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**University of Connecticut  
Student Managed Fund  
Team White**

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Fall 2023 IAB Report



# University of Connecticut

December 30th, 2023  
University of Connecticut School of Business  
Undergraduate Student Managed Fund  
Team White

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## Introduction

### **Letter to the IAB:**

Dear Investment Advisory Board Members,

Through one semester, the Student Managed Fund has served as an exceptional supplemental experience to our academic studies. The 11 managers of Team White have committed to our investment philosophy and have grown both professionally and personally. We are grateful to have the unique opportunity to serve the fund and the incredible backing of those who support it. We thank Dean Elliott, Chinmoy Ghosh, Jeff Anello, Laurel Grisamer, and countless others who are a part of the IAB or are deeply committed to the fund as a whole. Our experience is not wholesome without these leaders, and for that we are appreciative of their dedication.

The fall semester of SMF presents an immediate learning curve. Though for some it may be a sharper curve than others, we all must start from the ground and build up as we allocate our portfolio. We learned the fundamentals of investing are critical to make a complex activity a bit more digestible. We have learned investing is both an art and a science. The art resides in sticking to our binding philosophy: investing in resilient companies who project a long term relevance and profitability. The science can be found in equity research, which we are constantly working on and can only learn from our past actions. This process simulates the act of investing as an individual, however the benefits of learning with a team are limitless. Thus, in the latter half of the year in the program we will maximize our abilities and potential in a collaborative effort, diligently learning from experience in the Fall.

As a cohort, we have become more efficient every week but also have grown tighter. We have developed personal friendships and contacts for the future of our professional careers as we share the same journey and experience SMF has provided. In our weekly meetings with Jeff, we continue to challenge each other and take criticism as an opportunity to improve our strategies and approaches for the future. We understand perfection is not a realistic goal, but in working toward full allocation, we must be critical and thorough throughout the process in order to provide value to the IAB and demonstrate strides in growth from the fall to the spring semester.

Thank you for your commitment to SMF and we look forward to convening again in the spring.

Sincerely,  
Student Managed Fund Team White

**Managers:**

Lead Managers: Beck Lewis, Faris Khokhar

Portfolio Manager: Michael Castellano

Communications Manager: Goutham Padamati

Digital Media Manager: Carolyn Cumello

Risk Manager: Joey Lattarulo

Fund Managers: Briana Dastoli, Jeremy Garskof, Logan Mansur, Madeleine Stansbury,  
Maxwell Pisacreta

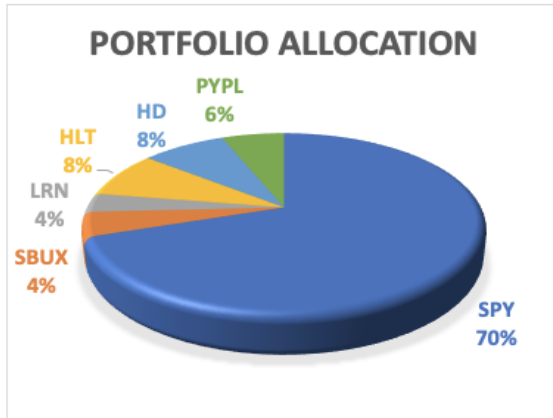
Portfolio Snapshot:

**Undergraduate Team White Student Managed Fund  
December 2023  
Portfolio Snapshot**

**Portfolio Performance vs. Benchmark**

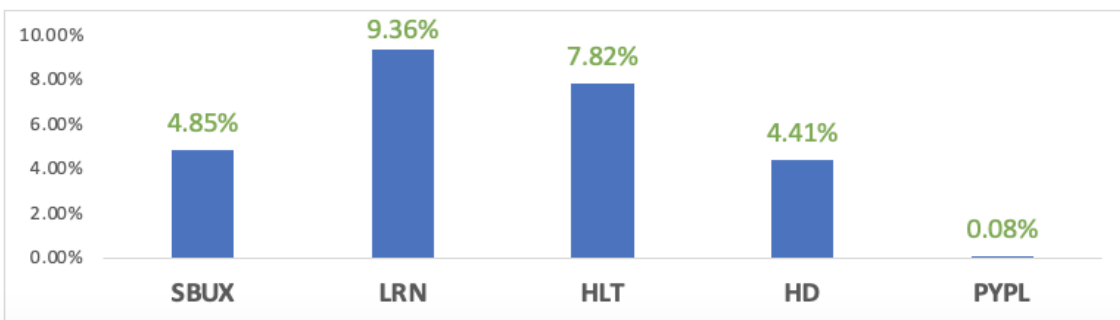
S&P 500 Benchmark		SMF Portfolio	
Beginning Price	\$4,308.50	Portfolio Cost Basis	\$1,281,530.44
Ending Price	\$4,594.63	Portfolio Value	\$1,364,042.19
S&P 500 Benchmark Performance	6.64%	Total Portfolio Performance	6.44%
		Difference in Performance	-0.20%

**Portfolio Allocation**



% Equities	30.15%
% Cash	0.12%
% SPY	69.73%
Average Equity Position	6.03%

**Equity Performance**



## Investment Strategy

### **Philosophy and Style:**

Aligned with a long-term value approach, our team aims to establish enduring partnerships with high caliber businesses valued well below intrinsic worth. We adopt 5-10 year investment horizons, purchasing securities deemed long-term holdings with attractive risk-adjusted return prospects. We conduct bottom-up analysis on each potential investment, focused on assessing the business model resiliency, competitive strengths, managerial talent, financial position, cash generation viability and reinvestment needs over the next decade. This deep research dives into their strategic vision, economic moats from scale, brand reputé or technology, along with unit economics.

We build Discounted Cash Flow models to project future cash flows based on revenue growth assumptions and margin trajectories. Valuation methodologies like a DCF encapsulate our expectations for sustained free cash flow and risk-adjusted perpetual growth. In addition, we utilize relative valuations like training comps, where we compare equity and enterprise multiple ratios versus peers to contextualize estimated value. Our goal is to develop conviction that an equity security trades significantly below fair value before initiating a long position. Continuous scrutiny of the macro landscape and business developments impacting holdings guides portfolio diversification and risk calibration.

We allocate across differentiated sectors without direct correlations to mitigate concentration risks. Blending stable, cash flow generative companies with higher growth potential provides an equilibrium. Position sizing commensurate with risk profiles allows protection against binary outcomes. Individual stop losses cap downside, while patience affords us market noise filters. We stay abreast of quarterly earnings reports, earnings calls, relevant headlines and management interactions to confirm an intact thesis while updating modeled projections as appropriate in dynamic conditions. This facilitates adapting to evolving risks and opportunities. In total, our investment philosophy relies on the notion that time arbitrage in undervalued, high quality companies with visionary leaders allows for compounding through economic cycles.

We believe this principles-based approach focused on understanding businesses distinguishes us in striving to deliver alpha over long durations.

### **Approach:**

We ensure that the investment approach we take is very careful and done in a timely manner, in accordance with the process we have set as a team. With everything in mind, we also ensure that the information we research and apply to every pitch is up-to-date and accurate.

Research is the first step, in which each group will utilize a variety of resources to find a great business. As a team, we aim to find businesses that are involved in different industries compared to our holdings, to ensure diversification of our portfolio. The fund managers utilize the Bloomberg Terminal, S&P Capital IQ, and review the company's financials such as the 10-K and 10-Q to ensure their idea generation is set.

Understanding the financials of the business is essential to this process, as the group will review the financial statements of a business and utilize this information to build out a Discounted Cash Flow Model. The historical period is set to about 5 years, with our forecasts ranging from 5-10 years. There are many different metrics that are also reviewed throughout this process, such as looking at historical trends, ratios (such as P/E, Debt/Equity), and more. The goal in this process is to understand if the company is undervalued, given a conservative future outlook.

Each security that is being reviewed/purchased is set to be seen as a long-term outlook, of about 5-10 years. Given that the Student Managed Fund program runs for a short period of time, each fund manager is aware that each security that is presented will be seen as a long-term holding.

### **Procedure:**

In terms of idea generation, we assigned managers to different sectors to follow and research throughout the summer, however, this did not hold throughout the year. We found that a more effective approach was for each manager to research companies that they were individually interested in and suggest ideas to the group as a whole as they are discovered. Normally about two weeks or so before the pitch, managers send their selected stock and early DCF to Jeff Anello to get some feedback on their work and the choice of company. Since we shifted away from the sector analysis, we ended up more heavily allocated in the consumer discretionary sector. For this reason, sector diversification will be a priority throughout the Spring semester.

In the first two weeks, we did a blind vote through google forms after each pitch was presented. In this form, we asked all the managers whether they voted yes or no on the particular stock that was pitched, and, if yes, what their suggested allocation was. We then took the majority decision of either yes or no, and, if yes, we invested the average of the allocation votes. After the first two weeks, we realized this was not the most ideal way to vote as it was delayed and it did not really allow for any quality feedback or give a chance for people to ask additional questions. We quickly realized that this was not the best approach and decided to change our voting procedure moving forward. We then began meeting immediately after each pitch as a group to make our decisions. This allowed all managers to ask any other questions they had about the pitch, voice any concerns that they had about the stock, and also helped speed up the process by not having to wait for people to fill out a survey. Additionally, this meeting

provided an opportunity to also get feedback from the group about the presentation as a whole and gave us a better idea of what type of information should be included in future pitches.

All of the stocks that were pitched this year for team White were voted to be purchased by the team and the only one that received any no votes was Stride Inc (LRN). However, we still went through with the trade as a majority of team members had voted yes.

### **Economic Outlook:**

The US economy defied expectations in 2023. Many economists had a very pessimistic outlook for 2023 predicting a recession with near 100% certainty. They believed a recession was imminent given the decade-high inflation rates and constant interest rate hikes by the Fed. While the economy was down at points in 2023, there was not the recession that many economists predicted. In fact, by year end, GDP growth is expected to be 3.2% for the 2023 fiscal year. GDP growth is expected to slow in 2024; real GDP is projected to grow by 1.3% in 2024. It is important we continue to monitor the state of the economy and take it into account in our future investment decisions.

Inflation has greatly cooled off in 2023. Since reaching a decades high year-over-year inflation rate of 9.1% (Consumer Price Index) in June of 2022, US inflation rates have gradually decreased. In January of 2023, the year-over-year CPI increased by 6.4%. Over the course of the year inflation rates gradually decreased, reaching a more normalized rate of 3.1% year-over-year in November of 2023. While this is still above the Fed's target rate of 2%, it is a good sign considering the peak inflation rates the economy was experiencing just a year and a half ago. Inflation is expected to continue to decrease in 2024. Goldman Sachs analysts project PCE inflation rates to fall to 2.4% by December 2024.

Over the course of 2023, the Fed made four hikes to interest rates. The first being a 25 bp increase of February 1, 2023 bringing the Fed Funds Rate to 4.50-4.75%. Three more 25 bp increases were made to the Fed Funds Rates on March 22, May 3, and July 26 of 2023, bringing the Fed Funds Rate to 5.25-5.50%. The Fed has held interest rates at this level since their July meeting. While inflation was not as problematic as in 2022, the increase in rates has helped further mitigate inflation. The Fed has yet to bring rates down in 2023; in their most recent meeting, they announced they would be bringing interest rates down in 2024. They are set to make three cuts to inflation in 2024, ultimately bringing rates down to 4.50-4.75%. This will stimulate economic growth and increase the supply of money in the economy for the upcoming year.



The US Government increased spending in 2023 compared to 2022. The US Government spent \$6.13 trillion in 2023, which is more than it collected, thus resulting in a deficit. The federal budget deficit increased from 5.4% of GDP in 2022 to 6.3% of GDP in 2023. In September of this year, the House Budget Committee passed the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY2024 - FY 2033. This resolution would reduce the federal deficit by \$16 trillion over the next ten years.

Similar to the US economy, the global economy also exceeded analysts' expectations in 2023. Global inflation rates fell while employment rates were up. To add to this, global GDP is expected to grow by 3% in 2023; in 2024, GDP is expected to grow again by 2.7%. The Global economy is expected to continue growing in 2024.

The supply chain in the United States faced several significant challenges in the last year. Various global conflicts and increased tensions between the United States and affected the availability of raw materials. Labor markets were tighter than in the past five years. Economic conditions affected the amount of inventory that companies kept on hand or would order for production at any given time. Together, these factors contributed to shortages of common products, including machine parts, semiconductor chips, and medications. 2023 was a difficult year for trucking and freight companies. Higher costs of labor led to a shortage of truckers, and higher costs for fuel and labor brought up operational costs. Despite the challenges, supply chains did report some notable developments. An S&P Global report found that as of May, global supplier delivery times were the fastest since 2009 following logistics 'debottlenecking' and an increase in logistics planning capabilities and speed. The White House has identified supply chain diversification as a critical component of defending against supply chain disruptions. To improve supply chain resilience in essential areas like semiconductors, energy production, and healthcare, they are using public-private partnerships to spur action. Private companies have dedicated \$614 billion towards domestic production with the hope of decreasing reliance on international suppliers. This has produced results already: since January 2021, spending on constructing manufacturing facilities has nearly doubled. Construction for facilities producing semiconductors and batteries increased by nearly 8.5 times. In years to come, it can be expected that there will continue to be heavy investment in domestic production and suppliers and that supply chains will become more domestically-based, especially in production of essential technologies.

Between March and May, three banks collapsed, sparking waves of panic and uncertainty in the direction of the economy and in banking. To give some perspective, Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank, and First Republic Bank combined held an asset value greater than the assets of the banks that fell apart during the 2008 financial crisis. Investors required higher rates of return to want to continue to invest with banks,

resulting in large institutional cash reserves to compensate for the risk of interest rates continuing to rise.

Strikes appeared in multiple sectors as labor sentiment grew increasingly negative and the economy experienced a tight labor market. In total, it is estimated that 500,000 employees went on strike nationwide, from companies including HBO, Ford, Starbucks, and General Motors. Common complaints were of low pay, too few benefits, and desire to unionize. 2023 saw the biggest raise in wages in a quarter since 2007, averaging 7% growth for workers in unions.

Tech soared in 2023. Semiconductor chip and AI-focuses companies grew quickly. NVIDIA reached the \$1 trillion mark in May. Manufacturing for tech items like batteries and semiconductors will be produced domestically at a higher level as investments pile up, suggesting continued growth in the sector in the future.

This past year saw depressed demand for discretionary goods in the wake of rising inflation. Although the trendline for inflation has been flattening out, demand for nonessentials has not yet recovered. As of October, a Deloitte study found that consumer total monthly spending intentions were the lowest they'd been in two years. Firms were inclined to hold lower inventories to match the anticipated softening demand. Industries heavily affected by COVID have seen a rebound as consumers seek to move on from the effects of the pandemic. Air travel and dinner reservations have met levels last seen in 2019.

The United States saw a decrease in unemployment in 2023 that brought unemployment levels back to those seen before the pandemic, and marked 22 months under 4% for the first time in 50 years. Wages rose faster than inflation by midyear. The labor force participation rate has climbed to 62.8% as of July of 2023, following a steady path of increases from the low of 60.2% in March of 2020. This is still below the pre pandemic levels of 63.3%, and this slow recovery implies some level of unwillingness to work. This reflects the worker dissatisfaction that has worsened in recent years. 2023 saw large-scale protests and even strikes against their low pay and lack of benefits despite continuous increases in worker productivity. This caused a huge economic impact. In 2023, it's estimated that strikes cost the economy 75,000 jobs and billions of dollars.

Going forward, we expect that wages will continue to rise to attract talent, and the hot market for labor will translate to gains for the labor force.

### Portfolio

#### **Performance:**

Team White's overall portfolio performance over the Fall semester period from 10/9 to 12/1 was 6.44%. Our portfolio slightly underperformed the S&P 500 benchmark return of 6.64%. Our top performers thus far have been Stride Inc. and Hilton Worldwide

Holdings Inc. which have had returns of 9.36% and 7.82%, respectively. Our worst performers to this point have been The Home Depot Inc. and PayPal Inc. with returns of 4.41% and 0.08%. We will continue to monitor the performance of our portfolio against the benchmark and aim to outperform it in the Spring semester.

**Positions:***Starbucks Corporation (SBUX)*

On October 19, 2023, we bought 600 shares of Starbucks Corporation at a price of \$94.61. As of 12/1, Starbucks represents 4.36% of our portfolio.

Starbucks Corporation is the largest coffee company in the world according to its \$32.23 billion in revenue in FY 2022, which is growing at a CAGR of 9.3% over the last 10 years. Starbucks earns revenue through the following segments: company-operated stores, licensed stores, and channel distribution which includes its ready-to-drink and single-serve products. Starbucks operates stores globally and 72% of revenue comes from North America, 22% comes from international stores, and 6% comes from channel distribution. Starbucks sells beverages, food, and other products at its 35,711 stores around the globe.

Despite the ultra-competitive nature of the coffee industry, Starbucks remains at the top due to its brand loyalty and recognition, product quality, and innovation in response to dynamically changing consumer preferences. Starbucks has used technology such as their mobile app, Deep Brew AI, and modern equipment to improve their speed and accuracy of service, optimize store operations, and minimize costs.

*Stride, Inc. (LRN)*

On November 8, 2023, we purchased 758 shares of Stride, Inc. at a price of \$55.86. As of 12/1, Stride represents 3.39% of our portfolio.

Stride Inc. is an education services company that provides virtual and blended learning solutions. Stride's technology-based products and services are designed to help learners of all ages to reach their full potential through expert teaching and personalized education. Stride's clients are private and public schools, school districts, charter boards, employers, government agencies, and consumers. Stride's products and services are divided into General Education and Career Learning. General Education is focused on teaching core subjects such as math, English, science, and history to

students K-12. Career Learning helps students enter and succeed in industries like IT, healthcare, and business.

Stride's strong product quality attracts a large base of customers ranging from public and private schools to adult customers who want to change careers. With strong support from Stride, graduates go on to work in jobs at top firms like JP Morgan Chase, CVS, Tesla, IBM, and Adobe. Stride's General Education market allows every student to reach their full educational potential despite their geographical location and socioeconomic background. Stride's solutions also meet students' needs by adding flexibility into learning and addressing safety concerns as well as physical health limitations. Stride Inc. is poised for growth in a growing market with few direct competitors and strong product quality.

### *Hilton Hotels Corporation (HLT)*

On November 8, 2023, we purchased 658 shares of Hilton Hotels Corporation at a price of \$158.45. As of 12/1, Hilton represents 8.24% of our portfolio.

Hilton is a prominent figure in the global hospitality industry, managing a diverse portfolio of approximately 7,165 properties, encompassing over 1,127,430 rooms, and offering a range of 19 distinct brands. The company has an additional 2,821 properties in its development pipeline. Hilton's portfolio covers a spectrum from luxury to midscale and includes timeshare offerings, with a significant emphasis on the upper midscale and upscale segments. Most of Hilton's revenue is derived from franchised hotels, denoting the effectiveness of their franchising model and successful collaborations with independent owners and operators.

Hilton was founded in 1919 and has been an innovator in the hospitality industry for over 100 years. Hilton represents a compelling investment opportunity based on two key factors. Firstly, the company boasts an industry-leading portfolio of brands that provide a broad range of accommodation options to a global clientele. With a presence in over 100 countries, Hilton has established itself as a significant player in the hospitality industry, contributing to a robust revenue stream and geographic diversification. Secondly, the company's high-quality pipeline of properties under development is anticipated to yield favorable returns relative to capital investment. Leveraging its brand recognition, Hilton is strategically positioned to allocate resources efficiently to capitalize on emerging market opportunities. This dual strategy of a diverse brand portfolio and a prudent approach to property development underscores Hilton's attractiveness as an investment opportunity within the hospitality sector.

### *Home Depot, Inc. (HD)*

On November 15, 2023, we purchased 347 shares of Home Depot, Inc. at a price of \$306.19. As of 12/1, Home Depot represents 8.13% of our portfolio.

Home Depot is the leading player in the home improvement retail industry, operating around 2,300 stores across North America. Home Depot has operated with Lowes in a duopoly within the home improvement industry for the past 40 years. Specializing in a wide array of home improvement, construction, and gardening products, Home Depot serves both DIY enthusiasts and professional contractors. The company, employing over 475,000 associates, is known for its large warehouse-style stores and strong online presence. Home Depot is committed to customer experience and innovation, adapting to market changes, notably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its financial success is underpinned by significant revenue growth, driven by strategic initiatives like digital expansion and supply chain optimization.

Home Depot asserts its market leadership in home improvement with a strategic focus on professional customers and a strong omni-channel presence that facilitates delivery to most of the U.S. population. Bolstered by a well-recognized brand and loyalty program, the company has maintained a healthy balance sheet and outperforms with a return on invested capital over 40%. Home Depot has consistently returned capital to shareholders, with significant share repurchases and dividends totaling approximately \$15 billion in 2022.

### *PayPal Holdings, Inc. (PYPL)*

On November 29, 2023, we purchased 1,377 shares of PayPal Holdings, Inc. at a price of \$59.60. As of 12/1, PayPal represents 6.02% of our portfolio.

Founded in 1998, PayPal is a digital wallet platform which gives users access to send and receive money, while also accessing different services such as a credit line, bank account, and installment payments for purchases. As of Q3 2023, PayPal has 428 million active users. PayPal operates in 200 countries/regions, carrying 25 different currencies. Roughly 91% of the firm's revenues come from Transaction Revenues (fees) and the 9% comes from Other-Value Added Services.

Being one of the longest operating digital payments companies, PayPal has come across as one of the safest and lowest risk payment options for many individuals and

merchants. PayPal has maintained strong financials YoY with an average of about 14 revenue growth since 2019. PayPal heavily returns their revenues to their technology and development division of the company to improve many areas such as risk, compliance, finance, treasury, development and engineering, and more. PayPal also operates Venmo, one of the most well-known payment companies to send and receive currency. The payment industry in itself has been growing, with an average increase of 9.1% of active users since Q1 2021 on PayPal. It was studied that an account transacted about 57 times over a 12-month trailing period.

### **Sector Analysis:**

Our primary investment focus centers on the consumer discretionary sector, predominantly represented by holdings in Hilton and Home Depot. The sector's appeal is bolstered by the prospect of potential interest rate reductions, coupled with a projected uptick in discretionary spending. As we gaze into the future, our strategy involves expanding our portfolio across diverse sectors to mitigate risk effectively such as technology, industrials, financials, etc. By staying attuned to emerging trends and leveraging our strategic insights, we aim to position our investments optimally within various sectors, promoting resilience and adaptability.

Another area of focus we have targeted was the Financials sector. Positioning ourselves into this sector helps to diversify our portfolio to ensure that we are not putting too much into the consumer discretionary sector. Due to interest rate hikes, we have seen many businesses in the financial sector elevate in revenues. The financial sector is also a great driver of a nation's economy; when the sector is strong, the economy grows, which puts financial businesses in a better position to manage risk. As the semester progresses, each fund manager will continue to monitor the performance of each sector as well. Understanding the direction of each sector invested in, major events, and more will give us a better understanding on where we see each business heading.

### **Risk Management:**

Risk management is one of the most important aspects of portfolio management. With this in mind, mitigating risk is a critical component of our investment strategy. As we chose equities to outperform the S&P 500 Index, we asked key questions about the risks each equity faced and how they affected the portfolio's overall risk. We took a deep look into the risk profiles of every equity purchased in Fall 2023. We will continue to consider the risks associated with individual equities and the overall portfolio when adding additional equities to the portfolio in Spring 2024. We have an extensive conversation about the risk of an investment after every pitch. Risk factors we consider are the risks associated with the firm, the risk of the industry, the risk of the industry

when aligned with our specific portfolio, and what macroeconomic factors may cause additional risk. These points can be defined as diversification risk, market risk, business model risk, industry risk, and capital structure risk.

Our current portfolio is allocated 64.17% to SPY ETF, 29.51% in the Consumer Discretionary sector, and 6.13% in the Financials sector. Currently, we are weighted heavily in consumer discretionary. Our goal for the spring semester is to invest in different sectors to improve our diversification and minimize risk. We will thoroughly research businesses that would fit well into our current portfolio and diversify further. Our allocation for specific equities ranges between 4% and 8%. Risk factors were considered heavily when deciding how large we would like to invest in certain equities. A large basis for this was the maturity and size of the companies. For example, we invested 8% in Hilton which is a large established business. However, we invested 4% into Stride because of its smaller size and less established business. We believe we can mitigate the risk of large swings in smaller-cap stocks by investing a smaller percentage of our overall portfolio. For the most part, our investment philosophy is to invest in large-cap companies that have proven they can withstand short-term risk factors.

All in all, we have learned that risk management plays a vital role in managing a portfolio. We have dealt with some trials and tribulations when dealing with diversification. Entering the new semester the team is going to focus heavily on managing risk with an emphasis on diversification.

### Conclusion

#### **Lessons Learned:**

Throughout our first semester in the Student Managed Fund, we have learned many valuable lessons that we will use throughout our careers. These lessons are not limited to hard skills related to investing strategy, but instead includes soft skills which we will undoubtedly leverage constantly. First, we learned how to find value in investment opportunities through discounted cash flow analysis. In doing so, we made reasonable assumptions based on intense research and projected free cash flows for several years into the future. Alongside our quantitative analysis, we learned how to effectively perform a qualitative analysis of a firm's business model, competitive landscape, risks and mitigants, and other relevant factors. Most importantly, we learned how to evaluate a company's long-term sustainability by considering how difficult it would be for a competitor to copy them and significantly hurt their stock's value.

We also gained invaluable soft skills that will translate to any career path we decide to pursue. While presenting our pitches to our team, we sharpened our communication skills by learning how to get our ideas across efficiently and in a manner in which an individual with little background knowledge can understand well. Similarly,

we learned how to professionally and coherently address questions or concerns to our team members following the pitch. We also greatly improved our time management skills, since brainstorming pitch ideas and creating a story can be time consuming. We figured out how to best manage our time throughout the pitch process from idea generation to model building to Q&A. Lastly, we honed our collaboration skills while pitching in teams of two. Creating a quality stock pitch is a complex task and we were able to develop much better ideas and pitches than we could have done on our own.

All in all, we learned valuable lessons and improved vital career-related skills that we will continue to develop and utilize throughout our professional lives.

### **Plans for the Spring:**

For the spring season, we plan to make strategic adjustments to our investment strategy. A significant portion of our portfolio is concentrated in the consumer discretionary sector. Thus, our primary objective for the spring semester is to branch out and explore opportunities in different sectors. This diversification approach not only reduces risk but also positions us to benefit from market trends and dynamics.

As we move forward, we are planning on increasing communication among fund managers. Team members will openly share thoughts and ideas with the group consistently. By communicating potential stock pitch ideas in advance, members researching ideas for stocks further down the pipeline will be able to explore different sectors proactively. Regular communication will play a crucial role in keeping all team managers informed about ongoing pitches, and help us diversify our investment portfolio.

We also plan to continue meeting in person after pitches. These post-pitch meetings allow team members to discuss and vote on potential stock investments. Every team manager has a voice in the decision-making process and contributes their perspective on each investment opportunity. These meetings will also provide an opportunity to evaluate existing investments. If the team observes significant movements in a stock's price, discussions about the potential sale of the stock will be discussed. This approach ensures that our portfolio remains dynamic and will respond to market conditions.