



BOWDEN INVESTMENT GROUP

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[Jonathan Fogle](#)

Vice President and PR Manager

[Steven Testa](#)

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[McKenzie Shail](#)

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[Jimmy Said](#)
[Ian White](#)

Industry Analysts

[Luis Lopez-Bautista](#)
[Jackson Norwood](#)

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Letter From the President ~

We have had an exciting start to the year and are looking forward to the opportunities that the spring semester will bring. The group has been busy with multiple competitions, portfolio evaluation, recruitment, and planning for the rest of the semester.

Currently, we are studying risk-return relationships, correlations in the market, and Real Estate Investment Trusts. Understanding these topics has expanded our grasp of portfolio diversification, and we cannot wait to put this knowledge into practice. In addition, the group has researched, evaluated, and discussed the 2023 annual outlooks from several financial institutions as well as sector drivers and economic factors including inflation, labor market, credit, and housing data. As a result, we are further analyzing opportunities within consumer consumption and emerging markets as we develop our stock pitches. This is due, in part, to expected tailwinds from further reopening as COVID cases fall and travel & leisure continue to normalize to pre-pandemic levels.

As many of us are entering our last semester, we are looking back on the experiences, knowledge, and friendships gained through the BIG and the Walker College of Business. It has been an invaluable and life-changing journey, and we are ecstatic to see the further fantastic opportunities the future holds for all of us.

Thank you for your continued support of the Bowden Investment Group!

Jonathan Fogle



Spring Competitions

by David Price

Over the break, each BIG member put forth immense effort towards competing in an external competition. The CFA Institute Research Challenge team, Charlotte Rice, Jimmy Said, McKenzie Shail, and David Price (pictured bottom center), submitted its final analyst report to the CFA Institute in January after spending the winter break researching, developing a thesis, and perfecting a forecasting model for Kontoor Brands, Inc. (NYSE: KTB). It was recently announced that the Broyhill Fellows will go on to compete at the North Carolina Local Presentations in February. In addition, two BIG teams submitted slide decks to the University of Georgia's Stock Pitch Competition. Luis Lopez-Bautista, Morgan Scott, and Ian White (pictured bottom left) pitched Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (NASDAQ: AMD) while Noah DeLucia, Jonathan Fogle, Jackson Norwood, and Steven Testa (pictured bottom right) pitched Strum, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE: RGR). Unfortunately our teams' submissions were not selected for presentation, but the BIG is nonetheless incredibly proud of the hard work put forth. The teams will continue to research and analyze these companies for their spring analyst report assignments and other stock pitch competitions. Finally, a team of BIG representatives will also be traveling to participate and compete in the Quinnipiac GAME Forum in NYC later this spring. The BIG is grateful for each team's efforts in representing the Bowden Investment Group and Appalachian State University.



Annual Performance Analysis

By Accountants Charlotte Rice and McKenzie Shail

In 2022, the Bowden Investment Fund returned -11.10%, outperforming the benchmark (SP500TR, -18.11%) by 7.01% due to a defensive tilt. In favoring more stable investments, in the past year the fund bought: BLK, DFAT, KO, MLM, MSFT, and DIS; and sold: AAP, FB, HD, LMT, CRM, STLD, SYK, HEAR, XLF, and DIS. STLD was our best performer of 2022, earning 39.42% in January through March, when it was sold.

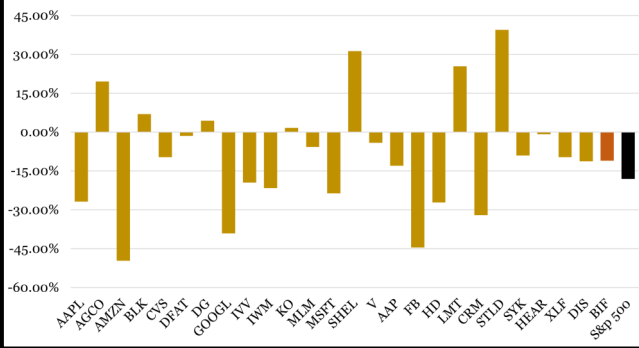
Our worst performer of 2022 was AMZN (-49.62%). This poor performance was driven by unexpected losses, slowed growth, and gloomy outlooks. The BIF outperformed the S&P 500 almost every month this year, only underperforming in March, July, and November.

While most sector returns were negative, the BIF's worst performing sector was Communication Services (-26.31%) with holdings in GOOGL, DFAT, IWM, and IVV, followed by Consumer Discretionary (-14.83%) with holdings in AMZN, DG, DIS, HEAR, DFAT, IWM, and IVV. However, our holdings in both of these sectors outperformed the respective S&P sector returns. The best performing sectors in the portfolio were Energy (+17.02%) with holdings in SHEL, DFAT, IWM, and IVV, followed by Industrials (+5.80%) with holdings in AGCO, DFAT, IWM, and IVV. These sectors were also the worst and best performing sectors in the S&P 500 with Communication Services down -37.63% and Energy up 64.17%. Our portfolio outperformed seven of the eleven sectors in the S&P 500, only underperforming in Healthcare (CVS), Energy (SHEL), Utilities (DFAT, IVV, and IWM), and Consumer Staples (KO).

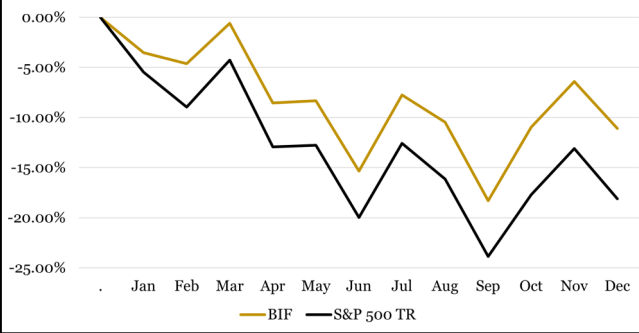
During 2022, we saw many active funds outperforming passive strategies which has been unusual for some time. With that being said, we were able to outperform many active managers in addition to our passive benchmark. According to MorningStar, the average loss for active growth funds was 30%. We see this with American Funds The Growth Fund of America, Fidelity Contrafund Fund, and BlackRock Large Cap Focus Growth Fund, which had returns of -30.72%, -28.26%, and -38.06%, respectively. In addition, we were able to outperform many blend funds as well, such as Strategic Advisers Fidelity U.S. Total Stock Fund, American Funds The Investment Company of America, & Vanguard PrimeCap Fund with returns of -17.95%, -15.51%, and -15.15%, respectively.

The current holdings and performance of the fund are the result of the research and investment decisions of multiple BIG classes with holdings dating back to 2011.

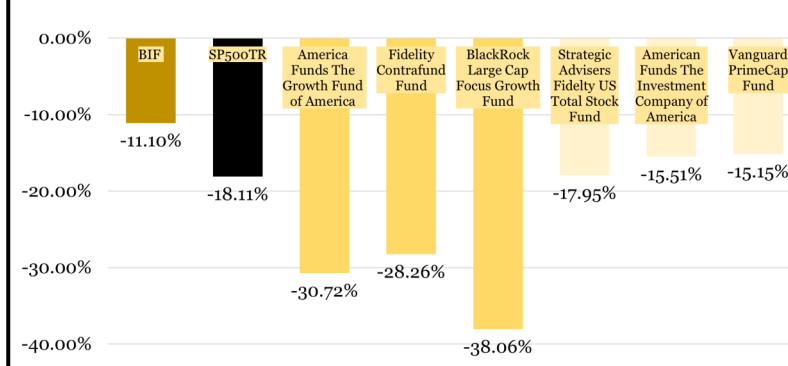
BIF 2022 % Returns



2022 Cumulative Returns



2022 BIF Returns vs. Benchmark & Large Actively Managed Funds



2022 Returns

BIF	(11.10%)
S&P 500	(18.11%)

January Returns

BIF	5.42%
S&P 500	6.28%

Individual Returns

Ticker	Return
AAPL	11.05%
AGCO	(0.40%)
AMZN	22.77%
BLK	7.14%
CVS	(5.33%)
DG	(5.14%)
GOOGL	12.03%
KO	(3.60%)
MLM	6.41%
MSFT	3.33%
SHEL	3.27%
V	10.81%
IVV	6.27%
DFAT	9.78%

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