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Financial Services Review

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From the Editor

This issue contains **Issue 3 of Volume 23** of *Financial Services Review (FSR)*. I would like to thank the board and members of the Academy of Financial Services for their continued support. I continue to work in broadening the scope of articles, while still focusing on individual financial management and personal financial planning. I encourage authors to reach out when discussing implications of their findings in a more comprehensive way. As such, all articles in the Journal more appropriately relate to financial planning issues.

The lead article "WHAT DETERMINES RISK TOLERANCE?" is coauthored by Michael Guillemette at the University of Missouri and David Nanigian at The American College. In this article, the authors investigate what drives risk tolerance as it directly influences the portfolio allocation preference of clients. Analyzing average monthly scores from a widely used risk tolerance questionnaire, they find that habit formation, loss aversion, and sentiment proxies account for -1.06%, 38.51% and 13.21% of the variation in average monthly risk tolerance, respectively. They also find that habit formation did not account for additional variation in average monthly risk tolerance when controlling for loss aversion and sentiment.

The second article "Structured Certificates of Deposit: Introduction and Valuation," is coauthored by Geng Deng, Tim Dulaney, Tim Husson, and Craig McCann, all with the Securities Litigation and Consulting Group, In this paper, the authors examine the properties and valuation of market-linked certificates of deposit (structured CDs). They review the market for structured CDs and provide valuations for several common product types. They find significant mispricing of several common types of structured CDs across multiple issuers, which is similar in magnitude to the well-documented mispricing in the structured products market. In particular, they estimate that structured CDs are typically worth approximately 93% of the value of a contemporaneously issued fixed-rate CD. These results suggest that un-sophisticated investors may not understand the value, risks, and subtleties of these seemingly conservative investments.

The third article, "Using the New Portability Election of Deceased Spouses: A pedagogical example" is coauthored by De'Arno De'Armond, Darlene Pulliam, and Robin Patterson, all at West Texas A&M University. The authors investigate the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. The Act contains a provision which will allow the unused portion of a decedent's exclusion (taxable estate protected by the unified credit) to be used upon the subsequent death of the surviving spouse. The portability election is simple for situations where it appears the surviving spouse will not

remarry, however, it becomes much more complicated if the surviving spouse should remarry. The authors provide an interesting explanation, along with examples and an Excel application model developed for use in the academic environment.

The fourth article, "Does active management work? Evidence from equity sector funds" by Crystal Y. Lin at Eastern Illinois University, In this research, the author presents evidence that equity sector mutual funds, the nine Fidelity Select Portfolios, have provided better after-expense returns against broader market ETF, SPY, and their peer sector ETFs, the nine Select Sector SPDR Funds, over the sample period 1999 -2010. Not only do they achieve higher nominal returns over the twelve years, some of the funds also generate higher risk-adjusted returns measured by Sharpe Ratio and alpha from various asset pricing models. None of the sector mutual funds generates a significant negative alpha for the sample period for all asset pricing models.

The final article, "Investor Profiles: Meaningful Differences in Women's Use of Investment Advice," by Kathryn Simms at Old Dominion University. U.S. women face numerous financial challenges, they typically earn less than men do; they have greater probabilities of living in poverty; and they need substantial retirement funds, given their average longevity. The author investigates how women use investment advice to remedy these challenges. This article fills the gap in the literature by evaluating two profiles of female investors through cluster analysis and logistic regression conducted on a large, nationally representative database. She finds that predictors of female investors seeking investment advice vary considerably across profiles.

I would like to send a special thank you to the many reviewers that have significantly contributed to the quality of our journal by providing timely and thorough reviews of the submissions to our journal. Thanks to those who make the journal possible, especially the referees and contributing authors.

Please consider submission to the Financial Services Review and rely on the style information provided to ease readability and streamline the review process. The Journal welcomes articles over the range of areas that comprise personal financial planning. While FSR articles are certainly diverse in terms of topic, data, and method, they are focused in terms of motivation. FSR exists to produce research that addresses issues that matter to individuals. I remain committed to the goal of making Financial Services Review the best academic journal in individual financial management and personal financial planning.

Best regards, Stuart Michelson Editor *Financial Services Review*