



# BOWDEN INVESTMENT GROUP

## **Faculty Advisors:**

Dr. Brandy Hadley  
Mr. Shawn Poole,  
CPA

## **BIG Members:**

### **President**

[Cooper Bumgarner](#)

### **Vice President**

[Olivia Guillebeau](#)

### **Accountants**

[Sam Crouse](#)

[Sam King](#)

### **Economists**

[Donovan Arnold](#)

[Nkhosinathi Moyo](#)

### **Update Editors**

[Katie Cole](#)

[Sean James](#)

### **Annual Report Editor**

[Bradley Lovelace](#)

### **Industry Analysts**

[Karlee Lakin](#)

[Obi Ludwig](#)

[Zach Stowell](#)

For information about  
the Bowden Investment  
Group, please contact:

Dr. Brandy Hadley  
Hadleybe@appstate.edu  
(828) 262 6938

For more information  
on this update, contact:

Katie Cole  
colekg1@appstate.edu

Sean James  
jamesm2@appstate.edu

## *The Group's Farewell*

It is with heavy hearts, eternal gratitude, and excitement for the future, that we say a final farewell. This year has been anything but ordinary with welcoming Dr. Hadley as the new Bowden professor, to adjusting to pandemic guidelines to protect ourselves and others, and to learning how to fully analyze companies without management guidance as to what the future holds. Nonetheless, this has been a year of patience and learning.

Bowden has challenged us in ways we could never have imagined. These challenges ultimately led us to push ourselves to be the best we could be, helping us to develop a newfound confidence. Many members noted Bowden as the most rewarding experience of our college careers. We have learned to work alongside incredibly intelligent individuals and utilize our strengths and weaknesses to create a phenomenal team while expanding our individual knowledge and skillsets.

As seen in this [TikTok](#), our presentation skills began as far from exceptional. However, thanks to this experience, we have seen exponential improvement in our presentation skills through learning to build quality slide decks, minimizing the use of filler words, anticipating questions, and learning to have fun. We have also gained life-long market knowledge, financial analysis experience, and modeling skills. Beyond these hard skills, our group has attempted to make the best of our pandemic learning experience by actively engaging with the numerous guest speakers that shared their knowledge with our class. Learning to network virtually was unique and will contribute to our transition from college to full-time positions as most of us begin our careers working from home. We are proud to say that thanks to the guest speakers, mentors, and advisors, our Bowden experience has helped bridge the gap between education and the real world.

As to be expected, we have experienced numerous highs and lows throughout the year. Some notable learning opportunities included completing modeling assignments, understanding the importance of asking for help, overcoming anxiety and imposter syndrome, persevering no matter how tough things seem, and understanding advanced financial language and concepts. We are proud to say we have overcome these trials and learned from each opportunity. The joy and pride we each felt when we successfully balanced our models was well worth the numerous hours and the intense frustration. The opportunity to pitch stocks and see them impact the portfolio is certainly a highlight of our Bowden experience. Further, our lasting legacy through innovative accounting resources, updating the logo, creating a LinkedIn and Instagram page, winning the Quinnipiac G.A.M.E. competition, and making it to the CFA Global Final round will forever live in our Bowden memories. Finally, we set out to be the best Bowden class in the history of the program and we are proud of our efforts.

Our group managed to overcome the barriers presented by the pandemic and build friendships that will last a lifetime. It is hard to believe that a year ago, most of us only knew each other as a passing face in the hallway. We quickly took advantage of Zoom to begin developing relationships and leaning on one another as we began our summer course work for Bowden. Now we are able to enjoy golf-outings, group dinners, trips to the greenway, and hiking as we've learned to work together both in and out of the classroom. When asked to give a short message to each other for the purpose of this update, members said, "Thanks for being the best friends and teammates throughout this experience," "I couldn't have asked for a better Bowden experience, and I have each of you to thank for that," and "Thank you for being so encouraging, helpful, humorous, and caring to everyone." Words fail to do justice in addressing the gratitude felt and relationships built over the past year.

We are proud to represent Appalachian as Bowden Alumni moving forward. As we gain industry knowledge and skillsets, we hope to share our insights with future groups as mentors, guest speakers, and the 'BIG'gest supporters cheering on future groups. As for now, we would love to serve as navigators for next year's class as they learn the ins and outs of Bowden.

Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Hadley and Mr. Poole for the countless hours they dedicated to our education, well-being, and ensuring we are prepared for what is yet to come. This year had numerous bumps and barriers, but you both served as a light in the dark and successfully guided us to the end of our college experiences. Words will never truly express the gratitude we have for the two of you and our Bowden experience as a whole.

Without further adieu, we pass the portfolio on to the next group and with the turning of our tassels, we say, farewell.

## Get to Know the Members

For this month's "Get to Know the Members" spotlight, we are featuring Cooper Bumgarner, Katie Cole, Sam King, and Sean James.



### Cooper Bumgarner

My name is Cooper Bumgarner and this year I had the opportunity to serve as the President of the Bowden Investment Group. This experience has allowed me to learn and grow so much as a business professional and as a person. Starting in just a few weeks, I will be pursuing a Masters of Financial Planning at Liberty University and hope to start a career within the wealth management industry. I look forward to applying everything I have learned here at BIG in the master's program and beyond.



### Katie Cole

"My name is Katie Cole and I had the honor of serving as one of the BIG Update Editors alongside Sean James. Though I will be pursuing a career in Risk Management and Insurance as an Associate Broker at Aon post graduation, my experiences through Bowden have significantly diversified my knowledge base and skillset. I will always be grateful for the lifelong friendships this group has developed and our ability to laugh, joke, and disagree. As I leave Bowden, I hope that I have set a precedent to acknowledge our role in society through considering and investing in ESG companies."



### Sam King

"My name is Sam King and I serve as one of the two accountants for the Bowden Investment Group. I have loved my experience with BIG, getting to know all of my fellow analysts and enjoying our last year together. We have such a diverse cast of members with so many different skillsets. I have learned so many lessons through this experience that I can take away and apply to my personal and professional life. I look forward to graduating this May and taking on my new role at Vanguard as a Client Relationship Associate."



### Sean James

"Hello! My name is Sean James and I am preparing to graduate with degrees in Finance & Banking and Risk Management & Insurance. Upon graduation, I will join Bank of America Private Bank as a Wealth Management Analyst. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside Katie Cole and update all supporters on pertinent BIG news through the monthly update letters. I am also thankful for my experiences as a Broyhill Fellow in the CFA Research Challenge team. Go BIG!!"

### *Broyhill Fellows Go Global*

We would like to congratulate the CFA team for completing this year's competition as a Top 5 Global Team, Americas Champions, Southeast Champions, and North Carolina Champions.

## Welcoming the New BIG

With a record number of 24 applicants, conducting 22 interviews, and, finally, narrowing down the best of the best, we are proud to introduce the 2021-2022 BIG class. On the back row from left to right we welcome, Edward Crowther, Ryan Critcher, Eric Rhyne, and Devan Rigdon. The middle row: Zane Clark, Bennett Batten, Zack Marciniak, and Matt Ramundo. On the front row: Hailey Shoemith, Courtney Prevette, Brandy Crump, and Caroline Alba. These new members have already impressed advisors with their active participation in classes through engaging questions, comments, and knowledge of current holdings. We look forward to what this group will do in the next year.



## YTD Total Returns

BIF	12.52%
S&P 500	11.84%

## April Returns

Total Return: 5.29%

Ticker	Return
AAPL*	(2.61%)
ALGN	10.13%
AMRC	1.72%
AMZN*	12.07%
CRM*	(2.09%)
CVS*	1.56%
DG*	1.52%
FB*	10.37%
GOOGL*	14.11%
HD*	6.03%
LHX	3.23%
LMT*	2.99%
NKE	0.10%
RDS.B*	(2.77%)
SJM	3.10%
SYK*	7.82%
V*	10.31%
IVV*	5.29%
IWM*	1.79%

## Total BIF Value

\$309,581.21

For an up-to-date view of the BIF, [click here](#)

\*Stocks chosen to remain in the portfolio



**President**

Cooper Bumgarner  
**Pursuing a MBA**  
Liberty University



**Vice President**

Olivia Guillebeau  
**Bank of America**  
FMAP



**Accountant**

Sam Crouse  
**Bank of America**  
FMAP



**Accountant**

Sam King  
**Vanguard**  
Client Relationship Associate



**Economic Analyst**

Donovan Arnold  
**RSM US LLC.**  
Associate Anti Money  
Laundering and Regulatory



**Economic Analyst**

Nkhosinathi Moyo  
**Graduates Fall 2021**



**BIG Update Editor**

Katie Cole  
**Aon**  
Global Client Network  
Associate Broker



**BIG Update Editor**

Sean James  
**Bank of America**  
Wealth Management Analyst



**Annual Report Editor**

Bradley Lovelace  
**Nuveen**  
Leverage Finance Associate



**Industry Analyst**

Karlee Lakin  
**Reaching a Generation**  
**Ministry, South Africa**  
Finance Department Intern



**Industry Analyst**

Zach Stowell  
**Seeking Employment**



**Industry Analyst**

Obi Ludwig  
**Bank of America**  
Commercial Credit Analyst