

121 High Street Boston, Massachusetts 02110 Telephone (617) 951-1365 polariscapital.com

This composite commentary is provided as part of our historical archive and not intended for current marketing or advertising use. The entirety of the respective quarterly commentary will be available on the ensuing pages. Should you have questions/concerns, please contact Polaris Capital via our <u>website</u> or call the office directly. For more information, <u>Contact Our Team</u>.

Additional data specific to Polaris' global and international investments is available as follows:

For current global equity performance, please click here

For current international equity performance, please click here

For current global equity performance commentary, <u>please click here</u>
For current international equity performance commentary, <u>please click here</u>



POLARIS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC 125 Summer Street, 14th Floor – Boston, MA 02110 617-951-1365 or info@polariscapital.com

Information presented is supplemental to the annual disclosure presentation. For composite performance and a fully compliant presentation, visit: www.polariscapital.com/

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY COMPOSITE REPORT

	2011				Annualized as of September 30, 2011							
	YTD	QIII	QII	QI	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	15 Yrs	20 Yrs	Since 6/30/1984	
Polaris Capital International Equity Composite gross	-16.53%	-20.92%	0.84%	4.66%	-8.15%	5.21%	-1.97%	12.36%	8.69%	9.55%	11.61%	
Polaris Capital International Equity Composite net	-16.96%	-21.06%	0.68%	4.48%	-8.77%	4.49%	-2.63%	11.51%	7.86%	8.71%	10.70%	
International Equity Benchmarks		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		
MSCLEAFE Index, gross dividends reinvested	-14 62%	-18 95%	1 83%	3 45%	-8 94%	-0.66%	-3 00%	5 48%	3 67%	4 86%	10 14%	

Q3 2011 composite returns are preliminary pending the third-party audit. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

The international portfolios underperformed the benchmark for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. Global markets declined, attributable to the Standard & Poor's U.S. credit downgrade and European sovereign debt crisis. Concerns were partially alleviated by the Federal Reserve's vow to keep interest rates "exceptionally low" until at least mid-2013, and by hopes that the Fed will take further stimulus steps to bolster the economy. Nevertheless, nervous investor behavior continued to depress the markets, producing fundamentally-strong companies with good free cash flow and management teams that reached extraordinarily compelling stock prices - ripe for a deep value manager like Polaris.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Defensive sectors such as consumer staples and utilities held up well while cyclical sectors suffered due to the uncertain prospects for a global economic recovery. Cooler heads must prevail and portfolio strategy remains consistent. A few points worth mentioning:

1. The investment strategy seeks to "derisk" the portfolio

Not surprisingly, economically-sensitive sectors declined most in the quarter as reflected in portfolio performance of financials, materials and industrials. Finnish construction services company YIT was down on concerns about margin erosion, as cost inflation may be outpacing the company's ability to raise prices. Italy's foundation and drilling services company, Trevi Finanziaria, was negatively affected by European debt issues and concerns over the effect of Middle East unrest on commercial operations in the region.

In materials, Irish paper-based packaging maker Smurfit Kappa Group Plc suffered from higher recycled paper costs; we expect price hikes enacted earlier this year will be reflected in improved margins in the next six months. Slowing consumer demand and higher raw material prices pressured profitability at German perfume oils and food flavorings producer Symrise AG. Chemical companies BASF SE and Solvay SA expressed caution about second half growth.

2. In a turbulent environment, defensive holdings frequently outperform economically-sensitive sectors.

Cash accumulated from sales of cyclical companies was deployed to purchase new and boost current "defensive" positions. In particular, Japanese brewery Asahi Group Holdings Ltd., dairy company Meiji Holdings Co Ltd. and frozen food purveyor/cold storage operator Nichirei Corp. all turned in solid positive performances. Hong Kong water utility Guangdong Investment Ltd. was up strongly in a down market. Such industries proved fairly impervious to recent market volatility, as food and water remain basic necessities.

3. Don't flee from depressed but fundamentally sound holdings.

Few of the portfolio's companies suffered any fundamental deterioration or substantial changes in cash flows; yet holdings declined similarly to the sector returns. One discernible example was the portfolio's financial holdings, which detracted from better returns, yet to a lesser degree than the benchmark's financials. Stock prices declined, largely due concerns about the European banking crisis. This held true for the portfolio holdings, with KBC Groep declining on higher provisions and DNB Nor falling with Nordic peers even though it is one of the best Nordic performers over the last three months.

4. Cash is king

Rather than predict volatile macro-economic conditions, we continue to seek out companies we believe are able to weather economic downturns. We carefully assess the fundamental strengths of individual holdings, noting that the outlook for many of the portfolio companies' cash flows is promising.

Take for example, healthcare company Transgene SA, which is a €240M market cap company sitting on nearly €140M in cash and potential milestone payments of €700M. Consider also the recent purchase of Deutsche Telekom. The U.S. Department of Justice is now suing to block AT&T's proposed takeover of Deutsche Telekom's cellular unit, T-Mobile USA, on antitrust concerns -- which caused the stock to drop. However, Deutsche Telekom stands to earn a termination fee of at least \$3 billion from AT&T, equivalent to 5.5% of its market value, if the \$39 billion sale of T-Mobile USA falls through. The company is committed to returning substantial cash to shareholders over the next several years.

CURRENT ASSET ALLOCATION

During the September quarter, we sold two industrials as they reached their valuation limits, on positive news of takeovers. Germany's Demag Cranes is to be acquired by Terex, a U.S. construction equipment maker. German engine maker Tognum AG agreed to a joint takeover bid from Rolls-Royce Group Plc and Daimler AG at an attractive multiple. Some of the accumulated cash was deployed to an existing holding, Greencore, which raised cash to complete a merger.

The following table shows the asset allocation for a representative international portfolio as of September 30, 2011.

	MSCI		Representative International Portfolio											
	EAFE Weight	Portfolio Weight	Energy	Utilities	Materials	Industrials	Consumer Discretionary	Consumer Staples	Health Care	Financials	Information Technology	Telecom. Services	Cash	
N. America	0.00%	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Japan	23.09%	18.01%	0.00%	1.65%	2.57%	3.26%	0.00%	8.04%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.48%	0.00%	
Other Asia	12.99%	11.80%	1.41%	0.99%	1.93%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.86%	3.83%	1.79%	0.00%	
Europe & Mide	58.28%	39.78%	1.69%	0.00%	9.63%	2.31%	10.77%	2.14%	4.34%	5.33%	1.62%	1.93%	0.00%	
Scandinavia	5.64%	14.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.19%	2.42%	0.00%	0.00%	7.07%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Africa & South	0.00%	3.48%	2.16%	0.00%	1.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Cash	0.00%	10.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.29%	
Portfolio Totals		100.00%	5.26%	2.64%	17.42%	10.77%	13.18%	10.19%	4.34%	14.26%	5.46%	6.20%	10.29%	

Table may not cross foot due to rounding.

INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGY

Economic uncertainty prevails, with varied levels of growth and activity worldwide. We anticipate some negative periods; in fact, we are in one such period currently. However, we are able to capitalize on volatility, buying fundamentally strong stocks that are undervalued. Today, we have nearly 1,900 global companies on our screens, which points to extraordinary values in the market.

The majority of the portfolio's holdings weathered the recession without undue difficulty. Due to the recession, many of the portfolio companies underwent restructuring, streamlining business units and creating efficiencies, upon which even slow sales growth generates increases in cash flows. Many also became vigilant in spotting and addressing any short- or long-term potential problems. As a result, we feel even more confident today that the portfolio's holdings can withstand any minor downturn in the near future.

However, we can't ignore considerable investor apprehension about future recessions, mainly hinged on European banking issues. When the European sovereign debt and banking problems are resolved, and the world moves beyond the current concerns, we expect valuations to return to more normalized levels -- offering the potential for good portfolio returns.

As always, we welcome questions, comments and referrals.

FOOTNOTES

The information presented is supplemental. It should not be considered as a recommendation to purchase or sell a particular security mentioned, may change at any time and may not represent current or future investments. References to individual securities throughout this document are intended to illustrate contributors to recent performance or market trends and to provide examples of thematic or security-specific catalysts identified by the investment team as part of its investment process. References to specific securities should not be viewed as representative of an entire portfolio, nor should the performance of any particular security be viewed as representative of the performance experienced by any other security or portfolio. Please refer to the annual disclosure presentation. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The MSCI EAFE Index, gross dividends reinvested measures the performance of a diverse range of non-U.S. stock markets in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East. The MSCI EAFE Index measures the performance of stock markets in these geographic areas including reinvestment of gross dividends.