

Big Update: **October 2019**



Bowden **Investment** Group

Faculty Advisors:

Dr. Delbert Goff
Mr. Shawn Poole, CPA

BIG Members:

President

James Cornett

Vice President

Nathan Hughes

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Jacob Wiley

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Letter From the President—

Hello,

October has been a month of change in Boone. The leaves are changing, the temperature is dropping, and Appalachian State's football team has climbed into the top 25. However, what has stood out the most has been the notable growth in our group's professional development. This growth was shown during our meetings in New York and continues to shine through our current presentations, and in-class assignments.

In the middle of the month, the BIG traveled to New York and met with seven financial firms: Evercore ISI, BlackRock, Tiger Management, Credit Suisse, VanEck Securities, Bank of America, and Goldman Sachs. These companies were terrific hosts and presented the group with real-world examples of how what we learn in class is applied in the financial industry. The trip was a great learning experience and allowed the group to bond and build deep relationships outside of the classroom.

The portfolio has continued to outpace the benchmark (S&P 500) and is currently outperforming the market by 4.24% YTD (as of 10/31/2019). Our holdings have remained unchanged in October, despite many constructive debates. Over the coming months, we expect to alter the portfolio per our economic outlook and industry-specific forecasts. We are excited about the opportunity to continue this strong performance through the end of the year.

Lastly, thank you all for your continued support of the Bowden Investment Group. Your contributions have helped Dr. Goff and Mr. Poole provide us with a life-changing experience.

Sincerely,

James

October Highlights

BIG at Liberty Island



BIG at Blackrock in NYC



BIG In The Big Apple

This month the BIG journeyed to New York City - The City That Never Sleeps - to meet industry professionals, network, and grow our bonds as a group. We had the opportunity to visit some of the biggest names in finance: Evercore ISI, BlackRock, Tiger Global Management, VanEck Securities, Bank of America, and Goldman Sachs. We also would like to thank Bart Bartholomew and Mathew Snitkey from Credit Suisse for coming to the loft to speak to us about career opportunities.

We kicked off our first visit with Evercore ISI, one of the streets top ranked independent research firms. Here, we caught a glimpse of their morning strategic meeting and spent some time learning about research, sales, and trading. Following, we visited BlackRock, who manages nearly \$6.9 trillion worth of assets, making them the largest asset manager in the world. During this experience, they ran our portfolio through their Aladdin software, which is an in-house developed program designed to expose portfolio weak points and problem areas. This provided us with powerful insights to consider as we move forward with portfolio decisions. BIG thanks to Stan Shipley from Evercore ISI and Blake Spivey from BlackRock for hosting us.

After plenty of NY eats, and some restful sleep, we headed over to VanEck Securities where we were welcomed by Parker Johnson, an AppState alumni. Here, we discussed roles in VanEck and life and career advice. Next, we stopped by Bank of America and Goldman Sachs where we learned about career opportunities and passed around CFA stories and tips. Special thanks to all the BIG Alumni, Alan Clarke, Ethan Foster, Eric McTeir, Madeline Hamiter, and John Miller, for hosting this year's BIG.

Overall, this trip had many takeaways for all of our members. We are all excited to take what we've learned and apply it the only way we know how...

GO BIG!



YTD Returns

BIF	27.42%
S&P 500	23.18%

October Returns

Ticker	Return
AYI	-7.42%
AMZN	2.35%
FB	7.62%
GOOGL	3.08%
LH	-1.92%
NVDA	15.48%
SO	1.44%
SHOP	0.61%
STZ	-8.18%
SYK	-0.01%
V	3.98%
WM	-2.43%
GLD	2.56%
IAT	2.06%
IVV	2.16%

Total BIF Value

\$179,132.74

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

Meet the Members

Tanner McCandless

Tanner is a Finance & Banking major, graduating in May 2020. This summer, he was an underwriting intern in Richmond, VA for James River Insurance Company. Tanner is one of BIG's monthly update editors. He enjoys contributing to this role because he feels that "it is rewarding to see his work become published to a larger audience." Upon graduation, Tanner is seeking a Full-time position in a rotational program,

where he can explore the available opportunities in finance and gain a better vision of where he fits. His favorite part of being in BIG is the immense networking opportunities and being a leader among his peers. He believes that his experiences at Appalachian and BIG have well prepared him for the professional world.

Ana Melone

Ana Melone is a Finance & Banking Major planning to graduate in May of 2020. She is an Industry Analyst and a member of this year's CFA team. This past summer, Ana travelled to Denver, CO and San Antonio, TX to compete in a national competition for Financial Analysis and Decision Making, where she placed 2nd! Along with her involvement in BIG, Ana is also a part of Phi Beta Lambda, a business student professional organization. Ana is especially excited for the opportunity to gain

more insight into the role of an equity analyst and present her findings with this year's CFA team. BIG has quickly become Ana's favorite student organization, and she is excited to continue strengthening relationships with the BIG network.

