|  | General Market Results |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1st Quarter | YTD | One Year | Three Year | Five Year |
| CPI | $1.12 \%$ | $1.12 \%$ | $1.21 \%$ | $2.18 \%$ | $1.69 \%$ |
| Barclays Agg Bond | $-0.12 \%$ | $-0.12 \%$ | $3.77 \%$ | $5.52 \%$ | $5.47 \%$ |
| S\&P 500 | $10.61 \%$ | $10.61 \%$ | $13.95 \%$ | $12.67 \%$ | $5.81 \%$ |
| DJI | $11.93 \%$ | $11.93 \%$ | $13.37 \%$ | $13.32 \%$ | $6.50 \%$ |
| S\&P 400 | $13.45 \%$ | $13.45 \%$ | $17.83 \%$ | $15.12 \%$ | $9.85 \%$ |
| RuSsell 2000 | $12.39 \%$ | $12.39 \%$ | $16.30 \%$ | $13.45 \%$ | $8.24 \%$ |
| NASDAQ | $8.21 \%$ | $8.21 \%$ | $5.69 \%$ | $10.86 \%$ | $7.47 \%$ |
| MSCI EAFE | $5.25 \%$ | $5.25 \%$ | $11.81 \%$ | $5.50 \%$ | $-0.39 \%$ |
| MSCI EM | $-1.79 \%$ | $-1.79 \%$ | $2.08 \%$ | $3.51 \%$ | $1.35 \%$ |

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## First Quarter Report 2013



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thomas G. Twombly


We are pleased to provide you with our report for the period ending March 31, 2013.

We'd like to take this opportunit o thank all of ou clients and ou for your on-going confidence and trust in us, and for the loyalty you've shown us over the years. Our business has grown steadily, reaching new milestones as we welcome new clients to the fold, and as we continually work on improving our capacity to serve your best interests in the most effective and personal ways possible. It's gratifying to hear from new clients, as we have on a number of occasions in the last several months, that we come recommended above all else as people they can trust.
t's especially rewarding to realize that during the last five and a half years, a period that has now been marked by a all-time high in U.S. stock markets followed by the most gut-wrenching conomic contraction in eighty years, and how a return to another all-time high, hat more than $97 \%$ of the people who counted us as their advisors at the end of 2007 kept the faith, followed our advice, and maintained their disciplined financial plans. Compared to the experience of the industry as a whole, this is astounding. We thank you with all of our hearts for
that trust, and also for your continued recommendations to friends and colleagues. It is a pleasure to serve such great people, and we look forward to doing so for a long time to come.

We'venoticedaninterestingphenomenon in the last few months, one that speak to the mixture of hope and anxiety that people feel at regaining a previous peak in equity prices. We've received a numbe of calls and emails from people who were given our names a year or two ago but who, for whatever reason, couldn' bring themselves to contact us. Man had abandoned their long-term plan or liquidated their portfolios during the downturn, and now they feel compelled to engage someone to help get them back on track.
"The nominallevelof the SEP 500 isnowhere near as important as understanding the underlying data"

The anxiety they feel is shaped by the fact that after each of the previous two instances equity markets have reached these levels (March 24, 2000, when th S\&P peaked at 1527 , and October 9 2007 when it peaked again at 1565 we've seen frightening (albeit temporary) declines. With the S\&P 500 now reaching 1569 on March 31, 2013, they worry that pattern will repeat. Much is being been made in the press of the fact that markets have reached these levels. Some pundit say it's a sign of better things to come. Others warn of imminent danger. Mos don't appear to have any idea how to form an opinion.

For us, the search for an answer does not lie in the headline number. The nominal level of the S\&P 500 is nowhere near as important as understanding the underlying data, how it now compares to indices of other asset classes that constantly compete for investor dollars, particularly bonds, and how substantially all that data has changed. To wit:

At the peak in March of 2000, at 1527 the S\&P 500 had dizzying price to earnings ratio of 25.6 , one of the highest in history. That resulted in a paltry dividend yield of $1.1 \%$. Stock markets had just experienced one of the best ten-year periods in history, and people were drunk with optimism about the new millennium, do om companies, and the transformative power of the information age. By comparison, 10 -year U.S. Treasury onds were yielding $6.2 \%$. Competition for dollars was fierce.

At the next peak in October of 2007, at 1565 the P/E ratio of the S\&P 500 stood at a less lofty $\mathbf{1 5 . 2}$. The dividend yield had climbed to $1.8 \%$, but the giddiness then was not so much in the shares of great companies, for many speculators had since abandoned those assets in favor of leveraged real estate. However, that leverage had built to such levels that it threatened the entire global banking system, and by extension, all the world's financial markets. Importantly, the yield on the 10 -year Treasury still stood at $4.7 \%$, more than 2 $1 / 2$ times the yield of equities. Again, competition for a "safe" alternative was stout.

Now, at 1569 as of March 31st, the price to earnings ratio of the S\&P is a modest 13.8; close to half of where it stood in 2000 and lower by a good margin still than where it stood in October of 2007. Corporate balance sheets have been bolstered massively in the mean time, earnings yields are robust in spite of a tepid economy, and the dividend yield of the S\&P 500 is now $2.0 \%$ - almost twice what it was in 2000 Most importantly, however, the yield on the 10 year Treasury has since been driven below the yield on equities, and at this writing stands around $1.7 \%$. The world is anything but giddy. It is still quite cautious and investors as a whole have been selling stocks and pouring into bonds for six years...

The truth is that the inherent volatility of equities can never be eliminated, and that is as it should be Volatility is the price one pays for the opportunity
to earn the superior long-term returns that the ownership of great companies has always offered to the patient investor. So despite the recent highs given the full measure of the evidence, we believe that there is now much greater multi-year safety in owning great companies than there is in loaning to governments. And the long-term horizon is where prudent accumulators of wealth should always keep their focus.

Thank you for your confidence and trust
Thomas G. Twombly
President

## INVESTMENT COMMENTARY

In spite of on-going fiscal concerns in the United States, a continuing recession in Europe, and signs of slowing economic growth in the emerging markets the first quarter of 2013 saw most widely-followed equity indices produce impressive gains. In a reversa of what was experienced in the final quarter of 2012 U.S. stock markets jumped out to a strong lead. Small cap U.S. equities provided the strongest showing rising by $12.4 \%$ during the period, with noted strength coming from the Russell 2000 small-cap growth index. This was followed closely by the Dow Jone Industrial Average, which notched gains of $11.93 \%$ and by the S\&P 500, which provided gains of $10.61 \%$ for the period. REITs also had a strong showing rising by $8.1 \%$ for the quarter, followed by developed market international equities which turned in a very respectable $5.3 \%$ for the period.
Both domestic and international equity mutual funds experienced positive flows for the quarter, perhap reversing a long-term trend. While many pounced on this as an early indicator that the so-called "grea rotation" out of bonds and into stocks had finally begun we remain somewhat skeptical. It was interesting to note that the strongest flows occurred very early in the quarter, perhaps pointing to the possibility tha existing equity investors, who had sold appreciated assets late in 2012 to lock in low capital gains rate ahead of the end of the year and the so-called "fisca cliff", were simply re-deploying those assets once it turned out that the increase in tax rates was nowhere near as draconian as many had feared. While we believe that the long-term imbalance in flows between
equity and fixed income investments will eventually be corrected, we suspect it's going to be a much more gradual process that will demand patience, discipline, and a perspective that encompasses years as opposed to months.
Negatives for the quarter included our modest holdings in natural resources and commodities, as well as allocations to emerging market equities Slowing growth and concerns about rising inflation in emerging and concerns about rising iness that may last for a while Nevertheless, we believe the demographic outlook for the next couple of decades in these areas is so compelling, and the long-term debt to GDP ratios are so much healthier than those in much of the developed world that thoughtful investors should continue to maintain intelligent allocations to these sectors for a long time to come
Bond holdings too provided notably lower returns han equity positions for the quarter, though we were pleased to note that each of our select fixed income managers were among the leaders in their peer group, and succeeded in delivering positive results in an environment where core bonds as a whole declined. High yield bonds continue to attract new asset flows as strained income investors reach further out on the risk spectrum in a search for ever-shrinking yields. As an asset class, these debts of lower-rated companies rovided total returns of $2.9 \%$ for the quarter. In ontrast, higher-rated corporate bonds, Treasuries, contrast, higher-rated corporate bonds, Treasuries

Looking forward, we continue to maintain broad asset class diversification. While we're concerned about the long-term prospects of many fixed income nvestments, and have therefore kept allocations near their prescribed minimums, we're nevertheless reminded that any number of unforeseen events could roil financial markets in the short run. We believe all but the most aggressive investors are well-served to maintain a reasonable balance. North Korea, Iran, and many parts of the Middle East still represent threats to global geo-political stability, and trouble in those regions could certainly upset equity markets in the hort run.
With double-digit gains in equities last year, and with such a strong start to 2013 , it would not be unexpected to see stock markets consolidate for a period. Additionally, we're entering a seasonal period where equity markets have experienced declines in
each of the last several years. Nevertheless, a great dea of liquidity remains on the sidelines, and investor and CFOs seem increasingly in the mood to put it to work when opportunities present. Corporate cash as a percentage of current assets remains near historic highs, dividend payout ratios are increasing gradually from a historic low, and merger and acquisitions activity is increasing. While overall economic growt continues at a very slow pace, it is positive nonetheless, and we continue to feel optimistic about the future.
As always, please call us if you would like to discuss our perspective, or your particular situation

| Conservative Growth Model |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1st Quarter | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year |
| 5.72\% | 5.72\% | 6.53\% | 5.03\% | 2.31\% |
| Inception Date 06/03/1999 |  |  |  |  |
| Core Growth Model |  |  |  |  |
| 1st Quarter | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year |
| 5.31\% | 5.31\% | 6.68\% | 6.10\% | 2.86\% |
| Inception Date 05/31/2003 |  |  |  |  |
| Growth Model |  |  |  |  |
| 1st Quarter | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year |
| 5.44\% | 5.44\% | 5.62\% | 5.73\% | 2.93\% |
| Inception Date 10/16/1992 |  |  |  |  |
| Specialty Model |  |  |  |  |
| Diversified Growth Model |  |  |  |  |
| 1st Quarter | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year |
| 8.63\% | 8.63\% | 11.10\% | 8.56\% | 4.04\% |
| Inception Date 10/31/00 |  |  |  |  |
| Education Models |  |  |  |  |
| UT ORP |  |  |  |  |
| 1st Quarter | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year |
| 6.55\% | 6.55\% | 9.35\% | 6.93\% | 2.16\% |
| Inception 08/10/1999 |  |  |  |  |
| Retirement Growth |  |  |  |  |
| 1st Quarter | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year |
| 7.69\% | 7.69\% | 11.04\% | 8.17\% | 2.97\% |
| Inception Date 06/03/1999 |  |  |  |  |
| Growth \& Capital Preservation |  |  |  |  |
| 1st Quarter | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year |
| 4.41\% | 4.41\% | 5.77\% | 5.30\% | 3.49\% |
| Inception Date 11/30/2001 |  |  |  |  |

