

Bowden Investment Group

November 2023 Update

Letter From the President

Hello all,

It has been an exhilarating semester, and November was no different! The Bowden Investment Group actively participated in many guest speaker events, both attending and hosting, held our first recruitment event of the year, took part in firm visits and Finance & Banking alumni night in Charlotte, planned our ESG competition for the spring, and successfully submitted our security analyst reports and presented our pitches.

Beginning with our extensive list of guest speakers, the BIG proudly hosted Sam Kaufman, an Adjunct Professor and alumnus of Appalachian State who brought extensive networking tips, career advice, and many years of experience in debt capital markets with Wells Fargo. Next, the group was visited by Jonathan Allen, Financial Advisor and Owner of Allen Wealth Management. He taught the class about launching careers in wealth management and shared his thoughts on beginning our stories. Furthermore, the group welcomed Vice President Mitch Lutz and Investment Banking Associate Jonathan Josef from Bank of America in NYC, who shared the ins and outs of banking and gave invaluable career search advice. The group also had the incredible opportunity to visit Bank of America Private Bank, Broyhill Asset Management, and several proud FMAP analysts at Bank of America. Finally, the group was visited by Josh Jarrett, Director of Research for Morgan Stanley Investment Management, who provided insight into investment strategies and 'cheat codes' for success. The group is grateful to all of our guest speakers for taking time out of their busy schedules to join our class and offer invaluable advice.

At our first recruitment event of the year, we hosted 24 Walker College of Business students who wanted to learn more about the BIG. We were inspired by the number of students interested in the group, and we are very excited to receive applications in the spring. Furthermore, we are pleased to share that our group will host our inaugural ESG Stock Pitch Competition in the Spring. Our ESG Analysts have worked tirelessly to arrange this event, and I am very excited to see where this competition can go. Finally, the group submitted our security analysis reports and presented our valuations and recommendations on Reading Day. A BIG thank you to Dr. Goff and Mr. Bailey for judging our presentations and providing thoughtful feedback. After careful examination, we are happy to announce that we have added FLEX, MP, and PENN to the portfolio.

As we end the fall semester, reflecting on the substantial growth of the BIG members has been incredibly rewarding. As always, we are very grateful for our supporters and wish everyone a very hAPPY New Year!

Corbin Lammers



Faculty Advisors:

Dr. Brandy Hadley
Mr. Shawn Poole, CPA

BIG Members:

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[Victor Tovar](#)

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[Derek Mahato](#)
[Hudson Smith](#)

Industry Analysts

[Parker Sciolino](#)
[Luciano Zito](#)

ESG Analysts

[Reece Fisher](#)
[Brianna Gilmore](#)



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Sector Analysis

Our latest comprehensive industry analysis delved into identifying sectors that we believe warrant an overweight position compared to our benchmark. Following extensive research and analysis, we've pinpointed Information Technology, Communication Services, Healthcare, and Energy as sectors holding the most promising earnings potential for our portfolio. Our investigation into these industries unveiled compelling catalysts driving growth. In Information Technology, the surge in demand for AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity stands out as particularly exciting. Meanwhile, Communication Services showcase immense potential through the rising consumption of streaming services and digital content. Healthcare boasts a convergence of factors, including an aging population, advancements in medical technology, and a promising revenue compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.4% projected through 2027. Lastly, the allure of Energy stems from technological strides alongside increasing demand for renewable energy sources. Based on our findings, we recommended a buy strategy for ETFs or equities that bolster our exposure within these highlighted industries. This strategic guidance aims to further align our portfolio with the sectors exhibiting strong growth potential and promising catalysts for the future.

-Luciano Zito and Parker Sciolino, Industry Analysts

ESG Stock Pitch Competition

The Bowden Investment Group will host its first Online ESG Stock Pitch Competition this year. The stock pitch competition will follow a similar design to those the group has competed in and attended. Each team from various schools and student-managed investment funds will submit a slide deck detailing their stock pitch, emphasizing the ESG analysis. The top three teams will be selected to move on to the final round after being systematically graded by the BIG. This round will consist of an online competition held on Zoom with a guest speaker and three judges. The three teams will face off for cash prizes, which we are currently working to acquire. We are still seeking three judges to help make the first year of this competition a success. The online competition will take place on April 5th at 2pm EST over Zoom. The judges will be asked to watch each team's 10-minute presentation and ask questions during the 10 minutes allotted for Q&A. We ask any interested Bowden supporters to contact us to learn more about supporting this competition. We look forward to the outstanding engagement this will provide for the Bowden Investment Group, the Walker College of Business, and Appalachian State University.

-Reece Fisher and Brianna Gilmore, ESG Analysts

Nov. Returns

BIF	8.63%
S&P 500	9.13%
AAPL	11.23%
AMD	23.01%
AMZN	9.77%
BLK	22.69%
CVS	-1.54%
DE	-0.26%
DEO	-8.42%
DFAT	8.67%
FHN	18.98%
GD	2.35%
HON	6.91%
IVV	9.16%
KO	3.45%
LVMUY	5.92%
MSFT	12.07%
PM	4.71%
SHEL	1.01%
TSLA	19.54%
ULTA	11.72%
VWO	7.09%

YTD Returns

BIF	8.39%
S&P 500	20.80%

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

Final Stock Pitches

Our semester of hard work and research culminated in our final stock pitches. We had the pleasure of presenting in front of our class, and guest judges Dr. Goff and Bowden Alumnus Nick Bailey. After our presentations and the following discussion, we met for voting at our final Bowden meeting of the semester. We are pleased to announce that we have added FLEX, MP, and PENN to the portfolio. FLEX is the third largest electronics manufacturer in the world, producing OEM and custom electronics for companies such as AAPL and Bose. While its growth is poised to continue based on the Internet of Things, we also believe in its solar segment, NextTracker. MP Materials owns and operates North America's sole rare earth mine and refinery. We see growth for MP as it begins its own refinement of rare earth and moves away from China and towards domestic customers. Penn Entertainment, Inc. is an American entertainment company and operator of casino gambling. We believe that PENN is undervalued due to its recent failure with Barstool Sports and will soon see its reputation recover after creating a successful sports book with ESPN. After making our buy decisions, we decided to sell out of DFAT due to its large weighting in Industrials and Financial Services. The sale of DFAT covered our new securities as well as the purchase of a new ETF, IWM, which tracks the Russell 2000. We chose this ETF because we believe there will be a transfer of funds into small-cap from the massive large-cap driven rally. We believe that our new picks will further our portfolios' performance and fuel the BIF to outperform our benchmark.

Member Spotlight



[Derek Mahato](#)

My name is Derek Mahato. I am from Raleigh, North Carolina and I am a Finance & Banking major. This summer, alongside our coursework for Bowden, I completed an internship at Bank of America where I will begin a full time position after graduation. I had the opportunity to work within the Treasury Data Management department and gained valuable experience with data analysis. So far in the Bowden Investment Group, I have been surprised and impressed by the collaboration between the students and the insights from the professors. In the future, potential careers I would love to gain experience in are analyzing equities for a mutual fund, managing my own fund, or identifying potential companies to acquire as a private equity or venture capital fund partner.



[Ashley Meacham](#)

My name is Ashley Meacham. I am from Gorham, Maine and my majors are Accounting and Finance & Banking. This summer, I was able to participate in an internship where I assisted the accounting department at Linville Golf Club. I also completed the Survey of Investments class. So far, I have been surprised by the individual growth and responsibility that the BIG requires. While our faculty advisors are readily available to guide us, they encourage us to work individually or in groups with each other to complete assignments, conduct research and, overall, get as much as we can from being a member of this group. I am interested in entering the career field of public accounting, and I will be participating in an audit internship next summer at PYA.



[Hudson Smith](#)

Hello everyone! My name is Hudson Smith, I am a Finance & Banking major. Over the summer, I worked for BofA in its FMAP program where I worked on the Global Loan Portfolio Management team analyzing a \$300 billion loan portfolio. This experience was very valuable as I was able to understand the corporate work environment of a bank. More recently, I have continued working on my blockchain technology startup, Chainify. Within this role, I manage all company finances, payroll, and lead our equity fundraising campaign as we look to raise our seed round within the next two quarters. After graduation, I am interested in private equity, venture capital, investment banking, trading, and corporate finance in a startup environment as I believe all these fields line up with my skill set.

Charlotte Firm Visits and Alumni Night

On November 30th, we had the incredible experience of traveling to Charlotte for firm visits and a networking event. We began our visits at Broyhill Asset Management. The CFA team arrived early to meet with Chris Pavese, their Industry Mentor. They gained excellent guidance that will enable them to further their research of Nucor Corporation. The rest of the class then joined the team at Broyhill, where we met with Mr. Pavese and Bowden Alum Olivia Guillebeau. We talked more about the fund's structure and how family offices function and were surprised to learn that the Broyhill team prefers to include a limited number of securities in its portfolio to conduct a more thorough analysis of their securities. This method of investing in select undervalued stocks was unique from other firms we have visited and inspired us in our in-depth analysis of our pitches.

After leaving Broyhill, we were hosted by BIG Alumnus Sean James at the Bank of America Private Bank. Sean graciously introduced us to several senior members of his team who talked to us about the utmost importance of relationships in their roles. We heard from individuals in portfolio, trust, and relationship management. It was surprising how often managers act as psychologists for their clients.

We also had the privilege of visiting Bank of America to speak with current employees of the FMAP program, where BIG alumnus Ryan Critcher hosted us. This experience was especially invaluable for our members who will be joining the program as they were able to ask questions about what to expect after graduation.

Finally, we ended the day with a Finance & Banking Alumni Gathering at Dimensional Fund Advisors. We were excited to connect and meet with many successful Bowden alumni, especially as we seek advice for our career searches. This experience allowed us to explore opportunities after graduation as we continue to learn from members who have come before us.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BOWDEN INVESTMENT GROUP OR THIS UPDATE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Dr. Brandy Hadley: Hadleybe@appstate.edu, (828)-262-6938
Mr. Shawn Poole: Pooles@appstate.edu

Maximus Pavone: Pavonemv@appstate.edu
Aaron Atwell: Atwellar2@appstate.edu

