

#### **QUARTERLY LETTER, JULY 2021**

Fellow Investors,

In our view, the main attribute of the second quarter was noise. The economic noise introduced by COVID-19 and the responses to it by individuals, businesses, and governments made it extremely difficult to determine what the underlying trends were. We expect this noisy environment to persist for at least another quarter or two assuming that COVID countermeasures diminish over time. If there is a resurgence of the virus and additional countermeasures are taken by governments the period of noise will be extended.

This inability to discern the underlying trend makes things difficult for businesses. In many cases demand for goods plummeted a year ago then soared this year—but what will it be next year? Should management expand their capacity or is the soaring demand temporary, and any expansion a waste of money? The service sector was hit even harder as many service providers were forced to close their doors due to lockdowns and are now working hard to get their operations back to a pre-COVID level of efficiency. Big swings in demand make planning difficult. Exacerbating the difficulty for businesses is the continuing chaos in supply chains, particularly those that are international. Not only are suppliers subject to local restrictions and shutdowns but port closures are occurring seemingly at random throwing shipping routes into chaos and driving shipping rates and transit times up. This increases both cost and uncertainty. Should the business owner invest time, effort, and money into diversifying or localizing his sources, or ride it out as best he may? These are the questions each business is asking currently, and good answers are hard to come by. Their answers will likely affect both employees and customers over the longer term.

The noise in the economy is reflected in the stock and bond markets. Interest rates have fallen over the quarter with the 10-year treasury yield on 29 June at 1.48% (down .2% since our last letter and down .4% since 2 Jan 2020). Contrast that with inflation, which was up 4.99% year over year as of 31 May as measured by the Consumer Price Index. There is a reason inflation remains a top concern for many investors! The Federal Reserve's stated position is that higher inflation will be temporary and if that doesn't prove to be the case they have the tools to bring it back in line with their 2% goal. So far the bond market believes that message as indicated by the low yields on treasury bonds. The Federal Reserve continues to buy roughly \$120 billion worth of bonds monthly to support the economy. After their June meeting they gave just the slightest hint that they might start thinking about reducing those purchases some time in the future. Fiscal policy remains exceptionally loose as well with the government continuing most COVID-era emergency programs including rent forbearance, unemployment bonuses, student lending forbearance, etc. Some programs have been curtailed, specifically the unemployment bonuses which have been discontinued in a number of states, while some have been extended. The details vary from state to state.

Muhlenkamp & Company, Inc. 5000 Stonewood Drive • Suite 300 Wexford, PA 15090

877-935-5520 www.muhlenkamp.com So it's tough to tell what demand looks like in the longer run, what supply looks like in the longer run, and how long government support will really last. Call it noise, call it fog, call it uncertainty.

In that context we continue to pay close attention to companies, not only the ones we own but also the ones we might like to own. Last quarter we highlighted that the economically sensitive companies we own had done quite well for us in the first quarter. This quarter they pulled back somewhat. Of particular note is the housing market where exceptional demand and limited supply drove prices dramatically higher very quickly. Prospective buyers are now getting sticker shock and rethinking their plans, suggesting there will be a shakeout in the industry in the near future. How exactly that will play out is, of course, unclear.

Also worth noting during the quarter was the FDA approval of a drug that treats Alzheimer's disease, Aduhelm, developed by Biogen Incorporated. We happen to own some shares of that company. While the approval was certainly good news and drove the stock price higher there is considerable controversy over both the effectiveness of the new drug and its pricing. We expect volatility in the stock price of Biogen to continue in the near future as market participants learn more about the drug, its effectiveness, demand for it, etc. We continue to hold a bit of gold, which hasn't done much this quarter, and a bit of cash. We continue to look for good opportunities for investment and will take advantage of them when we find them.

As always, if you've got questions or comments feel free to write or give us a call. We'd love to hear from you.

With our best wishes for your continued success and good health,

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Ron Muhlenkamp, Founder Muhlenkamp & Company, Inc.

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Jeff Muhlenkamp, Portfolio Manager Muhlenkamp & Company, Inc.

*The comments made in this letter are opinions and are not intended to be investment advice or a forecast of future events.* 

# MUHLENKAMPSMA **ALL-CAP VALUE**

For the period ended 6/30/2021

Muhlenkamp & Company's All-Cap Value SMA (Separately Managed Account) is designed for investors' accounts over \$100,000. We employ full discretion, applying fundamental analysis.

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

We seek to maximize total after-tax return through capital appreciation, and income from dividends and interest, consistent with reasonable risk.

#### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

We invest in undervalued assets wherever they may be found. Typically, this results in holding a portfolio of companies we believe are materially undervalued by the market. Bonds may be included in the portfolio if they are a good investment.

# **INVESTMENT PROCESS**

We start with a bottom-up scan of domestic companies, typically looking at most U.S. companies at least four times per year. We add to that an understanding of the sector dynamics in which companies are operating, an assessment of the business cycle, and a review of macroeconomic conditions.

Our primary screening metric is return on shareholder equity (ROE). We are looking for companies with stable returns that can be purchased cheaply, or for companies with improving returns that have not yet been recognized by the market.

We don't believe that a holding period of "forever" is appropriate in all cases, but are comfortable holding companies as long as they continue to meet expectations.

# **INVESTMENT RISK**

We define investment risk as the probability of losing purchasing power over long periods of time, which is guite different from Wall Street's definition of price volatility in very short periods of time. Taxes, inflation, and spending will ALL impact the purchasing power of your assets.



# **ALL-CAP VALUE COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE (NET OF FEES)**

			Annualized				
	Year to Date	One Year	Past 3 Years	Past 5 Years	Past 10 Years	Past 15 Years	
Return	18.80%	45.34%	12.14%	9.60%	7.69%	3.75%	
S&P 500 Total Return*	15.25%	40.79%	18.67%	17.65%	14.84%	10.73%	
Consumer Price Index*	* 3.35%	4.99%	2.28%	2.30%	1.77%	1.92%	

\* The S&P 500 is a widely recognized, unmanaged index of common stock prices. The figures for the S&P 500 reflect all dividends reinvested but do not reflect any deductions for fees, expenses, or taxes. One cannot invest directly in an index.

\*\* Consumer Price Index (CPI) – As of May 2021 – U.S. CPI Urban Consumers NSA (Non-Seasonally Adjusted), Index. The Consumer Price Index tracks the prices paid by urban consumers for goods and services and is generally accepted as a measure of price inflation. Price inflation affects consumers' purchasing power.

Consolidated performance with dividends and other earnings reinvested. Performance figures reflect the deduction of broker commission expenses and the deduction of investment advisory fees. Such fees are described in Part II of the adviser's Form ADV. The advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the investment advisory account will reduce the client's return. It here the the the compared to the investment advisory account will reduce the client's return. should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the above accounts. A list of all security recommendations made within the past twelve months is available upon request.

# **TOP TWENTY HOLDINGS**

Company	Industry	% of Net Asset
Mastec Inc	Construction & Engineering	4.48%
WESCO International Inc	Trading Companies & Distributions	4.33%
Dow Inc	Chemicals	4.26%
Alliance Data Systems Corp	IT Services	4.09%
Microchip Technology Inc	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipmen	
Microsoft Corp	Software	3.78%
Tenneco Inc.	Automobile and Components	3.73%
Apple Inc	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripheral	
Broadcom Inc	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipmen	t 3.46%
Cameco Corp	Oil, Gas, & Consumable Fuels	3.42%
Schlumberger NV	Energy Equipment & Services	3.26%
Kirby Corp	Marine	3.21%
ALPS Alerian MLP ETF	Exhange Traded Funds	3.10%
McKesson Corporation	Health Care Providers & Services	3.06%
UnitedHealth Group Inc	Health Care Providers & Services	3.06%
Berkshire Hathaway Inc Class B	Diversified Financial Services	2.99%
CVS Health Corp	Health Care Providers & Services	2.91%
Meritage Homes Corp	Household Durables	2.91%
SPDR Gold Shares	Exhange Traded Funds	2.55%
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology	2.52%

Composite holdings are subject to change and are not recommendations to buy or sell any security.

Composite Top Twenty Holdings are presented as supplemental information to the fully compliant presentation on the next page.

Return on Equity (ROE) is a company's net income (earnings), divided by the owner's equity in the business (book value).

#### PORTFOLIO MANAGER



#### Jeffrey P. Muhlenkamp,

Portfolio Manager, CFA, has been active in professional investment management since 2008. He is a graduate of both the United States Military Academy and Chapman University.

#### **INVESTMENT ADVISER**

Muhlenkamp & Company, Inc. 5000 Stonewood Drive, Suite 300 Wexford, PA 15090-8395 (877)935-5520 services@muhlenkamp.com

www.muhlenkamp.com

## SMA FACTS

Average Number of Equity Holdings Cash & Cash Equivalents 15.12%

SMA Facts are presented as supplemental information.

#### SMA INFORMATION

The inception date for the All-Cap Value Composite is December 31, 1993. The All-Cap Value Composite was created in December 2003. The Composite includes fee-paying accounts over \$100,000, full discretion, under management for at least one full quarter which are invested in the All-Cap Value strategy. The composite excludes the Muhlenkamp Fund and any wrap fee account.

Minimum Initial Investment \$100,000.00 Management Fee\* 1% (first \$1 million); 0.5% on the remainder

\* May vary by account.

Muhlenkamp & Company serves individual and institutional investors through our no-load mutual fund and separately managed accounts.

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#### MUHLENKAMP & COMPANY, INC. ALL-CAP VALUE COMPOSITE ANNUAL DISCLOSURE PRESENTATION

Total Firm Composi				ANNUAL PERFO	RMANCE	THREE-YEAR ANNUALIZED STANDARD DEVIATION*				
Year End	Assets (USD) (millions)	Assets (USD) (millions)	Number of Accounts	Composite Gross	Composite Net	S&P 500 Total Return Index	Composite	S&P 500 Total Return Index	Composite Dispersion**	
2020	265	38	45	14.06	13.14	18.40	18.63	18.79	1.38	
2019	253	34	48	14.70	13.78	31.49	10.33	12.10	1.37	
2018	254	32	51	(11.71)	(12.45)	(4.38)	9.24	10.80	1.21	
2017	342	40	52	15.24	14.30	21.83	8.70	9.92	2.12	
2016	339	39	52	(1.86)	(2.68)	11.96	9.73	10.59	1.17	
2015	422	48	67	(4.66)	(5.45)	1.38	10.41	10.47	0.68	
2014	541	51	67	10.27	9.37	13.69	9.55	8.97	2.06	
2013	585	50	60	35.50	34.39	32.39	11.29	11.94	3.13	
2012	491	41	66	11.29	10.34	16.00	12.02	15.09	1.14	
2011	555	45	74	(2.84)	(3.67)	2.11	16.60	18.70	0.85	
2010	724	59	82	2.96	2.15	15.06			1.45	
2009	839	90	107	32.68	31.72	26.46			2.80	
2008	759	112	155	(40.53)	(40.94)	(37.00)			1.97	
2007	1886	327	289	(7.61)	(8.19)	5.49			3.77	
2006	3393	371	337	6.09	5.34	15.79			3.70	

The objective of this All-Cap Value Composite is to maximize total after-tax return, consistent with reasonable risk—using a strategy of investing in highly profitable companies, as measured by Return on Equity (ROE), that sell at value prices, as measured by Price-to-Earnings Ratios (P/E).

Muhlenkamp & Company, Inc. ("Muhlenkamp") claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Muhlenkamp has been independently verified for the periods December 31, 1993 through June 30, 2016 by Ashland Partners & Company LLP and for the periods July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020 by ACA Performance Services. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firmwide basis. The All-Cap Value Composite has had a performance examination for the periods December 31, 2006 through December 31, 2020. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

Muhlenkamp is an independent registered investment advisory firm registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A list of composite descriptions and a list of broad distribution pooled funds are available upon request.

Returns are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Composite may invest in American Depositary Receipts (ADRs).\*\*\* Accounts may be shown gross or net of withholding tax on foreign dividends based on the custodian. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

The U.S. dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are expressed as percentages and are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Net of fee performance was calculated using actual management fees. The annual Composite dispersion presented is an asset-weighted standard deviation calculated for the accounts in the Composite the entire year. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request.

- \* Three-Year Annualized Standard Deviation is a measure of volatility, calculated by taking the standard deviation of 36 monthly returns, net of fees, then multiplying the result by the square root of 12 to annualize it. Since standard deviation measures the dispersion of a set of numbers from its mean, higher results indicate more variation in monthly returns over the trailing three years.
- \*\* Composite Dispersion is a measure of the similarity of returns among accounts in the Composite. It is the standard deviation of the annual returns, net of fees, for all accounts which were in the Composite for the entire year.
- \*\*\* American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) are shares that trade in U.S. markets, but represent shares of a foreign company. A bank (the depository) purchases a number of the foreign shares and holds them in a trust or similar account; in turn, the bank issues shares tradable in the U.S. that represent an interest in the foreign company. The ratio of ADRs to foreign shares is set by the bank. ADRs do not mitigate currency risk, but can reduce transaction costs and simplify trading compared to huving the local bares. simplify trading compared to buying the local shares in the foreign markets.