UIC FINANCIAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 10, January 27, 2008

DJIA 12207.17 ▲ 0.9% **NASDAQ** 2340.02 ▼ 0.6% **NIKKEI** 13629.16 ▼ 1.7%

OIL $90.71 ▼ $1.98 **10-YR TREASURY** 105 20/32 ▲ 17/32, yield 3.56% **EURO** $1.4670

Top Stories

- Fed slashes key rate to 3.5% - the biggest cut in nearly 24 years
- Paulson pushes Senate to act on economic package
- Meg Whitman to step down as eBay CEO
- French Bank Societe Generale slammed by $7 Billion fraud

Market Summary

Monday 01/21/08

Martin Luther King Day—US Markets Closed

Tuesday 01/22/08

Before the start of trading on Tuesday, the Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate by 75 basis points to 3.5% following Monday's global sell-off in an attempt to calm markets. The move, which came before the central bank's formal meeting next week, marked the largest cut in the federal funds rate in more than twenty years, and was key in pushing equities above their low for the session. The emergency rate cut followed Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's plea for congress to enact an economic stimulus plan. Dismal earnings from Bank of America did little to help settle the markets, as all three of the major indices still closed in the red.

Wednesday 01/23/08

Following five straight down days, U.S. stocks staged a striking comeback on Wednesday. Stocks recovered after posting a heavy drop in mid-morning trading. News that troubled bond insurers AMBAC and MBIA might benefit from a proposed rescue plan sparked the rally. Apple and Motorola, however, both issued disappointing guidance fueling further worries about a slowdown in consumer spending leading up to a recession.

Thursday 01/24/08

Stocks managed to extend their gains on Thursday following new jobless claims data that showed businesses are not entering into recessionary mode. Meanwhile, news of a revised fiscal stimulus package was viewed in a favorable manner, even though it was criticized just a few days earlier. EBay reported earnings that beat expectations, but also announced the departure of CEO Meg Whitman and issued cautious guidance sending the stock down nearly 7% in after-hours trading. Both AT&T and Nokia both reported favorable earnings citing strong wireless and broadband sales.

Friday 01/25/08

Led by a strong earnings report and reassuring outlook from Microsoft the market opened higher, but finish noticeably lower ahead of a number of significant events next week, including President Bush's State of the Union address, the regularly scheduled FOMC meeting, and the January employment report. A report alleging a rogue trader at Societe Generale was responsible for $7.2 billion in losses surfaced, offering an explanation for the sharp sell-off in European equity markets on Monday.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at: kwanchoo@cmu.edu or tar@andrew.cmu.edu
*To sign-up for our d-list and get the newsletter e-mailed to you each week, visit: http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/uic

Upcoming Events

UIC Board Meetings
4:30pm Every Tuesday
UC Alumni Lounge

The Board of UIC meets every Tuesday at 4:30pm. Everyone is welcome to drop in and participate. Join us sometime and give us your opinion regarding the decisions that impact UIC.

The Week in Quotes

"The sheer scale of the loss is overpowering"

-Robert Peston, BBC business editor, on the "exceptional fraud" of a Paris-based trader who cost the French bank Société Générale nearly $7.2 billion

"I'm going to power down a little bit"

-Meg Whitman, on relinquishing day-to-day control at eBay, ahead of her departure as CEO in March

"Even if the total surpasses Germany, China is still a developing country"

-Xie Fuzhan, chief of China's National Statistics Bureau, playing down speculation over whether the country had overtaken Germany as the world's third-largest economy. Growth in China hit 11.4% over the past year

"This has easily been the toughest environment since I've been CEO"

-Ken Lewis of Bank of America, after the U.S. Federal Reserve announced plans to ease interest rates Tuesday

"What you see is not a panic of the public. This is a panic of the sophisticated"

-James Sinclair, a U.S. gold trader and financial website publisher, on tumbling stock markets

Preparing for an Interview...

By Krishan Wanchoo

The BIGGEST mistake you can make in an interview is not being fully prepared. Here are some tips to help prepare you for your next interview:

General Prep:
- Self-assessment: Initial preparation requires recent assessment of skills, talents, interests, strengths, weaknesses, work values, and accomplishments.
- Update Resume: Make sure the resume is accomplishment based. Remove any irrelevant material. Be absolutely certain its error free.

Specific Interview Prep:
- Research: Research, research, research. Use all possible means to learn as much about the company and position. Access websites, books, journals, magazines, newspapers… anything you can get your hands on. Also, check out this site to learn what's happening now with the company and its competitors: www.bizjournals.com
- Use Alumni: Use your alumni network to the best advantage. Contact any alumni who work for the company to learn about the interview and hiring process as well as the corporate culture and career paths.
- Review Resume: Review your resume thoroughly and make sure you know everything that is on it. Be prepared to discuss supplemental experiences that might be important to the employer. Use a job interview prep sheet to focus on experiences you feel are most relevant (see below).

Practicing typical interview questions:
- Why are you interested in this field?
- Why are you interested in this company?
- Why are you interested in this position?

Be prepared to discuss (if applicable):
- Your greatest weakness
- Your lack of related experience
- Your low GPA
- Your lack of leadership experiences

Job Interview Prep Sheet

Position Requirements	Your Qualifications and Experience	Your "Stories"
Example: Ability to work well with others	*Example:* Leadership activities on-campus	*Example:* Coordinated volunteers to produce on-campus event (Fill in with details to illustrate your results and accomplishments.)

There is no one way to prepare for an interview. There are specific and important strategies to enhance your chances for interview success. Every interview is a learning experience, so learning that takes place during the preparation. The interview process is very useful for improving your self for future interviews. Hope this helped… best of luck with interviews!

"My short-term goal is to bluff my way through this job interview. My long-term goal is to invent a time machine so I can come back and change everything I've said so far."

By Dylan Ozmore

The Hedge Fund Series
Part 2 – The Richest

A hedge fund is an aggressively managed portfolio of investments that uses advanced investment strategies in both domestic and international markets with the goal of generating high returns. Hedge funds are open to a limited number of investors and require a very large initial minimum investment that is locked in for at least a year.

1. **George Soros** - Soros Fund Management, $8.8 billion
Known as the man who "broke the Bank of England", got the name by selling short $10 billion worth of pounds and when the Bank of England was forced to devalue the pound, Soros reaped a one day profit of $1 billion. Soros, 77, was born in Hungary and is best known for founding his hedge fund's flagship Quantum Fund, which returned 3,365% during the ten years it operated (average of 42.5%). He's made headlines recently for his political activism.

2. **Steve Cohen** - SAC Capital Partners, $6.8 Billion
In 1978 after graduating from the Wharton School, Cohen was a junior options trader at Gruntal & Co. He reportedly made $8,000 for the company his first day on the job. Six years later he was running his own trading group at the Gruntal and by 1992 he struck out on his own starting SAC with $25 million. Today, the firm has $12 billion under management and known across Wall Street as one of the most secretive and best run hedge funds in the world.

3. **James Simons** – Renaissance Technologies, $5.5 Billion
After going to MIT for math as an undergraduate, Simons, somewhat a prodigy, received his PhD from UC-Berkeley in math in 1962 at the age of 23. He then taught at MIT and Harvard, before going into research at the Institute for Defense Analyses. He became chair of the math department at SUNY-Stony Brook in 1968 and then in 1978 he left to found his hedge fund, Renaissance. He has become one of the most respected fund managers of all-time utilizing primarily quantitative strategies.

4. **Edward Lampert** – ESL Investments, $4.5 Billion
Lampert, who has been dubbed the next Warren Buffet, graduated from Yale in 1984 with an economics degree. Afterwards, he worked at Goldman Sachs in the risk arbitrage department. He left to form ESL in April of 1988. Lampert is best known for being instrumental in the buyout of Sears by Kmart and the formation of the Sears Holding Corp. of which he is Chairman. The acquisition made Lampert a billionaire and an automatic legend on Wall Street.

5. **Ray Dalio** – Bridgewater Associates, $4.0 Billion
Dalio studied finance at Long Island University and then went to work for Merrill Lynch in 1972 in their commodities division. A year later, he went back to get his M.B.A. at Harvard. After graduating, he traded futures for a brokerage firm and then founded his money management and hedge fund Bridgewater in 1975. Assets under management are over $165 billion, $30 billion of which is invested in their hedge fund. Dalio constantly asks young employees to critique upper-level management.