# PERSI CONVENTIONAL INVESTING

## Simple

- Rely primarily on public markets as traditionally defined
- 70/30 for 4%-5% real returns

## • Transparent –

- Primarily liquid daily priced public securities
- Standard institutional private equity and real estate

## Focused

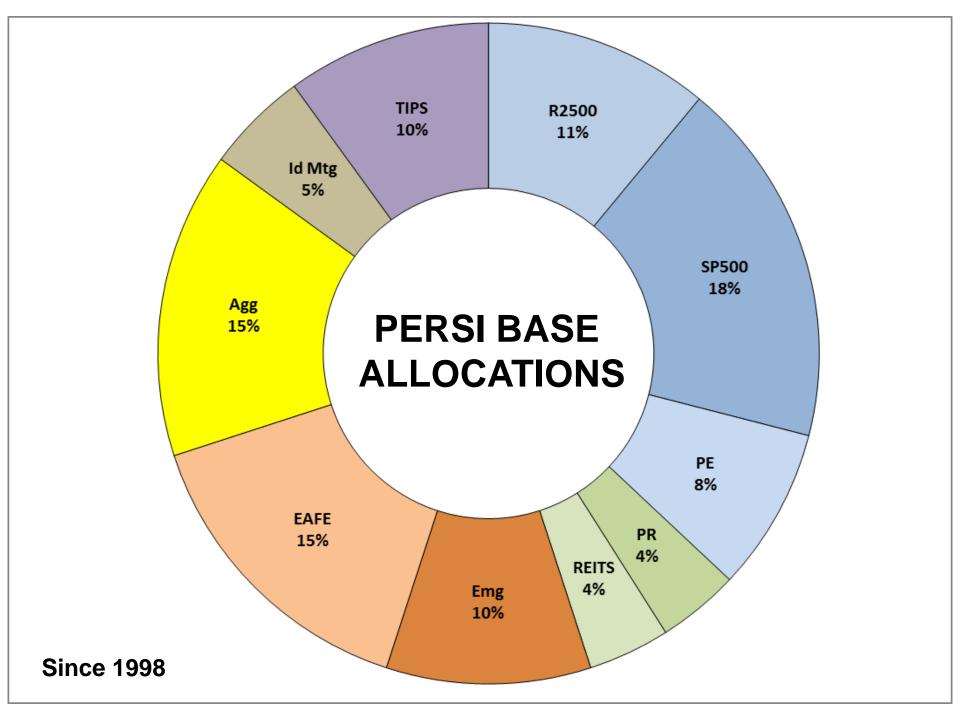
- 10 traditional asset types
- Patient (5-10 Year Time Horizon)
  - Recognize markets are abnormal in nearer term
- Well established and easily explained tradition
- Produces Long Term Returns Equal to or Better than Alternative Approaches (e.g. Endowment Model)



# **PORTFOLIO DECISIONS**

- Determine Basic Equity/Fixed Split
  - 70/30 FOR 3%-5% REAL RETURNS
- Home Country Bias
  - US BIAS
- Additional Diversification and Other Changes
  - 10 Traditional Asset Types
- Monitor Drift and Rebalancing
- Active/Passive Management Impact
  - 50% Indexed, 35% Traditional Active, 15% Private

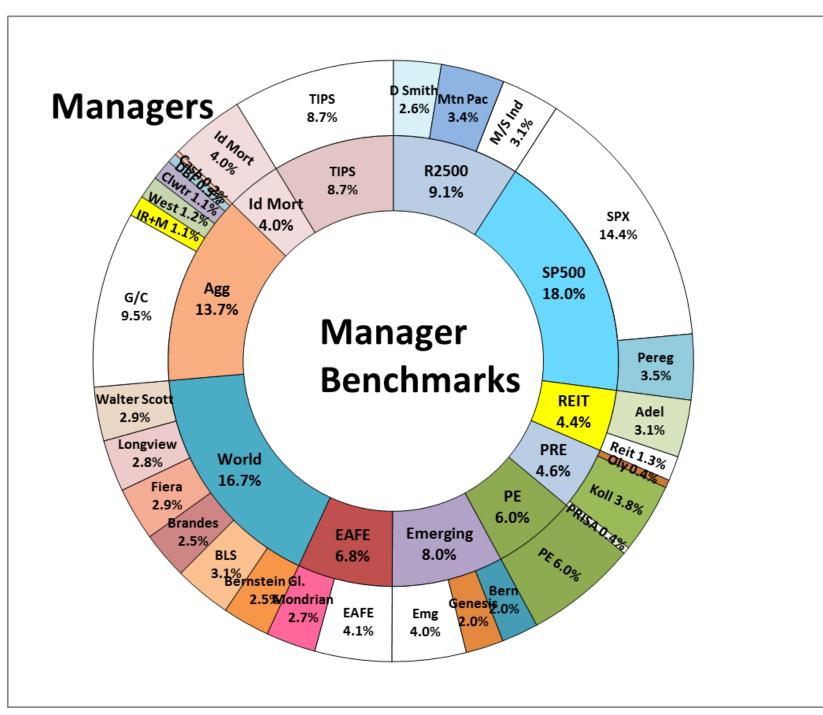




# Managers

- Core Passive 50%
  - Basic Exposure
  - Cost Control
  - Risk Control, Rebalancing, Easy Transitions
- Active Public Managers 35% Private -15%
  - Clear Styles or Concentrated Portfolios
    - No "Black Boxes"
  - No "Nine Box" Structures
  - "No Whining" Rule
    - Control Cash through Drift
    - "Guidelines" are Manager Expectations in Normal Times
  - Concentrated Relationships
    - Public 18
    - Private -22
    - Real Estate 2

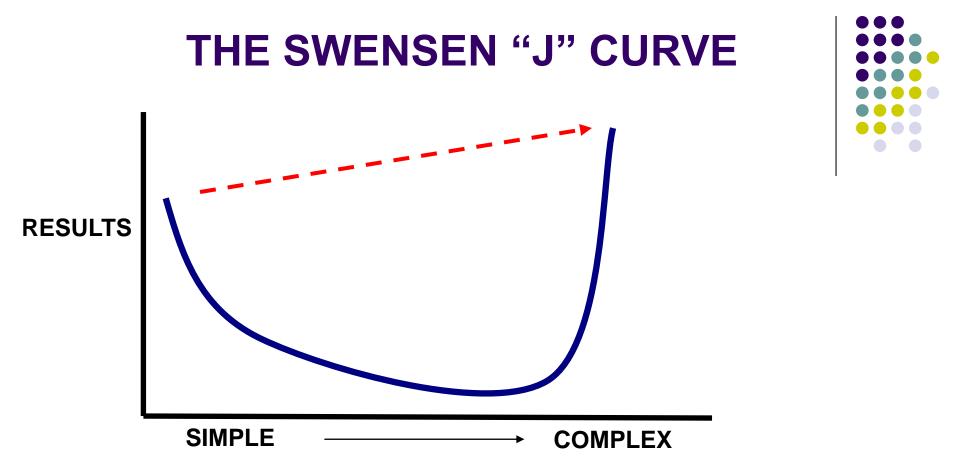




# WHY CONVENTIONAL FOR PERSI?

- Conservative Return Needs
  - PERSI only needs market returns 7.0% Nominal 4.0% Real
  - No evidence complexity adds to returns
- Resource Constraints
  - Small staff and public five member Board
  - In-house budget appropriated
  - All actions public
- Control
  - Simpler the portfolio, easier to monitor and operate
- Other
  - Easier to explain with well-understood concepts
  - Inexpensive (< 30 Basis Points)</li>
  - Constituency has accepted through crises has shown patience
  - Past was a mess: 1992 60% funded, bottom of peer universe
  - Competitive Returns, both in normal and crisis periods

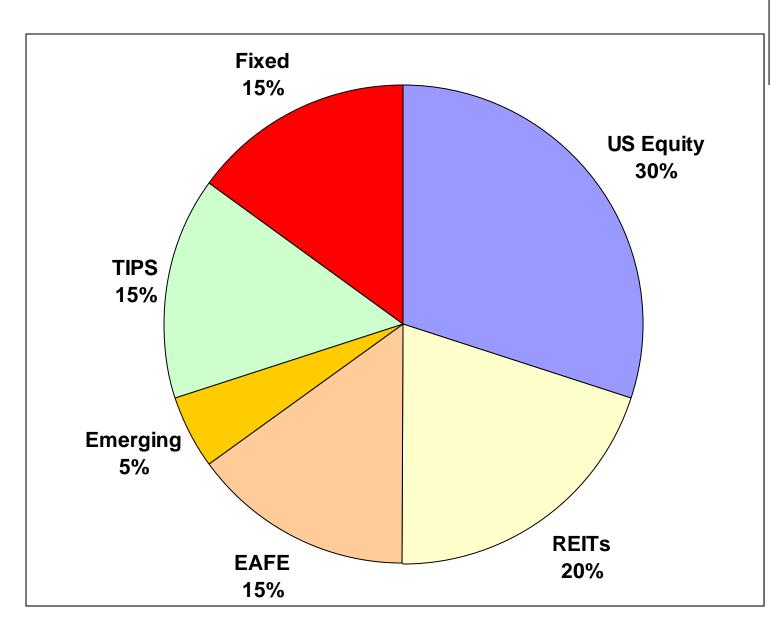




"Few institutions and even fewer individuals exhibit the ability and commit the resources to produce risk-adjusted excess returns. . . . No middle ground exists. Low-cost passive strategies suit the overwhelming number of individual and institutional investors without the time, resources, and ability to make high-quality active management decisions. The framework of the Yale model applies to only a small number of investors with the resources and temperament to pursue the grail of risk-adjusted excess returns."

Dr. David Swensen The Yale Endowment 2013 Annual Report at p. 15 (emphasis added)

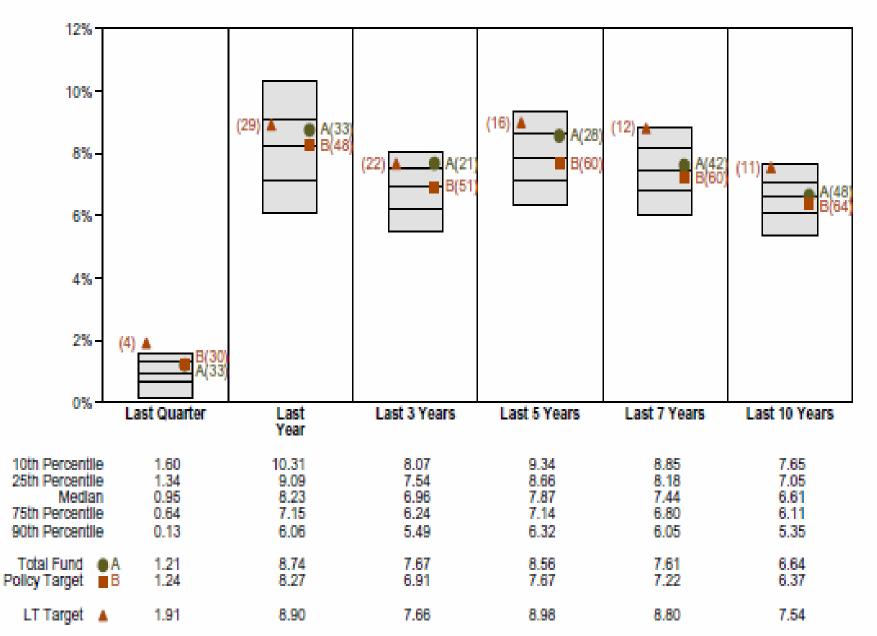
### DAVID SWENSEN <u>UNCONVENTIONAL SUCCESS</u>: A FUNDAMENTAL APPROACH TO PERSONAL INVESTMENT, Free Press, 2005



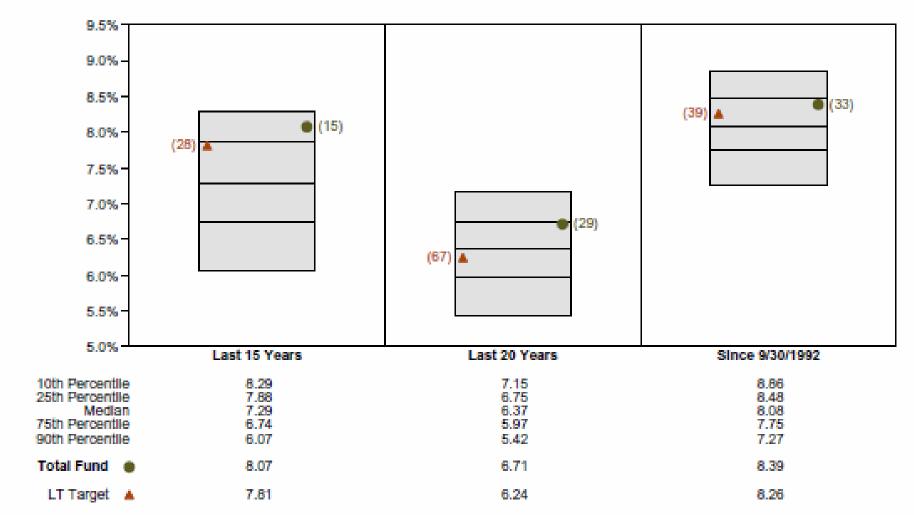


### June 30, 2018

### Performance vs Callan Public Fund Sponsor Database (Gross)



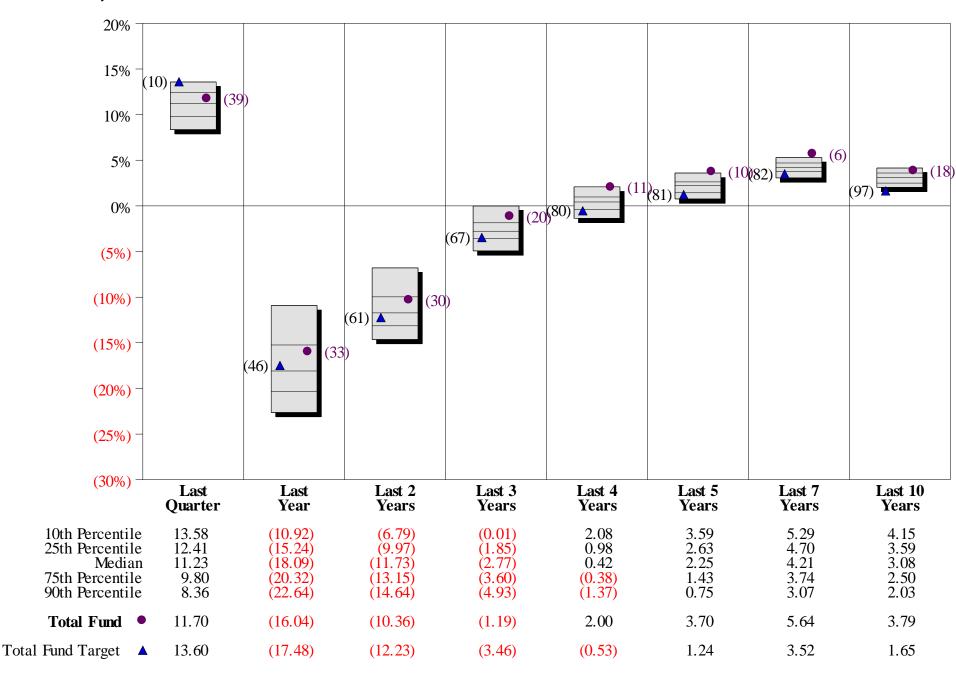
### June 30, 2018



#### Performance vs Callan Public Fund Sponsor Database (Gross)

June 30, 2009

Performance vs CAI Public Fund Sponsor Database



## SWENSEN PEER RANKINGS Total Funds: Foundations and Endowments BNY Mellon Universe – June 30, 2012 (236 Funds)

	1 Yr	2Y	3Y	4Y	5Y	7Y	10Y
Return % <i>Yal</i> e	<b>4.1</b> 4.7	<b>13.7</b> 13.0	<b>15.9</b> 11.6	<b>5.0</b> 1.2	<b>2.9</b> 1.8	<mark>6.1</mark> 8.1	<b>8.0</b> 10.6
Median	0.2	9.4	10.6	2.4	1.5	5.1	6.6
Rank (1 Highest)	7	2	1	5	16	22	15
Yale	6	5	15	73	43	4	1

ENDING June 30, 2014

ENDING December 31, 2013

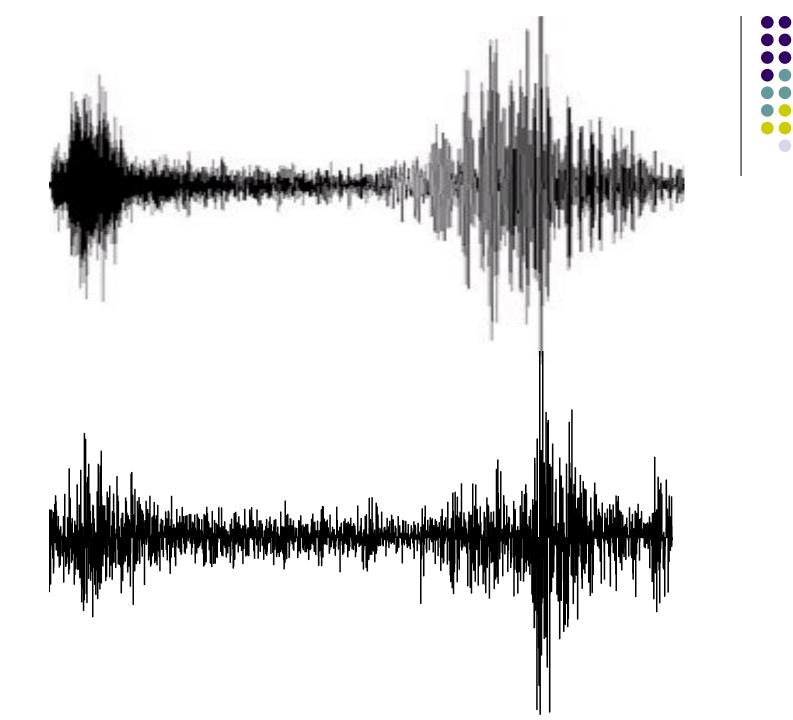
ENDING March 31, 2014

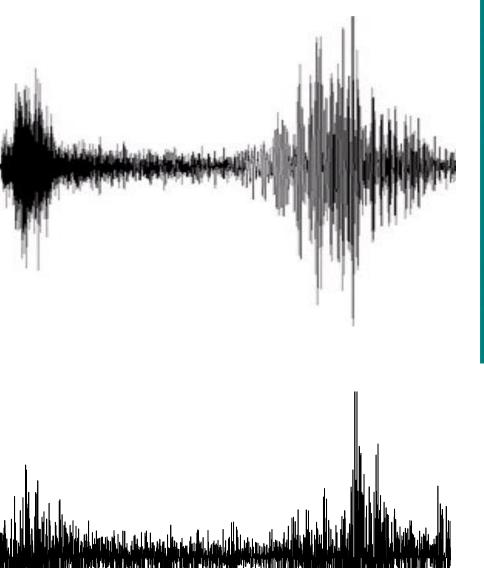
FUNDS	5 Year		5 Year		5 Year
Swensen	14.7%	New Zealand	16.2%	Swensen	17.3%
Columbia	14.2%	Swensen	15.5%	Median PF	14.5%
Princeton	14.0%	Median PF	12.6%	CalPERS (net)	13.0%
Yale	13.5%	Ontario Teach	12.4%	GIC	12.4%
Notre Dame	13.2%	Norway	12.0%	Aust Fut Fund	11.2%
MIT	13.2%	APFC	11.2%	PSP	11.0%
Median PF	13.1%	CalPERS (net)	10.9%	CPPIP	10.0%
Stanford	13.1%	Temasek	10.9%	BC	9.4%
Dartmouth	13.0%	Caisse Depot	10.0%		
Penn	12.8%	Alberta	8.8%		
Chicago	12.6%	OMERS	8.4%		
CalPERS	12.5%	KIC	8.3%		
Cornell	11.7%	ATP	7.5%		
Harvard	11.6%				
Brown	11.5%				

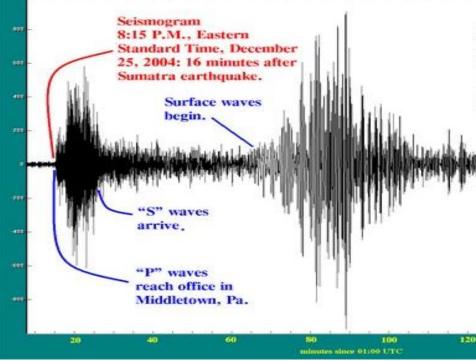
## PROBLEMS WITH STANDARD APPROACH: EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION <u>NEED PATIENCE</u>

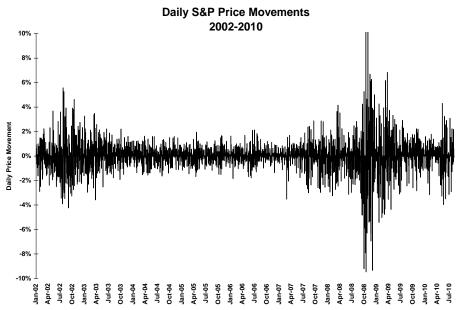
- Need to wait 5-20 years for results
- Dependent on "Equity Risk" and Return
  - Must accept short term roller coaster volatility
- Abandon quest for higher than market returns
  - The Vegas Effect
- Boring
  - Harder to do nothing rather than something "CNBC disease"
- Assumptions do not apply in shorter term (1-4 Years)
  - Markets not efficient or rational
  - Prices are not random in "coin tossing sense"
  - Risk often not related to return
  - Diversification no protection in crisis: just equities, government bonds, and cash
  - Problem of complex markets and complex adaptive systems in near term:
    - Mandelbrot and Hudson, The (Mis)Behavior of Markets, (Basic Books 2004)
    - Phillip Ball, Critical Mass (Farrer, Strauss and Giroux 2004)
    - Nassim Taleb, The Black Swan (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed) (Random House 2007)

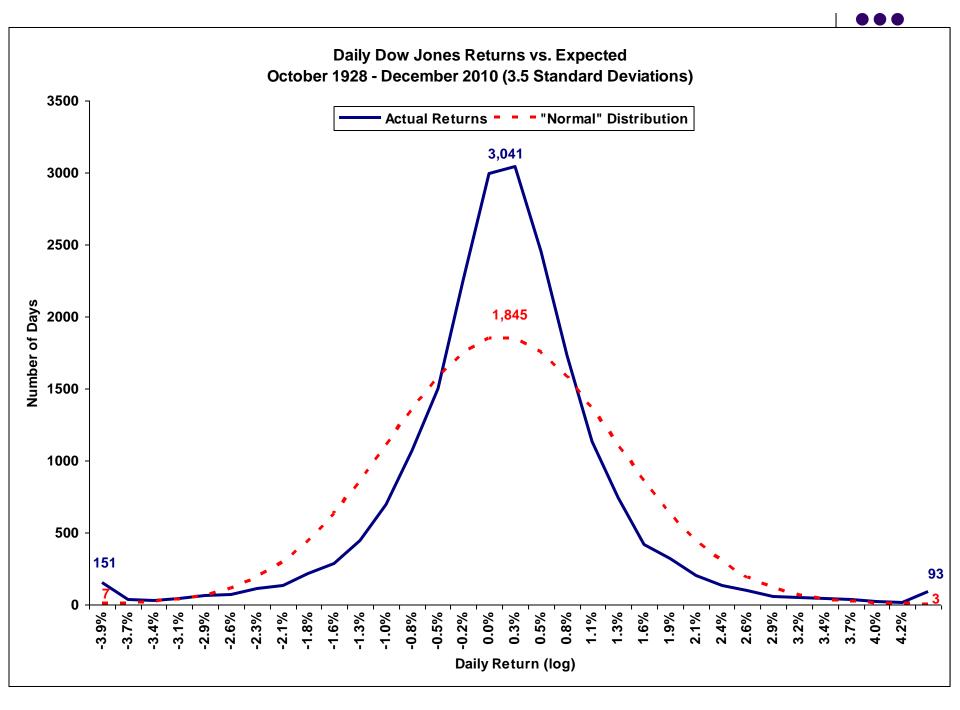


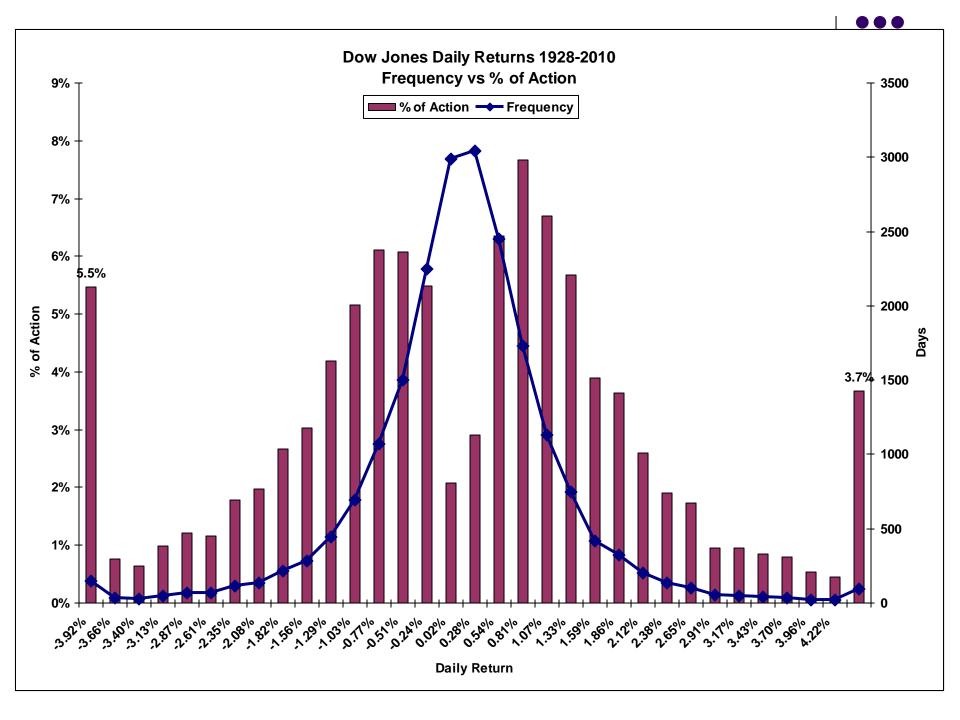


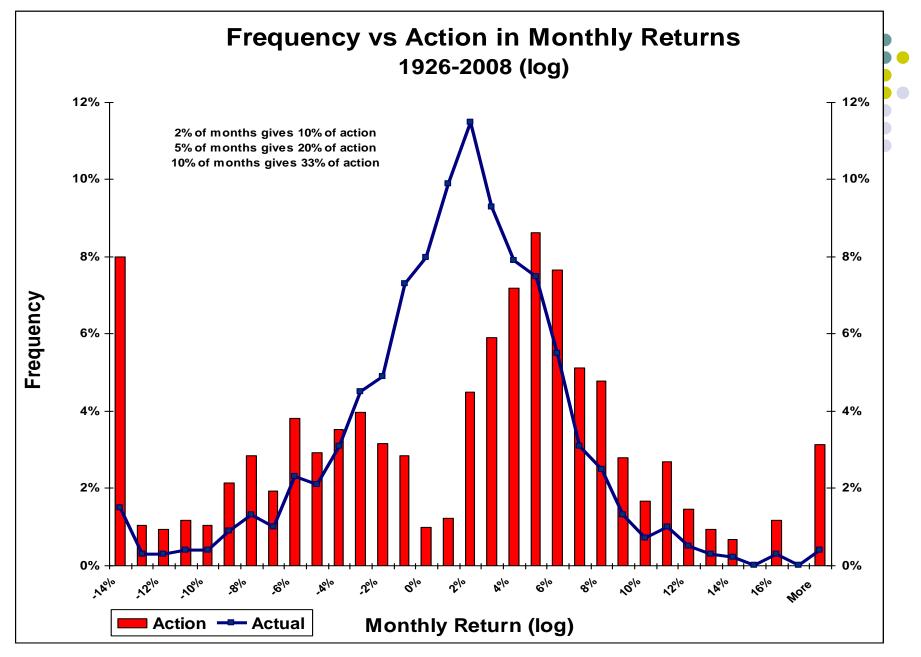




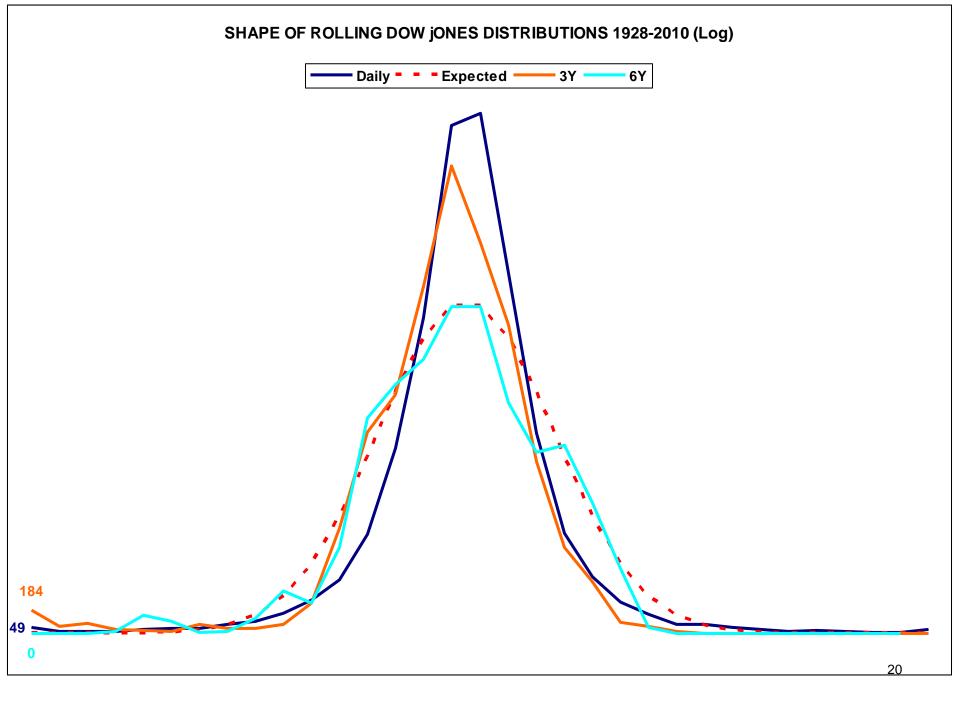








Source: Actual returns from Ibbotson's *Stocks, Bonds Bills and Inflation,* as of 12/31/08. Expected returns generated randomly using Ibbotson data. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.





### **APPENDIX I**

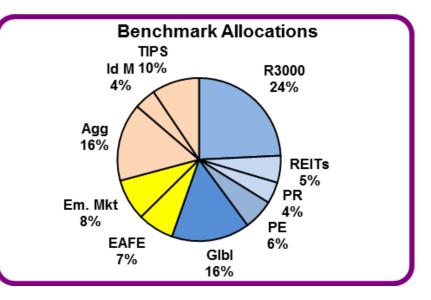
# REBALANCING

# **DRIFT AND REBALANCING**

# • Drift



- Equity Bias for Long Term Return and Cash Reinvestment
- Occasional rather than Strict Rebalancing
  - Non-Linear Benefits from "Free Lunch"
  - Macro Consistency/ Active Management Issue
    - Everyone can't do a mean reversion strategy at once
  - Benefits only in 10-30 year period
    - Longer Periods (30+ years) should never rebalance: stocks should become main asset
    - 40 basis points a year over 10 years, not consistently
  - Needs to be monitored





		Month	3 MO	FYTD	1 Yr	2 Yr	3 Yr	4 Yr	5 Yr
Total Fund		1.8%	3.7%	12.1%	12.8%	6.0%	6.1%	7.8%	9.1%
No rebalancing		1.4%	3.0%	12.7%	12.7%	5.9%	6.4%	8.4%	10.7%
	<b>a a )</b>	4 40/	2 00/	40 40/	40 00/	C 00/	C C0/	0.00/	40.00/
Benchmark (55-15-	-30)	1.4%	3.0%	12.4%	12.6%	6.2%	6.6%	8.6%	10.8%
PERSI rebalancing	J	1.4%	3.0%	13.1%	13.3%	6.4%	6.9%	9.0%	11.1%

### MAY 31, 2017



**APPENDIX II** 

# THE ALTERNATIVES

## ENDOWMENT MODEL RISK BASED PORTFOLIOS RISK BUDGETING RISK PARITY RISK FACTORS



"Kristopher "Kip" McDaniel, Editor-in-Chief and EVP, aiCIO; Ken Frier, CIO, UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust; Eugene Podkaminer, Vice President, Capital Markets Research Group, Callan Associates; and Andrew Ang Columbia Business School share a hearty laugh over the poor souls still using the asset class model."

Picture and Caption aiCIO Alert 12/16/2013 (emphasis added)

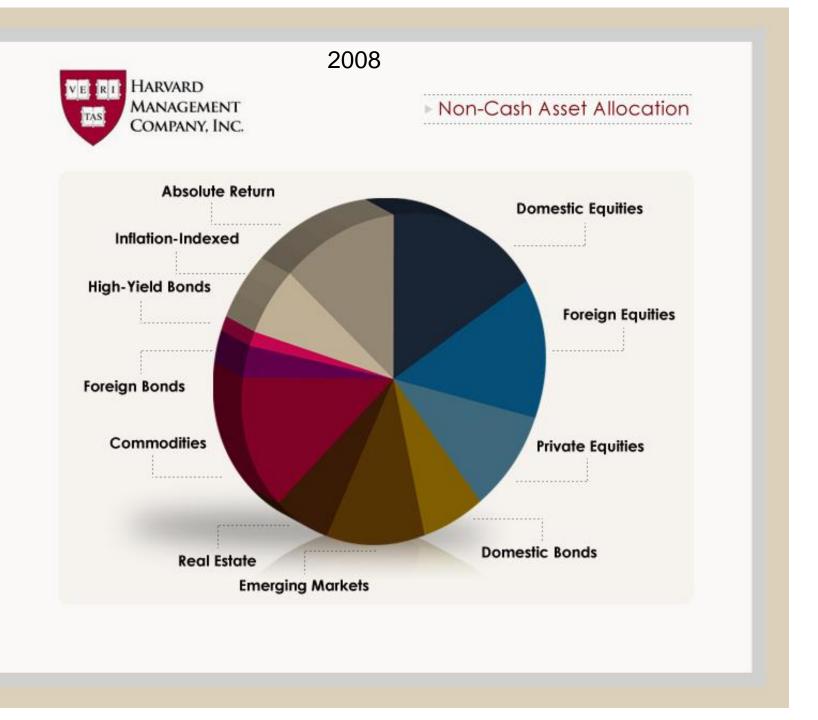


# The "Endowment Model"

- Reduces Exposures to Public Securities
  - Few Investment Grade Bonds, Reduced Public Equities
  - Discourages "Buy and Hold" Public Securities

### Reliance on Intense Active Management

- Hedge Fund, Opportunistic Investment
- Greater Investment in Private and Illiquid Vehicles
- Belief in Commodities and other non-traditional assets (Timber, Infrastructure) as "real return" asset types
- Often re-structures the fund into investment factors rather than asset classes
  - Separation of "beta" (market) and "alpha" (manager skill)
  - Inflation, credit exposure, interest rates, special opportunities
- Attempts to Manage through a Crisis
  - Changing allocations for "new" investment environment
  - Delay or soften rebalancing to await calmer times



## Example: ENDOWMENT MODEL FAILED STRESS TEST OF 2008-2009 Conventional Investing Passed

#### More volatile than simple portfolios

- Extra "diversification" failed no place to hide
  - Lost 10% more than simple funds in FY 2009
    - Harvard -27.3%, Stanford -25.9%, Yale -24.3%
    - PERSI -16.3%, Nevada -15.7%, Median Public -16.9%

#### Active opportunistic and absolute return strategies devastated

- Hedge funds (-15% to -20%) vs fixed income (+6.0%)
- Government bonds in conventional approach did their job

#### Liquidity disappeared when needed most

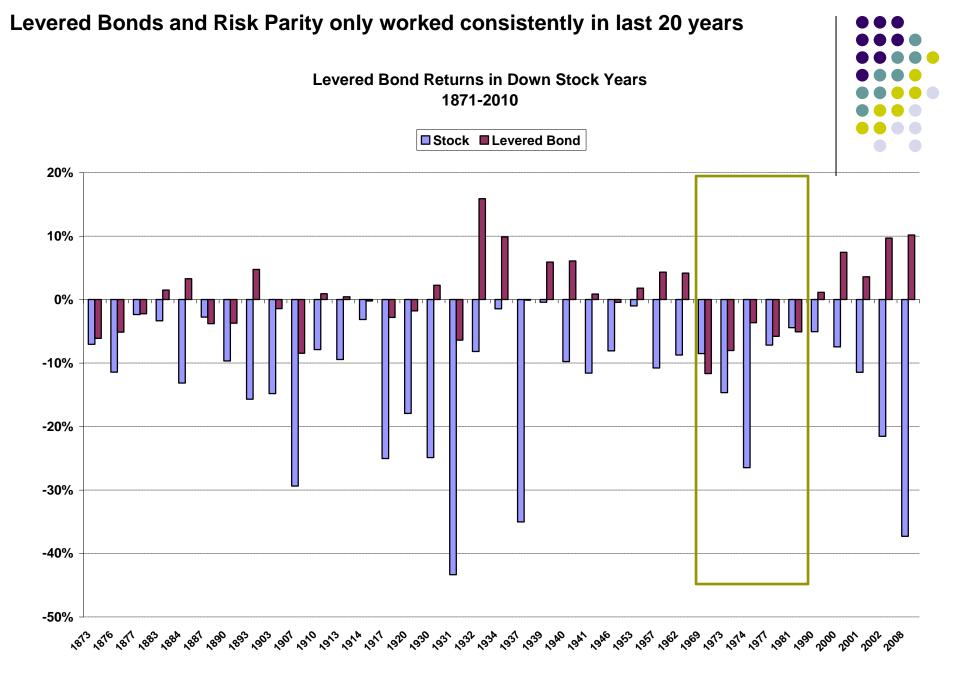
- Hedge funds gated, margin calls on leveraged strategies and portable alpha, no access to private assets
- Sold liquid investments or borrowed at worst time
- Opportunity Lost
  - Unable to rebalance, missed rebound and 2%-3% rebalancing gain
- Headline risk (e.g. Madoff and Westridge)
- Resource risks: Incentive compensation and resources restricted
- Need to pick top quartile or top decile managers consistently
- Institutions crippled and taking years to recover
  - Many still below levels at Lehman Bankruptcy
  - Conventional approach had moderate losses and recovered quickly
    - -16% in 2009, all losses from Lehman recovered in 17 months (September 2008 to February 2010)



### **RESPONSE TO 2008-2009 RISK CENTRIC ASSET ALLOCATION**

- Risk Budgeting
  - Attempts to Control Volatility
  - Problem of Time Frame No Unit of Risk
  - Volatility and Diversification Paradox
- Risk Parity
  - Reduce dependence on equities, maintain return by levering bonds and other assets
  - Problem: Works when leverage works, fails when doesn't
- Risk Sleeves
  - Recast Asset Classes and group by "macro risks and returns"
  - Problem no agreement on risk factors. Two current approaches
    - Re-slice the pie (e.g., real assets, corporate exposure, etc.)
      - But still have overlapping pieces
    - Add new factors (e.g., volatility, political risk, etc.)
      - But no real history, difficult to benchmark and invest





#### But previous 20 years would have been a disaster, and in most of the big stock crashes

## **RISK SLEEVE STRUCTURES (2013)**

#### **Norwa**y

#### 1. Term

- 2. Credit Aa
- 3. Credit Baa
- 4. Credit HY
- 5. FX Carry
- 6. Liquidity
- 7. Value/Growth
- 8. Small/Large Cap7.
- 9. Momentum
- 10. Volatility

### PCA (Jan 2013)

- 1. Growth
- 2. Private Growth
- 3. Absolute Return
- 4. Growth Diversify
- 5. Inflation
- 6. Interest Rates
- 7. Interest Rate Uncertainty

### SDCERA

- 1. Growth
- 2. Stable Value
- 3. Real Assets

- **Danish Pension PKA** (Equity Premia includes)
  - 1. Developed Markets
  - 2. EM Markets
  - 3. Frontier Markets
  - 4. Small Cap
  - 5. Low Volatility
  - 6. Dividends
  - 7. Implied Volatility
  - 8. Momentum
  - 9. Value
  - 10. Quality
  - 11. Merger Arb
  - 12. Liquidity

ATP

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

- 13. "Tactically Traded Risk"
  - -

Interest Rates

Commodities

Credit

Equities

Inflation

- . .
  - )
- 1. Real Rates

BlackRock

CaISTRS (Jan 2013)

**Growth Risk** 

Interest Rate

Inflation

Liquidity

**Going-In Yield** 

Market Leverage

Regulatory/Govt

Unexplained

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

- 2. Inflation
- 3. Credit
- 4. Liquidity
- 5. Political
- 6. Economic

#### Alaska Permanent Fund

- 1. Company Exposure
- 2. Cash and Interest Rates
- 3. Real Assets
- 4. Special Opportunities

### CalPERS

- 1. Growth
- 2. Income
- 3. Liquidity
- 4. Real Assets
- 5. Inflation
- 6. Abs. Rtn.
- 7. Multi

#### **Janus Institutional**

#### Equity

- 1. Systematic
- 2. Emerging
- 3. Size
- 4. Value
- Fixed
- 1. Credit
- 2. Duration
- 3. Momentum
- Currency
- 1. Carry
- 2. Momentum
- Commodity
  - 1. Relative Value
- 2. Momentum
- 3. Roll Yield

