

Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, March 12 at 10:00

Perspective: Let's see if we can't take some threads from last week's session and weave them into a useful discussion: (1) What is a realistic rate of return retirees can anticipate from their portfolios over the long term? (mid-single digits, high single digits, low double digits) (That is your entire portfolio, not just that hot commodity fund you bought last year.), (2) What are viable options for earning optimum returns on a retirement portfolio? (index funds, blue-chip stocks, preferred stocks, master limited partnerships, closed-end bond funds, etc., also what mix of equities and fixed-income), (3) what are definable risks for various strategies? And (4) how to factor in personal comfort zones?

Mea Culpa: Morningstar published an admission that its stock rating system hasn't worked well over the past year.

Mutual Funds: The closed-end common stock fund Central Securities (CET) has significantly outperformed the S&P 500 Index on an annualized basis for the past 20 years. CET's 2007 annual report can be read at www.centalsecurities.com.

Stock Talk: Is Citigroup (C) oversold?

On the Website: Reading material on new topics is posted regularly at www.olligmu.org/~finforum/.

Vanguard Index Fund Performance

	<u>5-year annualized</u>	<u>10-year annualized</u>
500 Index (VFINX)	11.5%	4.0%
Total Stock Market (VTSMX)	12.6%	4.5%
Extended Market (VEXMX)	16.5%	6.0%