Crewe Advisors, a wealth management firm based in Salt Lake City, Utah. Fascinated with investments, he decided to spend this last school year at the Student Investment Fund. As of now Zach is in search of a full-time job after graduation.

In his free time, Zach enjoys spending time outside hiking, playing soccer and basketball. Whether he is completing schoolwork or playing sports Zach likes to be around his friends and family.



## Dylan Domingo

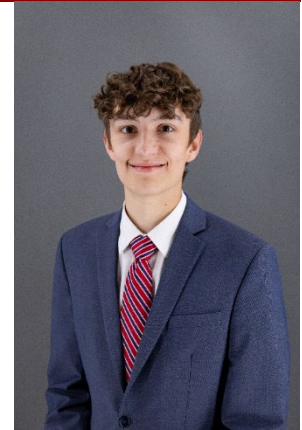
Dylan is a Junior working towards a B.S in Finance with an Emphasis in Advanced Financial Analysis. He is from Salt Lake City, Utah and has previously worked in 2 separate roles at Apple Inc while simultaneously interning in the IB and M&A industries.

While at Apple he was awarded 2 nationwide quarterly recognition awards surrounding Apple's core competencies while also being one of the few hundred people to graduate from Apple's Business University.

Dylan has been a part of the Social Team this year helping to drive engagement on SIF's social platforms while also handling a large majority of the recruiting process for future SIF students.

This Summer Dylan plans to continue focusing on some of his research reports which include looking at natural language processing sentiment analysis on cryptocurrencies, cryptocurrency ETFs and individual equities. He will also be coming back to the Student Investment Fund next semester as the new TA. After completion of his degree Dylan aims to begin working in the field of wealth and asset management.

When he is not working or focusing on schoolwork, he loves to get outdoors and ski, hike, fish, and go explore Utah's many offroad trails on his 1986 Honda Four Trax ATV with friends and family.



## Stratton Oakmont

### Jerry Speicher

Jerry is a Junior at the University of Utah and is set to graduate in December 2024 with a B.S. in Finance and an emphasis in Advanced Financial Analysis. Jerry has a passion for investments that has continued to grow stronger during his time at the U. His favorite class at the University has been Honors Financial Valuation, a class surrounding financial modeling and case studies that he believes gave him experience that propelled his investment knowledge exponentially.

Jerry will be working at Goldman Sachs this summer in their Asset and Wealth Management Operations department. Jerry is also pursuing his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level 1 exam, which he is scheduled to complete in August 2024.

Jerry worked on the Copyediting Team this year with classmate Kaja Norbye. Together the team ensured that every piece of information going to the Student Investment Fund Website was accurate and error free. The team also created and organized the Student Investment Fund's Annual Report.

In his free time, Jerry loves to snowboard and travel. Last summer, Jerry traveled to Fiji on a University of Utah Study Abroad program that focused on Ecotourism and Marine Biology. On this trip, he was able to receive his Scuba Certification and swim with 10-foot bull sharks.



### Zack Lampkin

Zachary Lampkin is a senior at the University of Utah and will graduate in December 2024 with a B.S. in Finance and a minor in Information Systems. Born and raised in San Jose, California, Zachary's love for finance started at home with personal investing and deepened while he studied for his FINRA licenses at Fidelity. He's been on the Dean's List every semester and studied abroad in Rome and Barcelona to complete his minor.

While studying, Zachary's favorite courses were the Student Investment Fund and Investments 4070 with Tim Fullmer. His experience in SIF honed his skills in trading strategies and fundamental analysis. He was also a part of the Chief Social Office, where he led recruitment, helping to find the best new talent.

His previous work includes time at Fidelity and Financial Administrative Support Services (FASS). This summer, he's looking forward to interning at KPMG in San Francisco, focusing on business valuation. With his eyes set on the future, Zachary is considering a career in deal advisory, equity research, or investment analysis and may also pursue a CFA designation.

Outside of finance, Zachary is a fitness enthusiast who enjoys running and working out. He loves to travel, play poker and chess, and values time spent with friends.





## Robert Garaishin

Robert is an international student, set to graduate in May 2025 with Honors Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with Statistics Emphasis and minoring in advanced financial analysis. He faced various challenges adjusting to America, including overcoming language barrier, understanding American culture, and effectively working with the U.S. bureaucracy standards.



Outside of school, Robert enjoys traveling around the world, learning about different cultures and appreciating nature and landscapes of various places. His favorite trips were to Japan and Norway. Robert also enjoys reading, especially biographies of successful people and classical literature. The desire to have freedom of choice of a place to live together with pursuing in-depth understanding of markets and people, Robert wants to continue his academic journey by achieving master's degree in computer science and later PhD in finance.

In his role as a part of the Accounting team of the Student Investment Fund, Robert worked together with Rachel Garff and Gabriela Miller to keep track of the Fund's finances and meetings. Together, the team was able to successfully transition to the new standards of accounting, despite challenges of deep changes of the entire accounting approach and challenges of inter-team work and collaboration with other offices of the David Eccles School of Business, including the Institute of Advanced Investment Management. These solid foundations will help future members of Student Investment Fund to further modify and expand the accounting policies.

As a junior, Robert prepares for his long graduate studies journey, with the primary focus of his final year of undergraduate studies to be on thesis writing. Exposure to trades, working with his peers, and deepening his academic knowledge of mathematics and statistics helped him to understand what his focus should be on in future.

## The 3 Musketeers

### Gabriella Miller

Gabriela is a senior at the University of Utah, graduating in May 2024 with a B.S. in Accounting and minors in Advanced Financial Analysis and Entrepreneurship. She is originally from Tampa, FL but her love for the mountains brought her to Utah.

Gabriela has taken part in Business Scholars, Eccles Global and the Student Investment Fund throughout her undergraduate career. She has enjoyed keeping track of the Fund's accounting details while on the records team, and she has also strengthened many analytical skills by developing trading strategies.

Gabriela interned with several companies, including JPMorgan Chase in their Global Finance & Business Management division as well as a few startups. The Student Investment Fund helped her realize her passion for investment management. Upon graduating, she will begin a role with Franklin Templeton in San Mateo, CA.

In her free time, Gabriela enjoys hiking, snowboarding, cooking, and traveling.



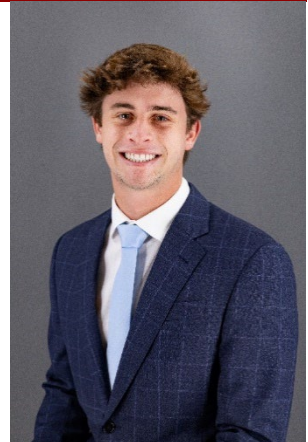
### Harrison Calder

Harrison is a senior and will be graduating this May with a degree in Finance. He was born and raised in Houston, Texas, but was drawn to the University of Utah because of his love for the outdoors. Throughout his time at the U, he has been a TA for the corporate finance class and a tutor in the Business Tutoring Center where he helps students in many different classes.

This year, in SIF, Harrison was part of the Chief Social Office with Zack, Dylan, and Emily. Together they successfully planned and executed recruitment for next year's class, poker night, and the end-of-year celebration.

Upon graduation, Harrison will work for a law firm for a year before heading to law school in the Fall of 2025. When he graduates from law school, he hopes to utilize his background in finance to work at the intersection of finance and law at a big law firm before starting his own firm.

When he has free time, he loves to spend time with friends and family, cook, ski, scuba dive, travel, and play golf, chess, and poker.



## Big Macs

### Emily Hansen

Emily is on track to earn her B.S. in Finance in May 2024, a significant achievement on a path that began in Japan, where she was born and lived until moving to the U.S. at age 10. This move marked her early triumph of mastering English, laying the groundwork for her future. Her father's success in finance sparked her interest in the field, particularly its global impact.

Emily has pursued a diverse curriculum that includes computer science, where she acquired skills in JavaScript, and accounting, gaining proficiency in analyzing financial statements. Her interest in understanding human behavior led her to take several psychology classes.

This semester, Emily was part of the social team, collaborating with Dylan Domingo, Harrison Calder, and Zach Lampkin. They focused on advertising their student investment fund, collecting applications, interviewing candidates, and organizing an end-of-year presentation for the broader community. Emily's work experience includes serving at a Japanese restaurant, and an internship at a small Japanese firm in Tokyo, where she gained firsthand experience in the finance industry. She also worked as a teaching assistant for an Advanced Excel course with Jamie Bay.

Looking forward, Emily aims to take the CFA exam, aspiring to a finance career in Tokyo or the U.S. Beyond her career, Emily enjoys exploring new skincare products and discovering new brunch places in Salt Lake City.



### Jacob Winters

Jacob is a first-generation college achiever hailing from Taylorsville, Utah, set to graduate in May 2024 with dual bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Finance. Despite facing unique challenges, Jacob's academic journey has been one of unwavering determination and triumph.

Beyond the lecture halls, Jacob's adventurous spirit has taken him across the globe, immersing himself in diverse cultures and experiences. His love for travel is not just a hobby but a driving force, inspiring him to pursue further education in the MAcc, and a future career as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), all while exploring the world.

In his role as Chief Technology Officer within the Student Investment Fund, Jacob worked alongside Austin DeMik to formalize the Portfolio Updates for the four different funds within SIF. Together, they helped fellow members of SIF as they analyzed holdings within the funds, creating an environment of innovation and collaboration among their peers. These contributions have greatly added to the Student Investment Fund.

As a senior, Jacob was also inducted into the prestigious Beehive Honor Society, further demonstrating his thirst for knowledge, leadership, and service opportunities. As he prepares to embark on the next chapter of his journey, he looks forward to more real-world experiences in Accounting, Finance, and Investments.



## Bulls

### Rachel Garff

Rachel is a senior and will be graduating in May 2024 with a B.S. in Finance and a minor in Sports Nutrition. She is a professional pickleball player and represented the university at the college collegiate pickleball nationals this past fall.

Throughout her time at the U, she has been involved in Business Scholars, ASUU (activities co-chair), Salt Lake Institute of Religion (activities chair and choir), SIF (Student Investment Fund), The Bennion Center, Chi Omega, and Goff Scholars. Some of the academic achievements she has achieved in the business school include winning the Business Ethic Competition in 2022 and taking second in the Inclusion & Business Strategies Case Competition in 2023.



This semester, Rachel has been on the CFO team. Together they updated, restructured, balanced, and updated the fund accounting. Past work experiences include lot tech, mechanic, car sales, and accounts receivable in accounting.

This summer she plans to work at Kornerstone Insurance for experience with banks. When Rachel has free time, her joy is through sports. This summer she is competing in a half marathon Spartin race as well as three marathon bike races.

### Austin deMik

Austin is a senior pursuing his B.S. in Finance with an emphasis in Advanced Financial Analysis and will be graduating in May 2024. While he has lived in the Salt Lake Valley for the last several years, he has lived in various places ranging from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

During this academic year, Austin served on the Technology team and provided support to the fund as the Capital IQ lead. In this role, he helped develop the Portfolio Update, which utilizes raw investment data and aggregates it into a one-page summary. This update has aided the fund managers in understanding the fund's performance and has served as a useful tool when evaluating the effects of potential investment decisions on the fund.



Last summer, Austin interned with American Express National Bank as an operation risk management intern and participated in gathering insight from firm professionals to influence changes to company management policies. He has since returned to American Express as a member of the Commercial Risk and Underwriting team approving high-exposure corporate credit card limits. In the future, he looks forward to studying for the CFA Level 1 exam.

When he isn't glued to an Excel book, Austin enjoys a quick 9-hole round of golf, hiking in the mountains near Salt Lake, and camping in the National Parks ranging from Zion to Yellowstone. He is currently training for a 15k race at the end of October.

## Guest Speakers

Natalie Pesque, Wasatch Global

This year, our Student Investment Fund was privileged to hear from Natalia Pesque, a Portfolio Manager at Wasatch Peaks Advisors with a focus on small-cap portfolios. Her presentation broadened our grasp of fundamental analysis and its application in evaluating investment opportunities.

Natalia presented a strategic framework for investment evaluation, introducing a series of probing questions aimed at thoroughly assessing a company's long-term potential and competitive advantages:

**1. Describe what the company does:**

- How does the company uniquely add value with its goods/services?
- Where does the company sit in the value chain/ecosystem, and how is its position sustainable?
- How might the company expand its TAM/SAM and/or capture more of the value-add in its ecosystem?

**2. Economic Engine Evaluation:**

- Explain the unit-level economics of the business and rate its quality and durability.
- What evidence/metrics support these conclusions?
- What steps is management taking to enhance its competitive positioning?
- What are the biggest challenges to scaling the business going forward?
- Is the "moat" growing or shrinking on the margin?

**3. Competitive Advantage Evidence:**

- What specific evidence is there of competitive advantage in this industry?
- How do you define the industry in which this company operates?
- Who are the current competitors? Which companies might be future entrants and why?

**4. Exceptional Management Team:**

- What evidence is there that management and culture affect the success of this business?
- What is the record of past success amongst the senior leadership team?
- Rate the quality of the Board and its independence from management.

**5. Risks and Unknowns:**

- What risks are we knowingly taking that, if materialized, would cause us to reevaluate our thesis?
- What do we understand the least (that matters)?

**6. Critical Questions:**

- What questions, if answered, would we significantly increase or decrease our position in the stock?

**7. Working Thesis:**

- Articulate the working thesis for the business and the stock.
- What metrics are you going to track?

## Taylor Vowles

Taylor Vowles came to speak to the Fund about Wealth Management. Taylor has worked with Drive Wealth Advisors for the past six years. Drive Wealth Management, located out of Utah, builds endowment-style portfolios with a focus towards sourcing and underwriting high quality alternative investments. Drive Wealth Management also focuses on diversification, a core approach to their investment strategy. They are careful not to over-allocate, which mutes returns, creates redundancies, and unnecessarily increases costs. Asset allocation is the main driver of returns, so Drive spends considerable time upfront architecting the proper portfolio design.

Taylor works on the financial planning side of wealth management. Financial planners take a holistic approach to your finances, considering your income, expenses, savings, investments, and future goals. Through discussions and analysis, they'll help you develop a personalized portfolio to achieve those goals, whether it's saving for retirement, buying a home, or managing your debt. They can recommend investment strategies, create a budget, and help you navigate complex financial decisions like insurance or tax planning. Financial planners can also provide ongoing advice and adjust your plan as your life circumstances or financial goals evolve.

He explained the difference between a Financial Planner and a Financial Analyst. Taylor deals largely with customers tax benefits, building trusts, and managing estates, utilizing his CPA background in a Wealth Management setting. He explained the importance of the CFA Certification if anyone on our team wanted to be on the investment side of Wealth Management.

## Diana Ngyen, Glade Morley, and Greg Stringfellow, JPM Private Banking

Throughout the year, Diana Nguyen, Glade Morley, and Greg Stringfellow from J.P. Morgan Private Banking provided us students with unparalleled insights into the realms of investing, strategic financial planning, and navigating the complexities of the global financial markets. Their sessions, deeply rooted in J.P. Morgan Private Banking's latest research and market analysis, offered a comprehensive overview of investment strategies, market dynamics, and innovative financial solutions.

Diana Nguyen, with her keen analytical skills and deep understanding of market trends, led discussions on the importance of asset allocation and diversification. She emphasized how strategic investment in equities, fixed income, and alternative assets could mitigate risks associated with market volatility. Drawing from the December 2023 J.P. Morgan report, Diana illustrated the projected growth rates and returns across various equity markets, providing a solid foundation for making informed investment decisions.

Glade Morley, known for his expertise in macroeconomic trends and their impact on investment strategies, addressed the pressing issue of inflation. He adeptly explained the intricate relationship between inflation rates, monetary policies, and investment returns. Glade's analysis, supported by J.P. Morgan's comprehensive data, underscored the necessity of adjusting asset allocations to safeguard investments against the eroding effects of inflation, ensuring wealth preservation and growth over time.

Greg Stringfellow focused on the burgeoning field of sustainable investing. He passionately advocated for the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into investment portfolios. Greg

highlighted J.P. Morgan's research on the potential for sustainable investments to generate competitive returns while contributing to positive societal outcomes. His sessions were a call to action for investors to consider the broader impact of their investment choices.

Together, Diana Nguyen, Glade Morley, and Greg Stringfellow offered multiple perspective on financial planning and investment management. Their presentations, enriched by J.P. Morgan Private Banking's in-depth analyses and forward-looking insights, equipped attendees with the knowledge and tools to navigate the evolving financial landscape confidently. The trio's expert guidance underscored the importance of informed, strategic decision-making in achieving financial objectives and making a positive impact through investment choices.

## Lori Walsch, FINRA

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) is a private organization authorized by the US government to enforce ethical investment practices among registered brokers. FINRA is largely known for the regulation and registration of brokers and brokerage firms. The organization also monitors daily market functions, handles customer complaints, and maintains a library of educational materials for investors.

*"Our whole mission is investor protection and market integrity,"*

Lori Walsh has been with FINRA since 2017. As the Vice President and Deputy Chief Economist, Ms. Walsh is responsible for the management of national strategic and tactical initiatives by providing high-quality research, analysis, and advice on the economics of securities regulation. She is also actively involved in several advanced R&D initiatives with Technology and other business units to ensure that FINRA stays on the cutting edge of technological innovations in the financial markets.

## Jonathan Brogaard, Backtesting

Backtesting trading strategies is a critical process for investors and traders to evaluate the viability of their investment strategies using historical data. Dr. Jonathan Brogaard's presentation on backtesting trading strategies gave helpful insight into the essentials of backtesting, the process involved, common mistakes to avoid, and how to analyze backtesting output effectively.

Backtesting is the method of evaluating an investment strategy's effectiveness by applying it to historical data to ascertain how it would have performed in the past. Because it is crucial for investors to understand the potential profitability, risks, and comparative advantage of their strategies before actual implementation, this process helps in forecasting the strategy's future performance by learning from past outcomes.

Dr. Brogaard explained how the backtesting process is very methodical, starting with strategy design, where specific goals such as target returns (average and cumulative), target risks (volatility, maximum loss), and target ratios (Sharpe ratio, Sortino ratio) are set. The strategy is defined in detail, considering the investment signal, rebalancing period, investment universe, and sample period for backtesting. Each

aspect, from the signal indicating stock characteristics to the rebalancing period that dictates portfolio holding duration, and the choice of investment universe, plays a pivotal role in strategy design.

After the strategy has been designed and parameters set, the next step is to begin historical simulation. This stage involves splitting historical data into in-sample and out-of-sample segments or using rolling or anchored windows for analysis. Various methodologies like Pearson and Spearman Rank Information Coefficients (IC), univariate regressions, and the long-short portfolio approach are employed to test strategy performance.

The output of backtesting is analyzed using metrics like coverage, distribution, turnover, Sharpe ratio, Value at Risk (VaR), maximum drawdown, and the presence of structural breaks. These metrics help in understanding the strategy's performance characteristics. Moreover, to ensure the robustness of backtesting results, techniques such as cross-validation, historical simulation, and Monte-Carlo simulation are utilized, each providing a unique way to assess the effectiveness of the trading strategy under limited data scenarios or by simulating multiple paths of stock prices.

Backtesting, while valuable, is prone to several pitfalls that can skew results. Overfitting is a critical issue where the strategy fits the historical data too closely, leading to unrealistic future performance expectations. Survivorship bias, look-ahead bias, and ignoring transaction costs can also lead to incorrect inferences about a strategy's viability. Additionally, the transition from backtesting to live trading introduces new factors such as slippage, liquidity, and execution delays, which can significantly impact profitability. As such, starting with paper trading is recommended to mitigate these risks.

Dr. Brogaard did a phenomenal job explaining how backtesting is an indispensable tool for testing the effectiveness of investment strategies without the risks of actual implementation. However, it does require meticulous design, execution, and analysis to ensure the results are reliable and free from biases. By understanding and addressing the common mistakes in backtesting, investors can better predict their strategy's performance and make more informed decisions. Dr. Brogaard's comprehensive overview underscores the importance of a disciplined approach to backtesting, highlighting its role in successful investment strategy development.

## Jonathan Brogaard, Quant

Alongside practical investing tools, people often would want to know about purely theoretical investment strategies and approaches. Dr. Jonathan Brogaard's presentation on Quant strategy is one of examples of such strategies. While promising about 80% returns per year by simply following certain patterns, on practice, given current transaction costs, this goal is unreachable.

Quant strategy presented the way to analyze patterns in daily movements of stock. Dr. Brogaard, alongside with his students, divided each trading day into fixed time intervals. For the presentation, the intervals of 30 minutes were used. Then, movement of volatile stocks during each of those daily 30-minute intervals were registered to perform a statistical analysis on them to test the hypothesis whether there is a statistical significance in volatile stock movements during such intervals and if it might be a working strategy for high frequency trading.

Dr. Brogaard explained how the statistical analysis was done, along with the result he was able to get. Turns out, there is a statistical significance among price movements of stocks on short intervals, such as



presented 30-minute intervals. Also, statistical significance was identified in both smaller and bigger intervals.

However, the strategy remains almost entirely theoretical for present day. Since each trade involves commissions and spread between market bid and ask prices, each transaction has its cost. Dr. Brogaard was able to achieve 80% yearly profit for 30-minute trade intervals and 3 basis points of transaction costs. On practice though, 3 basis points cost of trade is not yet achievable for such fast trades. For a practically realistic approach, Dr. Brogaard presented another view of the strategy – to divide each trading day into larger, 2.5 hours intervals, and assume cost of transaction to be 5-7 basis points, which is not yet always, but often achievable on practice. Given these constraints and conditions, the strategy was able to be on par with market profits over a period of 1 year, and being backtested for many years before.

Quant strategy is a great example of quantitative finance research work. While being primarily theoretical approach to trading due to decreasing, but still too high cost of trading, the strategy showed us an example of theoretical approach to high frequency trading and academic interdisciplinary work between finances, statistics and computer science.

Dr. Brogaard did a remarkable job of presenting such heavily academic research of his. Even if it has no perspective way of being implemented into the Student Investment Fund as of now, it served as an example of alternative, not traditional conservative, scientifically proven way of active trading. With transactions costs slowly but continuously going down, the strategy might become useful for funds, such as Student investment fund, in future years.

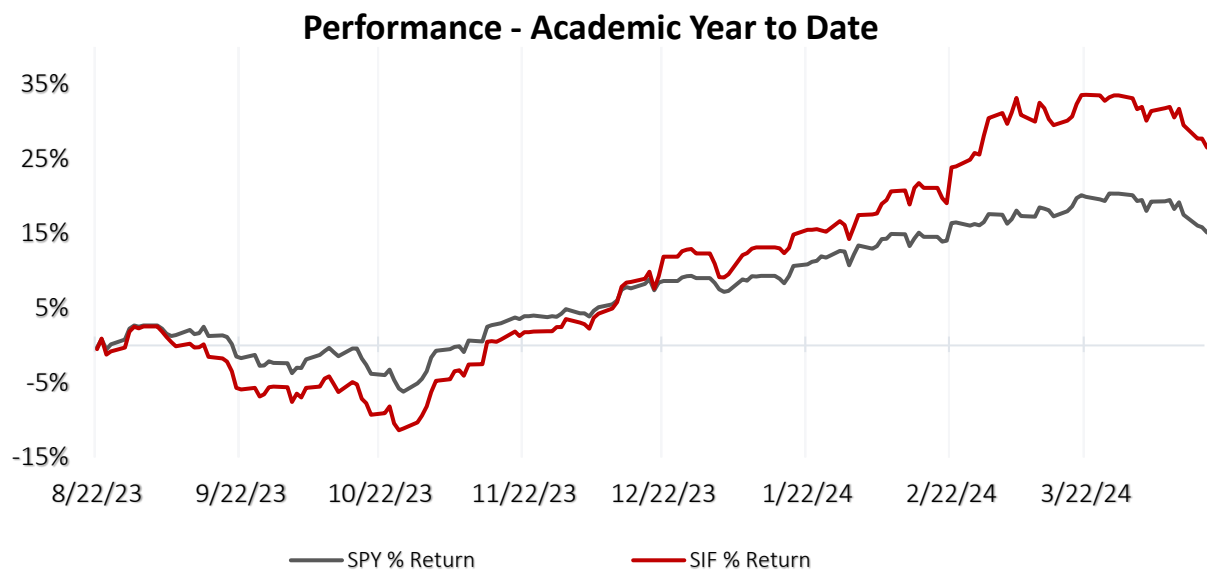
## High Level Overview

Since December 2023, the Student Investment Fund invested in 7 different trading strategies and one fundamental analysis:

School Fund	ESG Fund	Davidson Fund	Milner Fund
Earnings Revision Strategy	Share Buyback Strategy	Mids Strategy	No investment
Small Cap Strategy	Fundamental Analysis		
Energy Strategy			
Semiconductor Strategy			
Business Cycles Strategy			

Portfolio Update as of April 23, 2024:

ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT					
Fund	Value	Weekly Return	Market Beta	# of Positions	Weight
<b>Overall</b>	<b>\$1,462,961.24</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Davidson	\$43,261.44	2.4%	1.80	14	3.0%
Milner	\$580,421.18	0.5%	1.43	53	39.7%
School	\$592,956.68	1.2%	1.25	123	40.5%
ESG	\$246,321.95	0.1%	1.06	27	16.8%



# School Fund

## Earnings Revision Strategy

<b>Big Macs</b>	Emily Hansen and Jacob Winters
<b>Date Pitched</b>	1/17/2024
<b>Date Invested</b>	1/26/2024
<b>Amount invested</b>	\$ 50,000.00

### Strategy Thesis

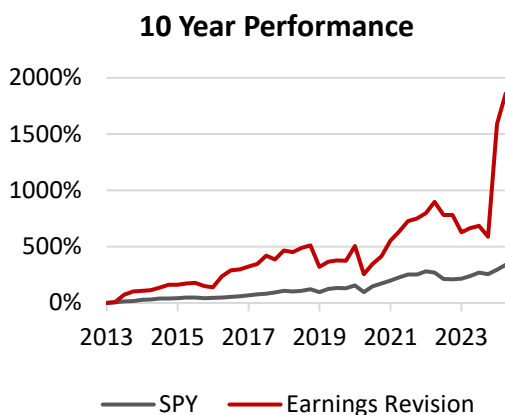
Our investment strategy focuses on companies with exceptional earnings and market momentum. By setting stringent criteria—such as a 4-week EPS change and 30-day price appreciation—we ensure our choices represent the highest earnings growth and market appreciation. To further strengthen our strategy's reliability, we include stocks with at least 15 analyst recommendations within the last day, ensuring a broad base of expert support.

Our approach aims to diversify risk and broaden our investment landscape. Using Bloomberg for backtesting, our method has demonstrated significant outperformance compared to the S&P 500 over the last decade.

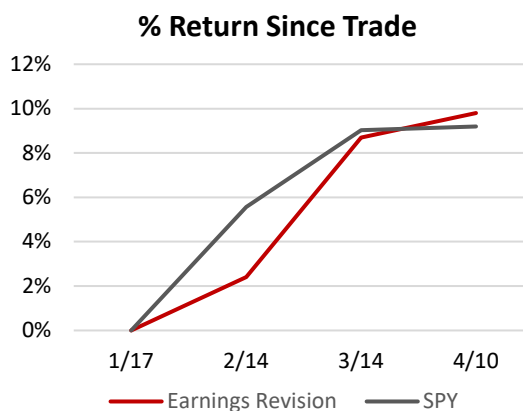
To pursue our strategy, we recommend selling \$50k of our SPY holdings to purchase our 10 recommended stocks, adding them to The School Fund. This strategy is expected to result in a higher standard deviation and a higher return, aiming to capitalize on growth potential and diversify our investment approach to maximize returns while acknowledging increased volatility.

Backtest Criteria	Strategy Metrics
<i>Rebalance frequency</i> – Semi-Annually	Expected Annual Return: 24.72%
<i>Weighting</i> – Equal	Return to date: 19.6%
<i>Indices</i> – Russel 1000 index	
<i>Number of positions</i> – 10	Expected Sharpe Ratio: 1.11
<i>Current quarterly Best EPS 4 week % Change</i> > 9	Sharpe Ratio to date: 8.04
<i>30 Day Price Change Percent</i> > 6	
<i>Total Analyst Recommendations 1 Day ago</i> > 15	

### Backtesting Returns



### Strategy Performance



### Summary

The backtest reveals our strategy's exceptional performance, achieving a 18610% return over 10 years. Specifically, our Earnings Revision strategy has delivered a return of 16% from January 17 to April 17, surpassing our initial expectations and outperforming the market.

## Small Cap

**The Three Musketeers** Harrison Calder, Gabriela Miller

**Date Pitched** 1/17/2024

**Date Invested** 1/18/2024

**Amount invested** \$ 25,000

### Strategy Thesis

Our group has been interested in finding a strategy that increases upside potential without increasing downside risk of the Fund. We believe small cap stocks provide opportunity to do this, as they tend to outperform large cap stocks.

Our initial research pointed to some key parameters to be aware of: market cap, PEG ratio, operating cash flow, and debt to equity. Though the market cap of small cap stocks typically ranges from 250M-2B, we set our market cap parameter to include stocks ranging from 500M-2B to be conservative and ensure the companies we invest in have grown and existed for some time. We chose to use the PEG ratio to compare a stock's P/E to its growth. We set our parameter to have a PEG ratio between 0.5-1 to measure companies that are undervalued but are growing at a reasonable rate. Furthermore, we wanted to ensure the small cap companies we invest in are financially stable. Therefore, we wanted to ensure that they have positive operating cash flow and a capital structure with 20% or less debt.

These parameters resulted in a portfolio of companies that outperformed SPY by 139%, over 10 years. We proposed to invest \$20,000, \$4,000 per stock, in the School Fund by selling SPY shares. The companies were determined using the backtesting criteria listed below. The Fund unanimously voted to invest \$25,000 total, \$5,000 per stock.

### Backtest Criteria

*Weighting Scheme* - Equal

*Rebalancing Frequency* - Annual

*Time Frame* - 10 years

*Market Cap* - \$500M - \$2B

*PEG Ratio* - 0.5 - 1.0

*D/E Ratio* - < 20%

*Operating CF* - > \$0

### Strategy Metrics

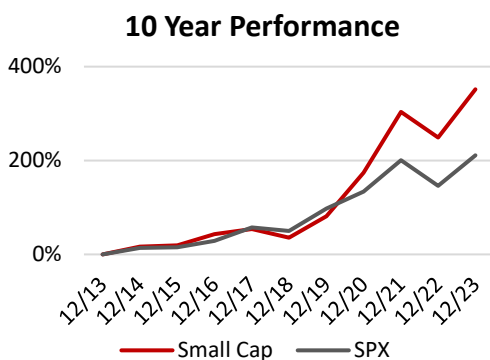
Expected Annual Return: 17.8%

Return to date: 9.8%

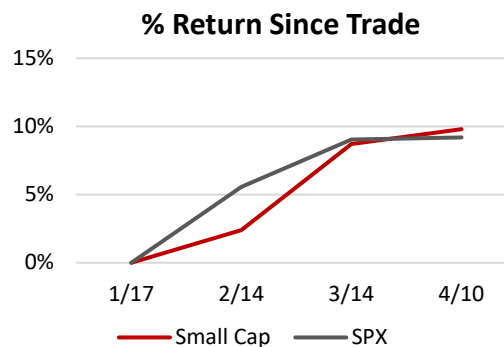
Expected Sharpe Ratio: 0.75

Sharpe Ratio to date: 6.42

### Backtesting Returns



### Strategy Performance



### Summary

The backtest shows a return of 139% over the S&P 500 over 10 years. Our small cap strategy has returned 9.8% over just under 3 months, from January 17<sup>th</sup> to April 10<sup>th</sup>. Our strategy has not performed as well as we expected, but we expected volatility and we anticipate the performance will improve.

## Energy Strategy

<b>Tech Bulls</b>	Karianne Dengerud, Kaja Norbye, Trey Zobell
<b>Date Pitched</b>	01/24/2024
<b>Amount invested</b>	\$ 40,000.00

### Strategy Thesis

Our investment strategy targets the energy sector, harnessing its potential amidst the high demand for infrastructure and development. Utilizing the Bloomberg ESQ tool, we meticulously select a maximum of 10 securities based on financial health indicators such as significant market capitalization and positive Free Cash Flows indicating the capacity to manage the sector's inherent high costs and debt levels. Importantly, we imposed a cap on capital expenditures, not exceeding 15% of sales, rather than setting a minimum. This approach ensures that companies are investing in growth without compromising their financial stability, a crucial balance in the capital-intensive energy sector. Additionally, our strategy looks for robust revenue growth, prioritizing companies poised for both financial prudence and expansion.

This approach has delivered outstanding outcomes, as evidenced by a backtest demonstrating a remarkable 1150% return over ten years, vastly surpassing the S&P 500, which saw a 263% increase. Our proposal, which suggested investing \$40,000 from the school fund into this strategy financed by liquidating SPY holdings, was successfully approved and implemented.

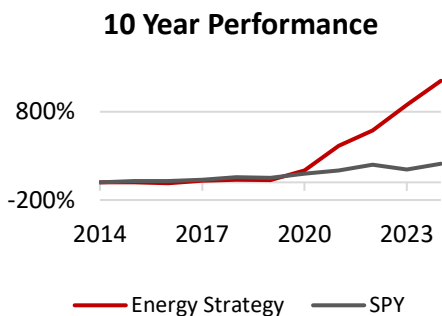
### Backtest Criteria

*Rebalance frequency* – Annually  
*Weighting* – Equal  
*Sector* - Energy  
*Number of positions* – 4 (Max 10)  
*Minimum stock market cap* – 300M  
*CapEx to Sales* – Max 15%  
*Latest Q Revenue Sequential Growth* > Latest FY Revenue Sequential Growth

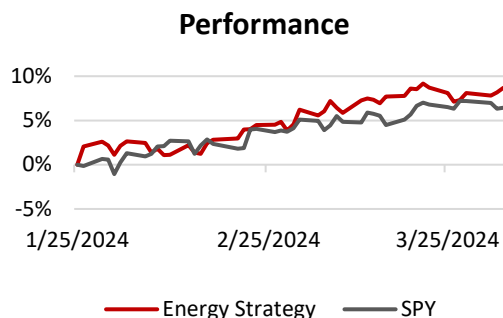
### Strategy Metrics

Expected Annual Return: 25%  
 Return to date: 8.68%  
 Expected Sharpe Ratio: 1.0  
 Sharpe Ratio to date: 0.24

### Backtesting Returns



### Strategy Performance



### Summary

The backtest results, demonstrating an impressive 1150% return over a decade, highlight the superior performance of our Energy strategy. From January 25th to April 4th, the strategy achieved an 8.68% return, surpassing our initial projections and underscoring its effectiveness in exceeding market benchmarks.

## Growth Strategy

<b>Tech Bulls</b>	Jerry Speicher, Zack Lampkin, Robert Garaishin
<b>Date Pitched</b>	02/28/2024
<b>Amount invested</b>	\$ 50,000.00

### Strategy Thesis

Our trading strategy targets the top 20% of stocks considering growth variables. These criteria include quarterly basis EPS minus five-year average, quarterly revenue growth year over year, and return on common equity. Using the top 20% limitations allowed our equity screening to narrow in on securities that are high in growth. We also restricted our screening to 500-million-dollar market cap, and a PEG ratio greater than or equal to 2. This brought our screening to 8 securities. We backtested quarterly and semi-annually, while both returned well above the S&P 500, we believe our strategy is most effective being rebalanced semi-annually. Backtesting for 10 years gave our strategy returns of 411.18% compared to SPY returning 227.18%. Over 1 year our strategy returned 81.45% while SPY returned 20.75%.

We extended our research outside of the equity screening and backtesting. We found that five out of eight recommended stocks have outperformed EPS forecasts over each of the last three quarters. All eight securities have positive 12-month forecasts. Also, four of the eight stock prices are considered “undervalued”. Taking a look at analyst forecasts shows that seven of the eight recommended purchases have “strong to moderate buy” outlooks.

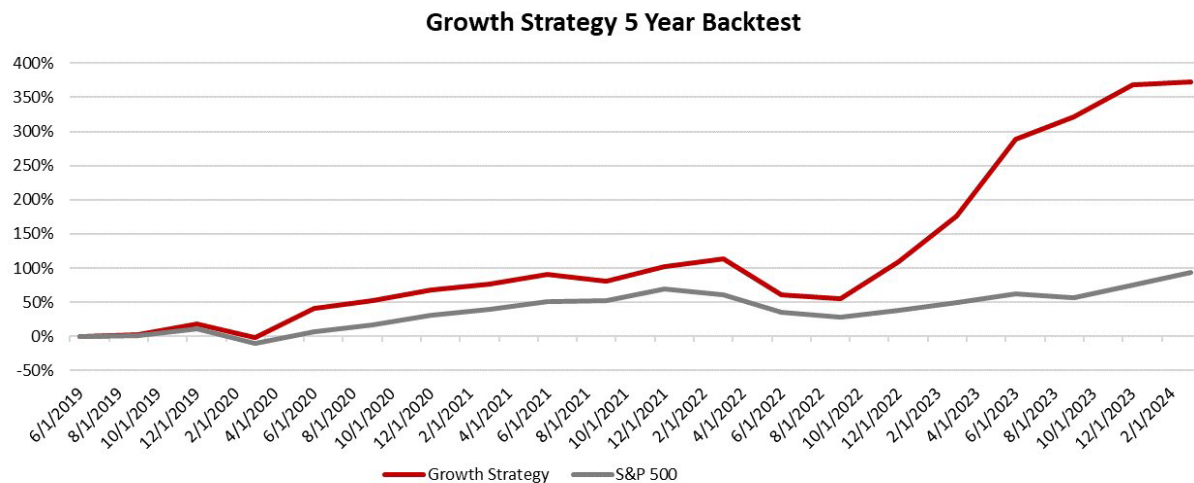
### Backtest Criteria

*Rebalance frequency* – Semi-annually  
*Weighting* – Equal  
*Number of positions* – 8  
*Minimum stock market cap* – 500M  
*Quarterly Basis EPS – 5Y AVG* – Top 20 Sequential Percentile Rank  
*Quarterly Rev Growth YoY* – Top 20 Sequential Percentile Rank  
*Return on Common* – Top 20 Sequential Percentile Rank  
PEG Ratio <= 2

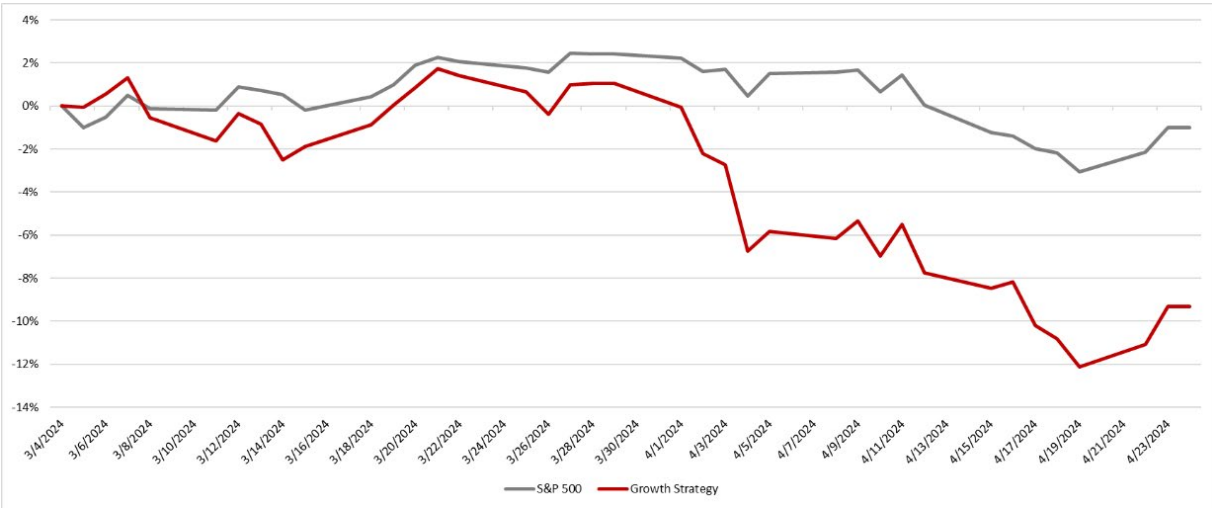
### Strategy Metrics

Expected Annual Return:	81.45%
Return to date:	-5.84%
Expected Sharpe Ratio:	2.73
Sharpe Ratio to date:	2.73

### Backtesting Returns



## Strategy Performance



## Summary

The backtest results, demonstrating an impressive 81% annual return, highlight the superior performance of our Growth strategy. From February 28th to April 14th, the strategy has lost value at an -5.84% return. We are still confident in our strategy as it is following the trends of the market. We believe holding this strategy for the long-term will result in the high performance shown in the backtest.

## Semiconductor Strategy

<b>Tech Bulls</b>	Karianne Dengerud, Kaja Norbye, Trey Zobell
<b>Date Pitched</b>	10/25/2024
<b>Date Invested</b>	12/22/2024
<b>Amount invested</b>	\$ 35,000.00

### Strategy Thesis

Our investment strategy targets the semiconductor industry's potential, leveraging technological advancements and governmental support against geopolitical risks. Utilizing Bloomberg's ESQ tool, we've filtered a maximum of 10 companies, chosen for their strong market capitalization and robust EBITDA, signaling financial stability and operational profitability. Additionally, a commitment to research and development (R&D) alongside significant revenue growth marks our second set of criteria, highlighting innovation and market expansion capabilities. These groups of metrics ensure our selection comprises firms well-positioned for sustainable growth and competitive advantage in the fast-evolving semiconductor sector.

Our approach has yielded outstanding results, with a backtest revealing an 840.7% gain over a decade, significantly outperforming the semiconductor index (which saw a 737% increase) and the S&P 500 (with a 263% rise) during this timeframe. We initially recommended allocating roughly 6.5% of our total School Investment Fund (SIF) to this strategy, amounting to \$70,000, mirroring the SPY's investment share of approximately 6.55% in the semiconductor sector. However, the collective decision was to invest \$35,000 from the school fund, achieved by divesting SPY holdings. The investment was postponed due to delays in transferring access to the brokerage accounts.

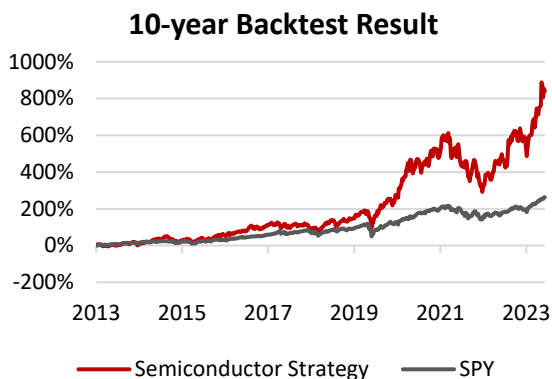
### Backtest Criteria

*Rebalance frequency* – Quarterly  
*Weighting* – Equal  
*Sector* - Semiconductor  
*Number of positions* – Max 10  
*Minimum stock market cap* – 100M  
*Price* > \$10  
*T12M EBITDA* > 0  
*LF Revenue Growth Adjusted 5 Y CAGR* > 10  
*Latest FY R&D Exp to Sales* > 10

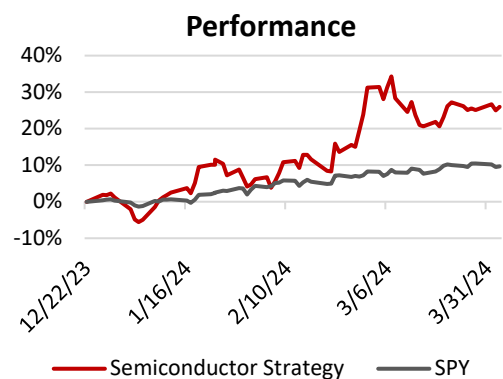
### Strategy Metrics

Expected Annual Return: 84%  
 Return to date: 26%  
 Expected Sharpe Ratio: 0.8  
 Sharpe Ratio to date: 0.16

### Backtesting Returns



### Strategy Performance



### Summary

The backtest results, demonstrating a significant 840.7% return over ten years, highlight the strong performance of our strategy. From December 22nd, 2023, to the current date, the strategy has realized a 26% return, which suggests that it has exceeded our initial projections



## Business Cycles

<b>SIFway Surfers</b>	Rich Schettler, Dylan Mingo, Zach Burrows
<b>Date Pitched</b>	12/6/2023
<b>Date Invested</b>	12/22/2023
<b>Amount invested</b>	\$ 103,904.38

### Strategy Thesis

The Leading Economic Indicator (LEI) is a composite index developed by The Conference Board designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. It is used to predict future economic activity, typically covering a timeframe of about six months ahead.

The LEI consists of several individual indicators that are believed to lead the overall economy. These indicators are chosen because they have historically turned before the economy as a whole does.

State Street Global advisors conducted a study to explore the relationship between business cycles, the LEI, and sector performance during said business cycles. The findings of the study showed a strong correlation between various sectors and business cycles.

Using historical LEI data, and distinguishing business cycle characteristics provided by State Street, we determined an approximation of where in the business cycle the market was. Following historical trends for previous cycles, we determined which sectors had previously outperformed the market during the next 6 months as shown in State Street's report and conducted back testing based on previous business cycle data. We did a correlation analysis of historical data against the most recent data and found the 6 time periods with the closest correlation to the most recent 8 months. We then analyzed the next 6 months after these times from 2000 to 2023 and performance of recommended sectors to market returns.

<b>Backtest Criteria</b>	<b>Strategy Metrics</b>	
SIF Specific Filter Criteria:	Expected Annual Return:	16.22%
<i>Currency - USD</i>	Return to date:	12.29%
<i>Trading Status - Active</i>		
<i>Traded on - United States Exchange</i>		
<i>Price - &gt; \$10</i>	Expected Sharpe Ratio:	1.42
<i>Trailing 12 Month EBITDA - &gt; \$0 Million</i>	Sharpe Ratio to date:	5.65

Basic Materials (MATS) Strategy Filter Criteria:

*Price to Earnings (P/E) > Basic Materials*

Benchmark

*Return on Equity (ROE) > Basic Materials*

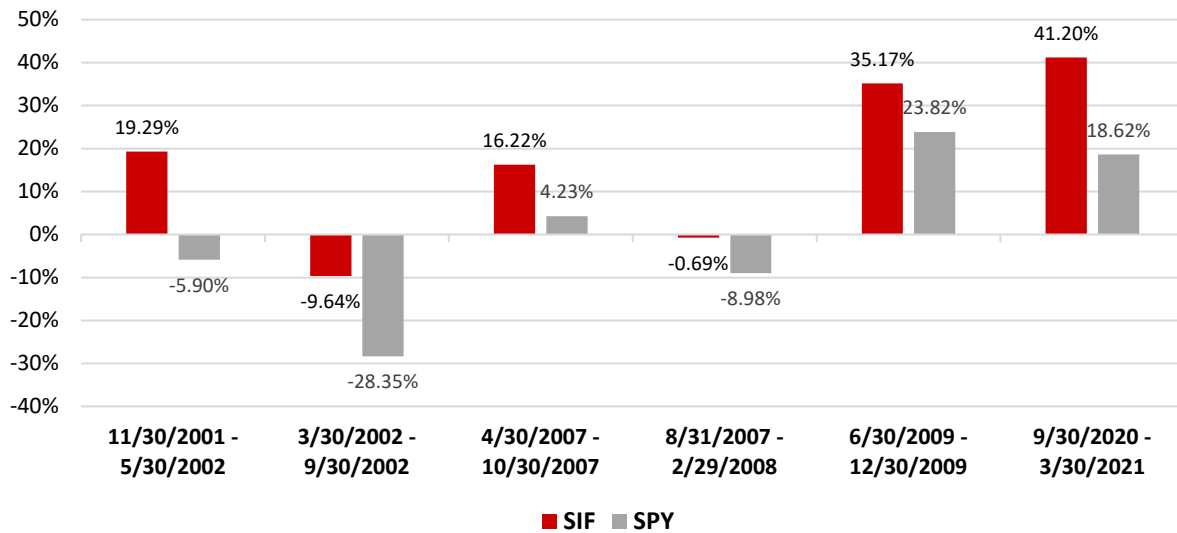
Benchmark

Consumer Discretionary (CS) Strategy Filter Criteria:

*Price to Earnings (P/E) ranked 5-14 highest within Consumer Discretionary Sector*

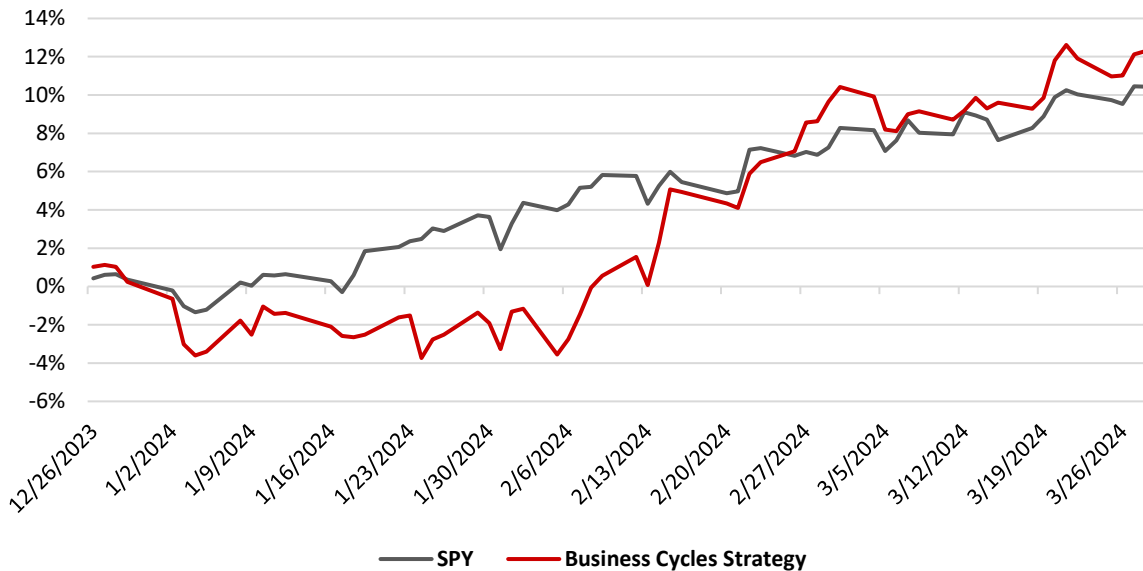
## Backtesting Returns

### Strategy Returns over Highest Correlated Time Intervals



## Strategy Performance

### % Return Since Trade



## Summary

Back testing the strategy showed positive results over the highest correlated 6 month timeframes, with our strategy outperforming S&P 500 returns 11/12 Times with an average 6 month return of 16.92% vs SPX with an average return of 0.57% over these intervals.

# ESG Fund

## Share Buyback

<b>SIFway surfers</b>	Zach Burrows, Dylan Mingo, Rich Schettler
<b>Date Pitched</b>	2/28/2024
<b>Date Invested</b>	3/4/2024
<b>Amount invested</b>	\$ 75,347.36

### Strategy Thesis

Over the last 10 years, the companies with the highest 20% of share buybacks (\$) returned 207% compared to 125% for the total U.S. stock market and 211% for SPY.

Based on research into buybacks and corporate performance (Gup and Nam) [1] paired with buybacks and price efficiency (Oberberger and Busch) [2] we developed a strategy to explore how an changes in price efficiency impact lagged market returns.

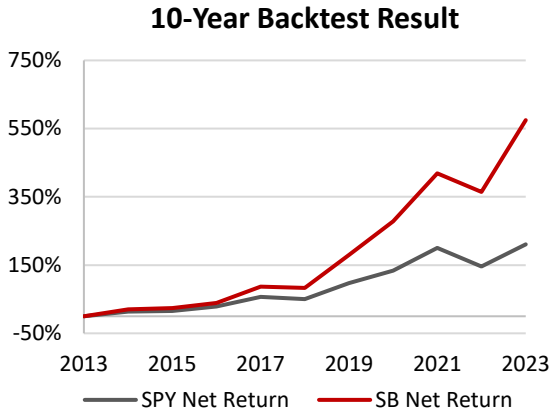
What we found was that by targeting companies in the top 20% of share buybacks but with relatively lower net working capital turnover (price efficiency) we can capitalize on the lagged market returns explained in research.

[1] *Journal of Applied Corporate Finance, Volume 14.1*

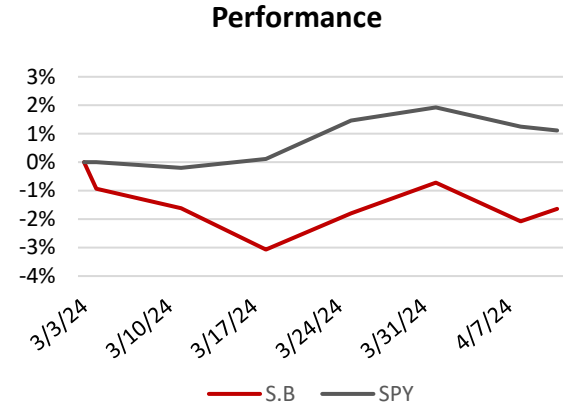
[2] *The Review of Financial Studies, Volume 30, Issue 1, January 2017, Pages 324–362*

Screening Criteria	Strategy Metrics
Market Cap - > 800M	Expected Annual Return: 21.04%
Total Value of Shares Repurchased - Top 20%	Return to date: -1.64%
Last Filed Working Capital Turnover -Bottom 10%	Expected Sharpe Ratio: 0.96
Last Filed ROIC - Top 10%	Sharpe Ratio to date: 0.59
Last Filed Operating Margin - Top 30%	

### Backtesting Returns



### Strategy Performance



### Summary

The strategy when backtested over 10 years showed 575.52 % returns compared to 211.06% for SPY over the same period. On a year by year basis, the strategy either had excess positive returns, or lower negative returns. With a strong foundation in academia we feel confident in this strategy.

## Patterson Companies (Nasdaq:PDCO)

**Group** Rachel Garff, Austin deMik  
**Date Pitched** 3/13/2024  
**Amount Invested** \$7,500.00



**Purchase Price: \$** \$27.08  
**Current Price: \$** \$25.91

### Investment Thesis

Patterson Companies Incorporated (Nasdaq: PDCO) is a healthcare products distributor that operates in the dental equipment and veterinary products markets. Between the two client groups, they offer specialized tools and equipment, pharmaceutical products, and business development services for their clients' clinics to grow and develop. The firm is headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota and serves Canada, The United Kingdom, and the United States.

Our decision to invest in PDCO started from the desire to find a company that paid regular dividends to their shareholders and a company that is currently undervalued by the market. Using the in-class Bloomberg terminals we used these criteria to search for companies that we felt would be strategic investments for the fund.

The decision to invest in PDCO is supported by their widespread operations and diverse product offerings to their clients. This further solidifies their position in the marketplace and builds confidence in their ability to generate revenues.

### Valuation

#### Implied Stock Price

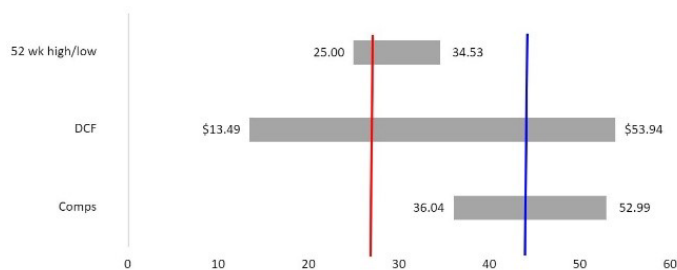
Total DCF	\$40.48
Comparables	\$45.18

#### Weights

DCF	45%
Comparables	55%
	100%

<b>Target Price</b>	<b>\$43.06</b>
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Valuation Summary - Equity Value per Share



We anticipate PDCO to reach our target price of \$43.06 by March, 2028.

### Summary

This investment has somewhat underperformed since we adopted it in March 2024. This can be attributed to the company's missing earnings as reported in their Q3 earnings call. We acknowledge that the stock has suffered since adoption, but believe that over the investment horizon the stock will rebound to closer resemble our calculations.

# Davidson Fund

## Mids Strategy

<b>Group Name</b>	Rachel Garff, and Austin deMik
<b>Date Pitched</b>	1/25/2024
<b>Date Invested</b>	1/26/2024
<b>Amount invested</b>	\$ 8,000.00

### Strategy Thesis

The purpose of the Mids strategy is to find companies that are undervalued and predict which stocks will see a repricing within a yearlong timeframe. The strategy seeks to identify stocks that are undervalued using the PEG ratio, and then uses several fundamental analysis factors to then determine whether assets are mispriced. Over a 10-year back testing period, Mids outperformed the S&P 500 by 70%, resulting in a 279% and 211% respectively. As the strategy produced a beta of 1.14 over the period, the trailing 1-year beta was much higher at 1.45 and highlighted the heightened risks we would assume should we implement it. After recognizing this risk, we suggest that the University of Utah Student Investment Fund adopt the Mids strategy with a total investment of \$8,000 allocated equally into the Davidson Fund. This purchase will be funded by the sale of two underperforming stocks, the Invesco Bank ETF (Nasdaq:KBWB), and Inmune Bio Incorporated (Nasdaq:INMB).

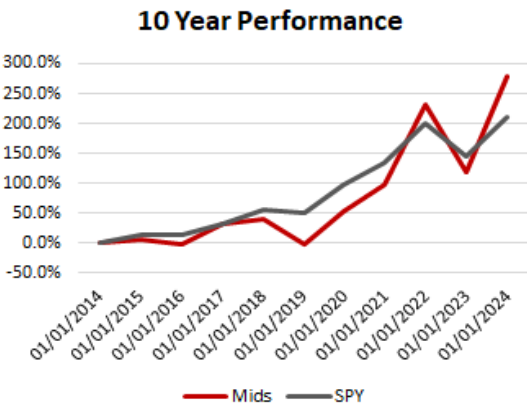
### Backtest Criteria

- Rebalancing – Annual
- Weighting – Equal
- Maximum Market Cap - \$5 billion
- Net Debt/EBITDA - Between 0 and 1
- Operating Margin – Greater than 0%
- Revenue Growth YoY – Top 4 Deciles
- Peg Ratio – Between 0.5 and 0.99

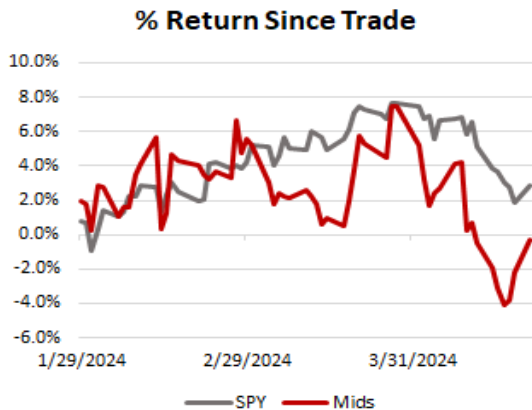
### Strategy Metrics

Expected Annual Return:	14.3%
Return to date:	-0.35%
Expected Sharpe Ratio:	0.57
Sharpe Ratio to date:	-0.60

### Backtesting Returns



### Strategy Performance



### Summary

Since the strategy's adoption, we are experiencing negative results which is not uncommon for this strategy to produce. As demonstrated during the back-testing period, we see multiple periods where the strategy underperforms the overall market. Since our strategy is based on fundamental factors, we anticipate it will take several iterations of the strategy in order to achieve the returns we are seeking.

## Special Valuation Project

### VFC Group

**Group** Karianne Dengerud, Kaja Norbye,  
Trey Zobell

**Date Pitched** 03/27/2024



### Company Description

Founded in 1989, VFC Group has risen to the forefront of the Lightning Protection Industry in the United States. With a commitment to safeguarding facilities from the perils of lightning and transient currents, VFC specializes in the design and installation of state-of-the-art lightning protection, grounding, surge suppression, and lightning warning systems. The company's commitment to excellence has protected over 30,000 businesses worldwide, demonstrating VFC's pivotal role in delivering comprehensive and reliable lightning resilience solutions.

VFC Group's expansion has been significantly influenced by the acquisitions of key industry players. In 2008, VFC acquired Lyncole, a company celebrated for its grounding engineering prowess and the creation of the XIT electrolytic grounding system. The group's capabilities were further enhanced in 2021 with the acquisition of Taylor Lightning Protection, a company with nearly three decades of leadership in the lightning protection sector in Houston and South Texas. These strategic acquisitions, along with the solid foundation of VFC Lightning Protection, have solidified VFC Group's standing as an all-encompassing provider of lightning protection solutions, reinforcing its reputation as an industry leader.

### Summary

The University of Utah Student Investment Fund had the unique opportunity to conduct a private valuation of VFC Group and presented their analysis to management. Details from our valuation are confidential.

## Overall Holding Table

### School Fund Holdings

School Portfolio					
<i>Holdings</i>					
Ticker	# of Shares	Purchase Price	Purchase Date	Current Price	Gross Return %
SPY	880	474.08	12/22/2023	505.65	6.66%
APD	23	273.12	12/22/2023	233.71	(14.43%)
ATAT	347	17.06	12/22/2023	17.76	4.13%
AVNT	166	41.13	12/22/2023	43.31	5.30%
AVY	31	201.21	12/22/2023	211.33	5.03%
AZEK	154	38.43	12/22/2023	46.36	20.65%
CHGG	531	11.14	12/22/2023	6.83	(38.69%)
DD	84	75.84	12/22/2023	73.8	(2.68%)
ECL	31	197.55	12/22/2023	219.66	11.19%
EYE	296	20.21	12/22/2023	18.84	(6.78%)
FWRG	297	20.37	12/22/2023	22.75	11.68%
GPS	281	21.33	12/22/2023	20.91	(1.96%)
MCS	401	14.79	12/22/2023	13.55	(8.38%)
ONON	198	28.07	12/22/2023	32.56	16.00%
SHAK	80	73.86	12/22/2023	99.99	35.38%
SHW	21	309.50	12/22/2023	302.36	(2.31%)
WDFC	26	239.00	12/22/2023	226.17	(5.37%)
WING	24	257.35	12/22/2023	364.73	41.73%
ACMR	220	18.56	12/22/2023	27.39	47.59%
AMD	28	139.66	12/22/2023	152.27	9.03%
AVGO	4	1,124.07	12/22/2023	1249.19	11.13%
LSCC	59	70.17	12/22/2023	67.97	(3.14%)
MRVL	68	60.31	12/22/2023	63.86	5.88%
NVDA	8	490.56	12/22/2023	824.23	68.02%
NVMI	30	136.00	12/22/2023	168.18	23.66%
OLED	21	189.30	12/22/2023	153.9	(18.70%)
RMBS	57	70.10	12/22/2023	56.44	(19.49%)
ATEN	370	13.55	1/18/2024	13.47	(0.60%)
KAR	363	13.80	1/18/2024	17.56	27.29%
KELY.A	248	20.15	1/18/2024	23.88	18.51%
LGND	70	70.95	1/18/2024	69.89	(1.49%)
MTUS	252	19.89	1/18/2024	21.49	8.04%

COIN	42	119.33	1/25/2024	225.86	89.28%
HOOD	470	10.69	1/25/2024	17.19	60.88%
MU	56	89.58	1/25/2024	109.12	21.81%
AAL	335	14.91	1/25/2024	14.53	(2.55%)
AFRM	123	40.55	1/25/2024	31.965	(21.17%)
SRPT	42	120.70	1/25/2024	116.96	(3.10%)
AZEK	132	37.74	1/25/2024	45	19.24%
SOFI	655	7.62	1/25/2024	7.25	(4.86%)
VTR	105	47.40	1/25/2024	43.13	(9.01%)
W	93	53.73	1/25/2024	54.73	1.86%
BKR	333	30.07	1/25/2024	32.46	7.95%
NGL	1900	5.29	1/25/2024	5.77	9.08%
HESM	300	33.35	1/25/2024	35.61	6.78%
NS	480	20.90	1/25/2024	22.28	6.60%
ACLS	54	115.75	3/4/2024	96.96	(16.23%)
GSHD	85	73.35	3/4/2024	58.94	(19.65%)
HEES	107	58.05	3/4/2024	57.25	(1.38%)
HRI	37	167.70	3/4/2024	148.4	(11.51%)
IDCC	58	107.15	3/4/2024	97.9	(8.63%)
LW	61	102.02	3/4/2024	82.12	(19.51%)
NVDA	7	853.25	3/4/2024	795.18	(6.81%)
VVV	143	43.65	3/4/2024	41.83	(4.17%)
BSET	568	14.83	4/4/2024	13.02	(12.22%)
WDFC	7	251.99	4/4/2024	226.88	(9.96%)
MSG5	45	185.02	4/4/2024	182.21	(1.52%)
PBPB	727	10.70	4/4/2024	10.68	(0.19%)
GME	722	11.73	4/4/2024	10.01	(14.66%)
NWGL	538	14.66	4/4/2024	14.74	0.55%
TREX	86	97.15	4/4/2024	87.82	(9.60%)
MEI	699	12.17	4/4/2024	11.31	(7.07%)
CHWY	517	16.14	4/4/2024	15.7	(2.72%)
ECL	5	229.55	4/4/2024	219.31	(4.46%)
ONON	32	32.85	4/4/2024	31.93	(2.80%)
AZEK	14	49.98	4/4/2024	45	(9.96%)
BECN	81	101.88	4/4/2024	96.06	(5.71%)



## ESG Fund Holdings

ESG Portfolio						
<i>Holdings</i>						
Ticker	# of Shares	Purchase Price	Purchase Date	Current Price	Gross Return %	
ESGV	1800	91.72	3/4/2024	89.13	(2.82%)	
MCHP	122	87.88	3/4/2024	86.19	(1.92%)	
KLAC	15	726.10	3/4/2024	648.21	(10.73%)	
TXN	62	171.69	3/4/2024	165.47	(3.62%)	
AMAT	50	212.78	3/4/2024	193.24	(9.18%)	
WAT	31	348.50	3/4/2024	313.3	(10.10%)	
MSCI	19	564.12	3/4/2024	446	(20.94%)	
LRCX	11	993.54	3/4/2024	887.42	(10.68%)	
PDCO	277	26.94	3/14/2024	25.97	(3.60%)	

## Davidson Fund Holdings

Davidson Portfolio						
<i>Holdings</i>						
Ticker	# of Shares	Purchase Price	Purchase Date	Current Price	Gross Return %	
ICLR	13	8.48	8/23/2022	306.45	3,513.80%	
PYPL	38	31.51	8/23/2022	64.43	104.47%	
PATH	180	39.82	8/23/2022	19.55	(50.90%)	
ALLY	105	52.14	8/23/2022	39.71	(23.84%)	
MRVL	100	47.74	9/12/2022	63.86	33.77%	
LULU	15	339.55	9/14/2022	364.68	7.40%	
ZTS	25	162.84	2/8/2023	149.56	(8.16%)	
META	25	172.53	2/22/2023	496.1	187.54%	
SMLR	100	22.32	2/28/2023	27.09	21.37%	
IIPR	43	93.94	1/29/2024	98.63	4.99%	
IPAR	29	136.50	1/29/2024	131.11	(3.95%)	

## Milner Fund Holdings

Milner Portfolio					
<i>Holdings</i>					
Ticker	# of Shares	Purchase Price	Purchase Date	Current Price	Gross Return %
NVDA	62	23.5	12/7/2016	824.23	3,407.36%
WMT	30	91.8	9/25/2020	59.09	(35.63%)
TWLO	40	76.48	2/25/2021	60.33	(21.12%)
MRVL	100	70.6	3/24/2021	63.86	(9.55%)
LMT	17	386.5	9/24/2021	460.08	19.04%
LGIH	15	150.5	9/29/2021	96.18	(36.09%)
MU	50	10.63	9/29/2021	112.46	957.95%
TMDX	130	32.2	9/29/2021	90.6	181.37%
SEDG	12	247.7	9/26/2022	56.77	(77.08%)
BMTX	400	7.51	10/2/2022	1.53	(79.63%)
RVLV	150	20.41	10/9/2022	19.59	(4.02%)
CLFD	40	121	10/28/2022	29.43	(75.68%)
INTU	75	98.15	4/14/2023	630.88	542.77%
NEE	40	29.28	4/25/2023	66.2	126.09%
NFLX	20	123.24	4/25/2023	577.75	368.80%
PAYC	32	33.8	4/25/2023	188.09	456.48%
PYPL	80	27.17	4/25/2023	64.43	137.14%
QQQ	70	34.03	4/25/2023	425.07	1,149.10%
AMZN	40	77.75	4/25/2023	179.54	130.92%
CGC	200	21.5	4/25/2023	0.18	(99.16%)
COST	45	229.25	4/25/2023	722.68	215.24%
EHC	80	48.78	4/25/2023	82.46	69.04%
NOC	15	343.55	4/25/2023	474.68	38.17%
EHAB	40	22.74	4/25/2023	10.27	(54.84%)

Milner Portfolio						
<i>Sold Stocks</i>						
Ticker	# of Shares	Purchase Price	Purchase Date	End Date	End Price	Gross Return %
NVDA	178	23.50	12/7/2017	4/3/2024	901.2	3,734.89%

## What We Learned

### Advice from the class of 2023-2024

Dear SIF class of 2024-2025,

Welcome to the Student Investment Fund, where you will embark on a journey of discovery, learning, and growth in the field of investment management. As former members of SIF 2023-2024, we extend our warmest congratulations and offer our insights to help you navigate through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This section will serve as a guidebook, providing comprehensive advice on teamwork, technical skills, investment strategies, fundamental analysis, and project management. As you will be the second year with a new professor and dynamic, we hope that our experiences from the last year will help you excel the next.

#### **Overall Advice**

Within the dynamic environment of the Student Investment Fund, challenge yourself to explore various aspects of investment management. This is an opportunity to immerse yourself in different sectors, investment strategies, and analytical techniques. Even though you might have an idea of what you want to expose yourself to and explore, challenge your own initial expectations and you may find new passions and interests. Further, don't shy away from responsibility; rather, embrace it as it will help you gain experiences that you wouldn't have otherwise. The true essence of learning in SIF lies in stepping out of your comfort zone and taking on tasks that push the boundaries of your capabilities. As you navigate through the workload, don't be fooled by the few official assignments. You are expected to spend a lot of time on projects, analysis and strategies when it is your turn to present. In addition, the role groups you will be a part of take lots of time and are vital to ensure the success of the fund even though their results may not always seem quantifiable. In addition, it is important to be available for communication through email during the week, to ensure a seamless workflow and collaboration in the fund. Don't be discouraged by initial setbacks; instead, view them as valuable learning experiences that will ultimately contribute to your development. Embrace feedback with an open mind and use it as a tool for continuous improvement. Lastly, remember that you are all here aiming for the same goal; yielding great returns, and to learn as much as possible. There is no competition between teams, and be sure to be willing to help each other and leverage unique strengths within the fund. It is to everyone's advantage to develop a culture where you can text or email people in SIF and ask for help and assistance if you know they have more experience on something than your own group.

#### **Team Dynamics**

Collaboration is at the heart of the Student Investment Fund, with teamwork playing a pivotal role in both project work and roles teams. Effective communication, mutual respect, and a positive team atmosphere are essential ingredients for success. Take the time to understand each other's strengths, weaknesses, and working styles to leverage the collective talents of your team. We have all gone through group projects in school and they are either make or break depending on the collaboration and mentality present. In roles teams, embrace leadership opportunities and administrative tasks and make sure you are communicating clearly with other teams and the professor as you are all dependent on each other to run the fund. Establishing regular check-ins, setting clear expectations, and proactively addressing any challenges that arise will foster a productive and harmonious team environment. Make sure you prioritize spending time with the

whole SIF class, show up early and stay later to get to know the other analysts. You will spend a lot of time together next year, and it is more fun and meaningful if you get to know each other better.

As mentioned, before you will have 2 teams your investment team and your role team each with separate goals, workflow, and group members. Defining a clear distinction between these groups while also working in both simultaneously will be challenging but a rewarding experience. Make sure to focus on the success of both, and not steer one way or the other because of ease or bias. Learning how to manage 2 groups with separate projects will not only provide you with a strong end grade but really set you up to work in cross functional teams in the real world.

### ***Technical Skills***

Technical proficiency is a cornerstone of success in the Student Investment Fund. In our projects and analysis, we use tools such as Excel, PowerPoint, Python, Bloomberg, CapIQ, and Pitchbook very frequently. Take advantage of resources that we have created, such as tutorials and courses, and be prepared to spend more time on your first strategies, analysis and projects as you will need more time to learn how to use the software in the best way. Proficiency in these software systems will not only help you, your team and SIF during your year as an analyst, but will also be applicable and helpful later in your career.

Bloomberg can be more challenging to grasp as it is very reliant on commands. For example, one of the most popular commands used by our course is “EQS” which brings up an equity screening window allowing you to swiftly sort through thousands of equities by filtering by specific criteria. These commands involve a lot of memorization, but are relatively easy to use once memorized. Similarly, pulling data into excel by using CapIQ follows a similar structure with specific data series codes to obtain the data. It may be challenging to learn at first and may seem easier to pull data from yahoo finance, or with excels built in stock functions but the quality of data from CapIQ is far superior and worth it to obtain.

### ***Strategies***

Developing investment strategies requires a combination of creativity, analytical rigor, and practical application. Utilize tools such as Bloomberg EQS and EQBT to create a strategy filter, and back test your hypotheses. When formulating your strategy, we recommend you to focus on specific sectors or types of stocks. This way, you can be more intentional with your filtering criteria, as a well-functioning criterion will be dependent on the specific characteristics of that sector or type of stock. Develop a disciplined approach to strategy development, ensuring that your criteria are grounded in sound fundamentals rather than arbitrary assumptions. Remember that developing a successful strategy takes time, and make sure you spend time in your research phase. Lastly, be honest about the result of your research and back testing, if you have spent time on a strategy that turns out to not yield returns that you are satisfied with, bring your learnings to class rather than pitching an investment.

This last point is vital! If you work hours and hours on end to create and develop a systematic strategy or fundamental pitch and in the end, you don't think it is a good idea. Don't try to cover it up or show the positives. Talk about your thought process, your research and what your conclusion is in an honest way. This is real money you are investing and lying or manipulating your projects in ways to make it appear more attractive have real consequences and the overall fund's performance will suffer because of it.

### ***Fundamental Analysis***

Fundamental analysis has been the cornerstone SIF for many years, and something we have implemented at the end of our year in SIF with a new professor. Utilize SIF's templates and guides to conduct comprehensive analyses of companies, industries, and markets. Dedicate ample time to research, ensuring that your analysis is based on reliable data and informed judgments. When valuing a company, consider a range of factors including financial performance, competitive positioning, industry dynamics, and macroeconomic trends. Pay close attention to the quality of your assumptions in your DCF valuation, and spend time on developing these. The company's own reports will give you great insight to use for your assumptions, including the Management Discussion in the 10-K, in addition to analyst forecasts on Bloomberg i.e. The same goes for creating peer groups for your relative analysis, find companies that are as similar as possible to your company in geographical exposure, revenue segments, financial metrics, business model and industry. Pitchbook is a create software to use for your peer group research. Remember that fundamental analysis is not just about crunching numbers; it's about understanding the underlying drivers of value and making informed judgments based on sound reasoning. Again, a fundamental analysis is not about tweaking numbers to yield the highest suggested target price, but to present thorough research on a company and it's financials to help the class make a well informed investment decision.

### ***Projects***

As we have been changing the Student Investment Fund to be student run, there have been several projects that needed to be done, such as creating performance evaluation models, accounting tables, templates, market, and portfolio updates etc. We hope that you will make great use of what we have already created for you to use, and that you are ready to spend time on new projects, making the fund more efficient while creating a strong foundation for future cohorts to develop from. Take the time to understand the purpose and scope of each project, clarifying expectations and deliverables with your team and the professor. Your goal is that your project outcome will be used by SIF in many years to come. Embrace unfamiliar tasks with enthusiasm, most projects will be things you have never done or created before. Use your previous knowledge, and leverage your teams' strengths, and do not be afraid to ask other SIF analysts for assistance. At the end of the day, we are all working towards the same goal.

### ***Conclusion***

As you embark on your journey in the Student Investment Fund, remember that success is not measured by individual achievements alone but by the collective efforts of the entire team. Embrace the challenges, seize the opportunities, and savor the moments of growth and discovery along the way. Your time in SIF will be defined not only by the projects you complete or the presentations you deliver but by the relationships you build, the lessons you learn, and the experiences you share with your fellow students and faculty members. Cherish this opportunity to learn, grow, and make new friends. We wish you all the best and look forward to seeing the incredible contributions you will make as members of the Student Investment Fund. Have fun!

Warm regards,

The Student Investment Fund 2023-2024