Ascendere Associates LLC Innovative Long/Short Equity Research

Model Portfolio Monthly Update: July 31, 2016

There are limitations inherent in our theoretical model results, particularly with the fact that such results do not represent actual trading and they may not reflect the impact material economic and market factors might have had on our decision making if we were actually managing client money. Please see additional disclaimers and disclosures at the back of this report.

We highlight stocks that demonstrate solid growth at a reasonable price (GARP). Stocks selected for our model portfolio strategies all rank highly for the following metrics, with an emphasis on proxies for cash flow growth and ROIC:

- Relative Value
- Operating Momentum
- Analyst Revision Momentum
- Fundamental Quality

Pages 2-6 contain brief commentary and highlights of a few stocks that seem particularly attractive.

Page 7 contains rebalancing actions for our long-only model portfolio.

Page 8 contains rebalancing actions for our short-only model portfolio.

Target and stop prices, as well as updated return data, to be provided in our daily reports that will follow.

Notes:

Readers that would like to follow our daily price target changes can follow us on our Seeking Alpha instablog or on Tumblr. This report is a follow-up to our July 31, 2016 model portfolio rebalancing note.

Commentary

For the third consecutive month high-quality stock returns outperformed low-quality stock returns in our theoretical model portfolio.

The theoretical **Core Long Model** increased +6.26% for the July 5 – July 29 period versus a +3.33% return of the S&P 500 over the same period.

The theoretical **Core Short Model** posted a short sale loss of +1.63% for the same period.

Volatility related to the United Kingdom's June 23 vote to exit the European Union created enough volatility for the theoretical **Opportunistic Long Model** portfolio to assume a 100% cash position at the June 24 close. At the July 25 close, the Opportunistic Long Model assumed a 70% stock and 30% cash position, generating a 1.47% return over the last four trading days of July. Barring no further volatility, this theoretical model will once again assume a 100% stock position at the August 19, 2016 close.

The theoretical **Opportunistic Short Model** portfolio posted 1.63% loss for the July 5-July 29 period.

(Both the theoretical "Core" and "Opportunistic" portfolios use the same basket of stocks but the Opportunistic model moves to 70% and 100% cash allocations during periods of high volatility or when portfolio return targets are met.)

The theoretical **Core Long/Short Model** increased by +4.62% (6.26% -1.63% = 4.62%) and the **Opportunistic Long/Short Model** declined by -0.17% (1.47% -1.63% = -0.17%).

The best model portfolio stocks during July 5 – July 29, 2016

The best performing stock in the long model was **Logitech International SA (LOGI)** for a 23.84% theoretical return. The worst was **Manhattan Associates, Inc. (MANH)** down -9.78%.

In the short model, the best performing stock was **Olin Corp. (OLN)**, which assumed a theoretical short sale gain of +16.03%. The worst performer was **Tesaro, Inc. (TSRO)** for a theoretical short sale loss of -15.03%.

Last month our favorite long idea was once again **McKesson Corp (MCK)**, which finished the July 5-July 29 period up +3.43%. Our favorite short idea was **Teck Resources Limited. (TCK)**, which finished the month with an assumed short sale loss of -10.78%.

Looking ahead to August 2016

As of the July 29, 2016 close, the theoretical long model assumed that 11 stock positions were closed, 7 were added, and 10 were rebalanced.

Two long stock ideas stand out

In our rebalancing note posted on July 31 we noted our two new favorite long stock ideas in our updated theoretical model portfolio: **Texas Instruments, Inc. (TXN)** and **Citrix Systems, Inc. (CTXS)**. Both stocks trade at a good relative value, have strong operating momentum as defined by increasing levels of ROIC, solid fundamental quality, and positive consensus estimate revisions.

Ranking Data as of July 31, 2016

Texas Instruments Inc.
NasdaqGS:TXN

Ascendere Ranking								
		Price 08/04/16		69.61	Cash	(2,539)	EV/LTM EBITDA	13.3
		Shares		1,004	Debt	3,612	Price/Book	7.0
		Market Cap		69,904	Other	(0)		
5 = Best	**Rank**				Enterprise Value	70,977		
Relative Value	4							
Operating Momentum	4	CY1 Consensus EPS Est.	$	3.23	CY1 PE	21.6	Total Capital	$ 13,574
Analyst Revisions Mom	5	CY2 Consensus EPS Est.	$	3.46	CY2 PE	20.1	Debt/Capital	8%
Fundamental Quality	5	Latest Annualized Dividend	$	1.52	Div Yield	2.1%	Debt/Enterprise Value	5%

Source: XBRL Analyst data and estimates, and Ascendere Associates LLC data and estimates.

	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate					
NasdaqGS:TXN	**LTM+4Q**	**LTM+3Q**	**LTM +2Q**	**LTM +1Q**	**Last LTM**	**LTM-1**	**LTM-2**	**LTM -3**	**LTM -4**
NOPLAT	3,630	3,533	3,422	3,298	3,165	2,931	2,982	2,934	2,946
Economic Charge	1,507	1,529	1,548	1,570	1,595	1,660	1,737	1,771	1,861
Economic Profit	**2,123**	**2,005**	**1,874**	**1,728**	**1,570**	**1,271**	**1,245**	**1,163**	**1,085**
Y/Y change	5.9%	7.0%	8.4%	10.0%	23.6%	2.0%	7.1%	7.2%	-2.9%
NOPLAT	3,630	3,533	3,422	3,298	3,165	2,931	2,982	2,934	2,946
Operating Capital	18,387	18,660	18,892	19,164	19,466	19,943	19,818	20,810	21,440
ROIC (NOPLAT / Operating Capital)	**19.7%**	**18.9%**	**18.1%**	**17.2%**	**16.3%**	**14.7%**	**15.0%**	**14.1%**	**13.7%**
NOPLAT	3,630	3,533	3,422	3,298	3,165	2,931	2,982	2,934	2,946
5 Qtr Average Operating Capital	18,776	19,045	19,366	19,598	20,295	20,711	20,944	21,422	21,803
ROIC (NOPLAT / Operating Capital)	**19.3%**	**18.6%**	**17.7%**	**16.8%**	**15.6%**	**14.2%**	**14.2%**	**13.7%**	**13.5%**
Source: Ascendere Associates assumptions, estimates and data, XBRLAnalyst data and consensus estimates.									

Ranking Data as of July 31, 2016

Citrix Systems, Inc.
NasdaqGS:CTXS

Ascendere Ranking		Price 08/04/16		83.96	Cash	(1,351)	EV/LTM EBITDA	14.4
		Shares		155	Debt	1,329	Price/Book	6.2
		Market Cap		13,022	Other	-		
5 = Best	**Rank**				Enterprise Value	13,001		
Relative Value	3							
Operating Momentum	4	CY1 Consensus EPS Est.	$	5.06	CY1 PE	16.6	Total Capital	$ 3,572
Analyst Revisions Mom	5	CY2 Consensus EPS Est.	$	5.45	CY2 PE	15.4	Debt/Capital	-1%
Fundamental Quality	4	Latest Annualized Dividend	$	-	Div Yield	0.0%	Debt/Enterprise Value	10%

Source: XBRL Analyst data and estimates, and Ascendere Associates LLC data and estimates.

	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate					
NasdaqGS:CTXS	**LTM+4Q**	**LTM+3Q**	**LTM +2Q**	**LTM +1Q**	**Last LTM**	**LTM-1**	**LTM-2**	**LTM -3**	**LTM -4**
NOPLAT	906	839	788	754	602	583	666	556	588
Economic Charge	753	756	759	762	765	781	814	778	824
Economic Profit	**153**	**83**	**29**	**(9)**	**(164)**	**(198)**	**(148)**	**(222)**	**(236)**
Y/Y change	84.9%	184.7%	-430.9%	-94.6%	-17.3%	34.2%	-33.5%	-5.8%	-12.8%
NOPLAT	906	839	788	754	602	583	666	556	588
Operating Capital	6,443	6,467	6,493	6,519	6,546	6,557	6,601	6,421	6,661
ROIC (NOPLAT / Operating Capital)	**14.1%**	**13.0%**	**12.1%**	**11.6%**	**9.2%**	**8.9%**	**10.1%**	**8.7%**	**8.8%**
NOPLAT	906	839	788	754	602	583	666	556	588
5 Qtr Average Operating Capital	6,481	6,506	6,529	6,556	6,557	6,546	6,528	6,467	6,413
ROIC (NOPLAT / Operating Capital)	**14.0%**	**12.9%**	**12.1%**	**11.5%**	**9.2%**	**8.9%**	**10.2%**	**8.6%**	**9.2%**
Source: Ascendere Associates assumptions, estimates and data, XBRLAnalyst data and consensus estimates.									

Long running advice regarding the use of our model portfolio report

Wayne Gretzky said it best – "skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been." Quantitative screens like the one in this report show where a stock has been and assume the trajectory is fixed. Of course, this is not always the case. The best investors will use this model portfolio as guidance, and not the end all. At the same time, the model does well enough on its own, often beating the indices with ease (though not this past month). With a little effort, we hope that active fundamental portfolio managers will do even better.

Long Model Portfolio -- Rebalancing Actions

7/31/2016 Rebalancing							
Core and Opportunistic Long Portfolio:							
17 stocks in the model portfolio = 5.88% weight per position							
Close Position			**Hold/Rebalance**			**Open Position**	
Marriott International, Inc.	MAR		American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.	AEO		Tenneco Inc.	TEN
The Interpublic Group of Compan	IPG		Credicorp Ltd.	BAP		Gentex Corp.	GNTX
Lowe's Companies, Inc.	LOW		First Horizon National Corporat	FHN		Amgen Inc.	AMGN
ULTA Salon, Cosmetics & Fragra	ULTA		Eaton Vance Corp.	EV		Texas Instruments Inc.	TXN
Northern Trust Corporation	NTRS		Federated Investors, Inc.	FII		Citrix Systems, Inc.	CTXS
SunTrust Banks, Inc.	STI		Dycom Industries Inc.	DY		Analog Devices, Inc.	ADI
Cincinnati Financial Corp.	CINF		Manhattan Associates, Inc.	MANH		Alphabet Inc.	GOOGL
McKesson Corporation	MCK		NetEase, Inc.	NTES			
Mettler-Toledo International Inc.	MTD		Lam Research Corporation	LRCX			
EMCOR Group Inc.	EME		Logitech International SA	LOGI			
NICE Ltd.	NICE					Source: Ascendere Associates LLC	

Short Model Portfolio -- Rebalancing Actions

When the market anticipates an improving economy from low price levels, low-quality stocks will at times out-perform high-quality stocks as the expected improvements in fundamentals are discounted from a relatively more depressed price level.

7/31/2016 Rebalancing							
Core and Opportunistic Short Portfolio:							
21 stocks in the model portfolio = 4.76% weight per position							
Close Position			**Hold/Rebalance**			**Open Short Sale**	
EnLink Midstream, LLC	ENLC		Under Armour, Inc.	UA		Wynn Resorts Ltd.	WYNN
Halliburton Company	HAL		Melco Crown Entertainment Lir	MPEL		Tesla Motors, Inc.	TSLA
Baker Hughes Incorporated	BHI		Netflix, Inc.	NFLX		Enable Midstream Partners, LP	ENBL
ConocoPhillips	COP		Ctrip.com International Ltd.	CTRP		LivaNova PLC	LIVN
Superior Energy Services, Inc.	SPN		Helmerich & Payne, Inc.	HP		Colfax Corporation	CFX
Legg Mason Inc.	LM		Weyerhaeuser Co.	WY		Generac Holdings Inc.	GNRC
Celgene Corporation	CELG		Deutsche Bank AG	DB		Copa Holdings SA	CPA
Galapagos NV	GLPG		Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorp	LGND		Joy Global, Inc.	JOY
Yahoo! Inc.	YHOO		Tesaro, Inc.	TSRO		Microchip Technology Inc.	MCHP
Olin Corp.	OLN		ACADIA Pharmaceuticals Inc.	ACAD		Freeport-McMoRan Inc.	FCX
Teck Resources Limited	TCK		Autodesk, Inc.	ADSK			
						Source: Ascendere Associates LLC	

Return Data

Core & Opportunistic Long Model					MTD			
7/05/2016 to 7/29/2016								
						Target/	Date+1	
Sector	Company	Ticker	7/1/2016	7/29/2016	Performance	Stop Date	Sell Price	Return
Information Technology	Logitech International SA	LOGI	16.19	20.05	23.84%	7/28/2016	$ 20.05	23.84%
Industrials	EMCOR Group Inc.	EME	48.64	55.70	14.51%	7/28/2016	$ 55.70	14.51%
Healthcare	Mettler-Toledo International Inc.	MTD	368.96	411.21	11.45%	7/29/2016	$ 410.74	11.32%
Consumer Discretionary	American Eagle Outfitters Inc.	AEO	16.13	17.92	11.10%			
Information Technology	Netease.com Inc.	NTES	184.57	204.27	10.67%			
Financials	Federated Investors Inc.	FII	28.71	31.57	9.96%			
Information Technology	LAM Research Corp.	LRCX	82.98	89.77	8.18%	7/28/2016	$ 89.77	8.18%
Consumer Discretionary	Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, I	ULTA	243.74	261.21	7.17%			
Financials	First Horizon National Corp.	FHN	13.60	14.56	7.06%			
Financials	Eaton Vance	EV	35.58	37.81	6.27%			
Consumer Discretionary	Marriott International, Inc.	MAR	67.79	71.70	5.77%			
Industrials	Dycom Industries Inc.	DY	89.11	94.05	5.54%			
Information Technology	NICE Systems Ltd.	NICE	65.34	68.65	5.07%			
Financials	Credicorp Ltd.	BAP	153.92	160.33	4.16%			
Financials	SunTrust Banks Inc.	STI	40.71	42.29	3.88%			
Financials	Northern Trust Corp.	NTRS	65.23	67.59	3.62%			
Health Care	McKesson Corp.	MCK	188.10	194.56	3.43%			
Consumer Discretionary	Lowe's Companies Inc.	LOW	79.60	82.28	3.37%			
Financials	Cincinnati Financial Corp.	CINF	74.65	74.70	0.07%			
Consumer Discretionary	Interpublic Group of Companies Inc.	IPG	23.19	23.06	-0.56%			
Information Technology	Manhattan Associates, Inc.	MANH	64.34	58.05	-9.78%			

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Core & Opportunistic Short Model					MTD			
7/05/2016 to 7/29/2016								
						Target/	Date+1	
Sector	Company	Ticker	7/1/2016	7/29/2016	Performance	Stop Date	Sell Price	Return
Materials	Olin Corp.	OLN	24.89	20.90	-16.03%			
Energy	Superior Energy Services Inc.	SPN	18.99	15.97	-15.90%	7/28/2016	$ 15.97	-15.90%
Energy	Helmerich & Payne Inc.	HP	68.55	61.97	-9.60%			
Energy	EnLink Midstream, LLC	ENLC	16.48	15.43	-6.37%			
Energy	ConocoPhillips	COP	43.51	40.82	-6.18%			
Consumer Discretionary	Netflix, Inc.	NFLX	96.67	91.25	-5.61%			
Energy	Halliburton Company	HAL	45.56	43.66	-4.17%			
Financials	Deutsche Bank AG	DB	13.91	13.44	-3.38%			
Consumer Discretionary	Under Armour, Inc.	UA	40.43	39.46	-2.40%			
Information Technology	Yahoo! Inc.	YHOO	37.99	38.19	0.53%			
Healthcare	Galapagos NV	GLPG	54.86	55.17	0.57%			
Energy	Baker Hughes Inc.	BHI	45.83	47.83	4.36%			
Consumer Discretionary	Ctrip.com International Ltd.	CTRP	41.13	43.67	6.18%			
Health Care	Acadia Pharmaceuticals Inc.	ACAD	34.25	37.04	8.15%			
Consumer Discretionary	Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd.	MPEL	12.90	13.96	8.22%			
Materials	Weyerhaeuser Co.	WY	30.12	32.72	8.63%	7/22/2016	$ 32.49	7.87%
Information Technology	Autodesk, Inc.	ADSK	54.34	59.45	9.40%	7/27/2016	$ 59.45	9.40%
Health Care	Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc.	LGND	122.12	134.88	10.45%	7/20/2016	$ 131.96	8.06%
Materials	Teck Resources Limited	TCK	14.38	15.93	10.78%			
Health Care	Celgene Corporation	CELG	100.70	112.19	11.41%	7/28/2016	$ 112.19	11.41%
Healthcare	Tesaro, Inc.	TSRO	81.06	93.24	15.03%			
Financials	Legg Mason Inc.	LM	29.30	34.14	16.52%	7/15/2016	$ 33.30	13.65%

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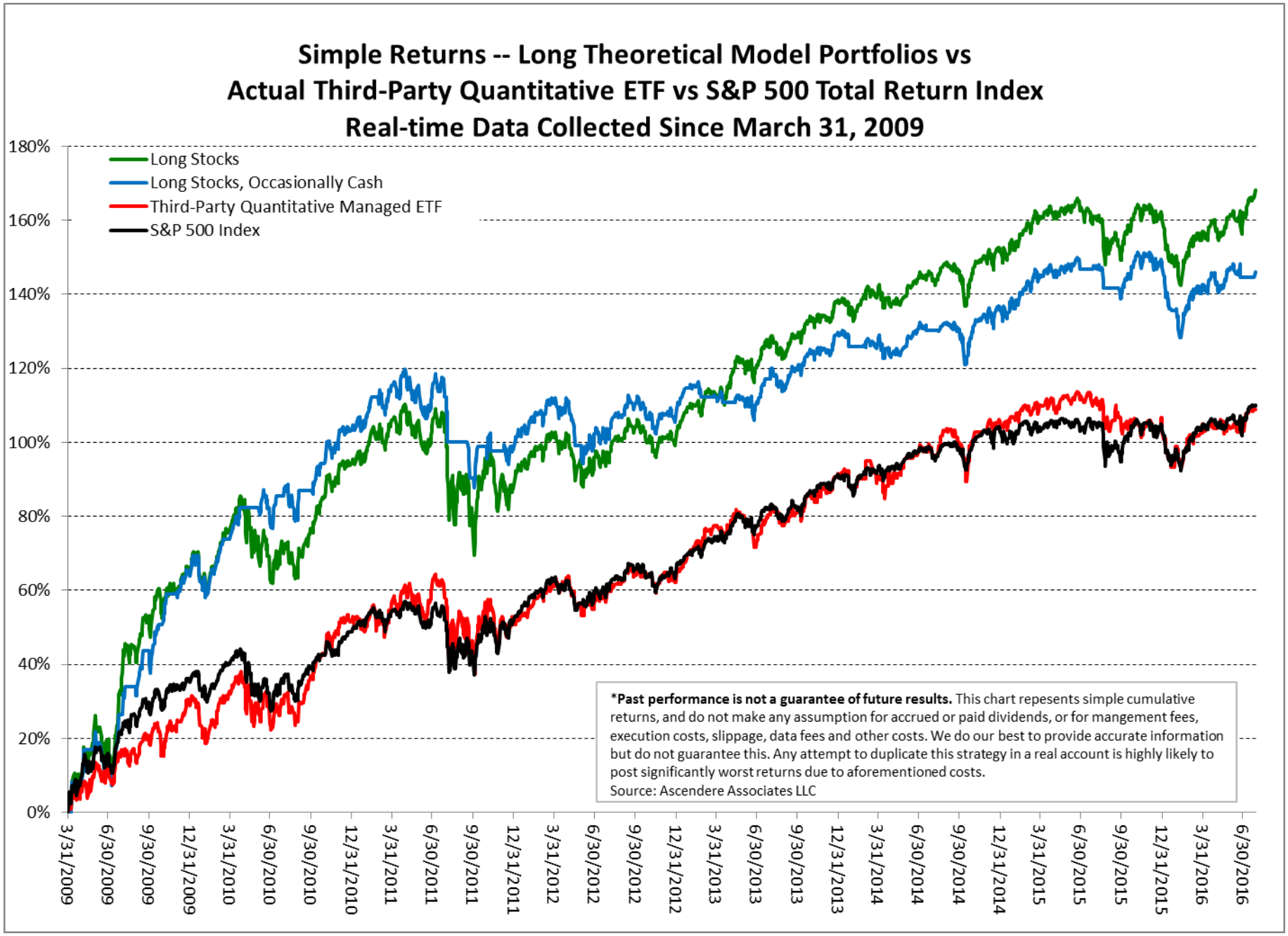
	Theoretical Model Portfolio* 07/29/16 Simple Returns (No Compounding)	MTD	YTD	Since 03/31/09	Sharpe
Stock Targets	**Core Model**				
	Long	6.26%	8.06%	168.1%	1.00
	Short	1.63%	-6.12%	58.1%	0.38
	Core Long/Short	4.62%	14.18%	110.0%	0.93
Stock Targets and Portfolio Targets	**Opportunistic Model**				
	Long	1.47%	-1.23%	146.0%	1.12
	Short	1.63%	-15.69%	-13.2%	(0.10)
	Opportunistic Long/Short	-0.17%	14.46%	159.2%	1.41
Stock Targets and Portfolio Targets	**Opportunistic Model III**				
	Long Stocks	1.47%	-1.23%	146.0%	1.12
	Long Inverse ETF ^SH	0.11%	1.18%	-71.8%	(0.71)
	Opportunistic Long/Short III	1.57%	-0.05%	74.2%	0.77
	S&P 500 Index	3.33%	6.82%	110.05%	0.91

* Return figures are calculated using cumulative simple returns. This table represents returns of several theoretical portfolios that do not assume any costs. This table is not to be construed as advertising for any investment service. Real portfolios that attempt to exactly replicate these theoretical strategies will generate lower returns relative to these models due to slippage, transaction costs, tax expenses and other costs. There are limitations inherent in our theoretical results, particularly with the fact that such results do not represent actual trading and they may not reflect the impact material economic and market factors might have had on our decision making if we were actually managing client money. We do our best to provide accurate information, but do not guarantee this. Please see additional disclosures and disclaimers. MTD represents returns from the 7/01/2016 close to the 7/29/2016 close.


Simple Returns -- Long Theoretical Model Portfolios vs
Actual Third-Party Quantitative ETF vs S&P 500 Total Return Index
Real-time Data Collected Since March 31, 2009
Long Stocks
Long Stocks, Occasionally Cash
Third-Party Quantitative Managed ETF
S&P 500 Index
180%
160%
140%
120%
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
3/31/2009
6/30/2009
9/30/2009
12/31/2009
3/31/2010
6/30/2010
9/30/2010
12/31/2010
3/31/2011
6/30/2011
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9/30/2014
12/31/2014
3/31/2015
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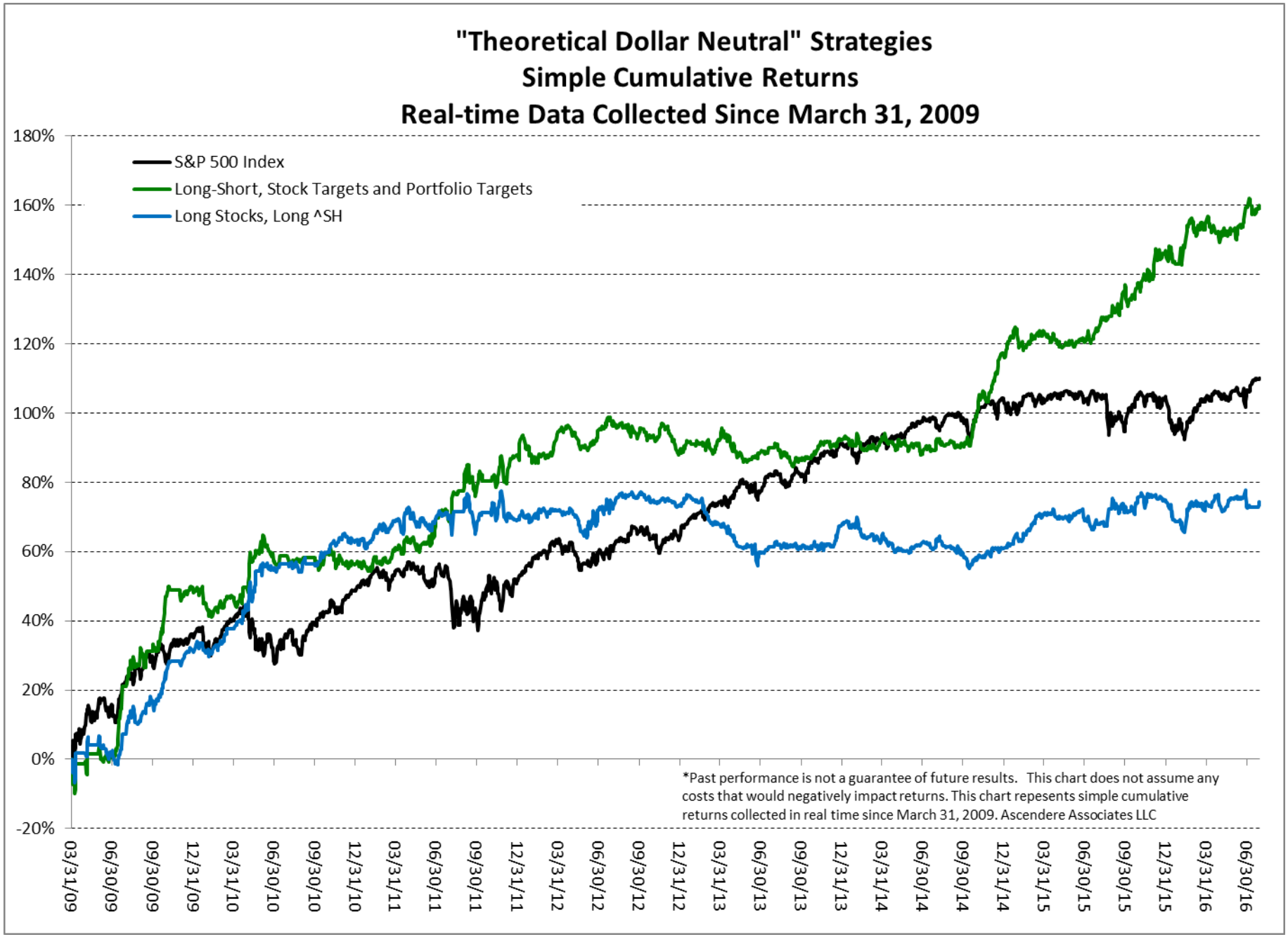
9/30/2015
12/31/2015
3/31/2016
6/30/2016
*Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. This chart repesents simple cumulative returns, and do not make any assumption for accrued or paid dividends, or for mangement fees, execution costs, slippage, data fees and other costs. We do our best to provide accurate information but do not guarantee this. Any attempt to duplicate this strategy in a real account is highly likely to post significantly worst returns due to aforementioned costs.
Source: Ascendere Associates LLC


"Theoretical Dollar Neutral" Strategies
Simple Cumulative Returns
Real-time Data Collected Since March 31, 2009
S&P 500 Index
Long-Short, Stock Targets and Portfolio Targets
Long Stocks, Long ^SH
180%
160%
140%
120%
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
*Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. This chart does not assume any costs that would negatively impact returns. This chart repesents simple cumulative returns collected in real time since March 31, 2009. Ascendere Associates LLC
03/31/09
06/30/09
09/30/09
12/31/09
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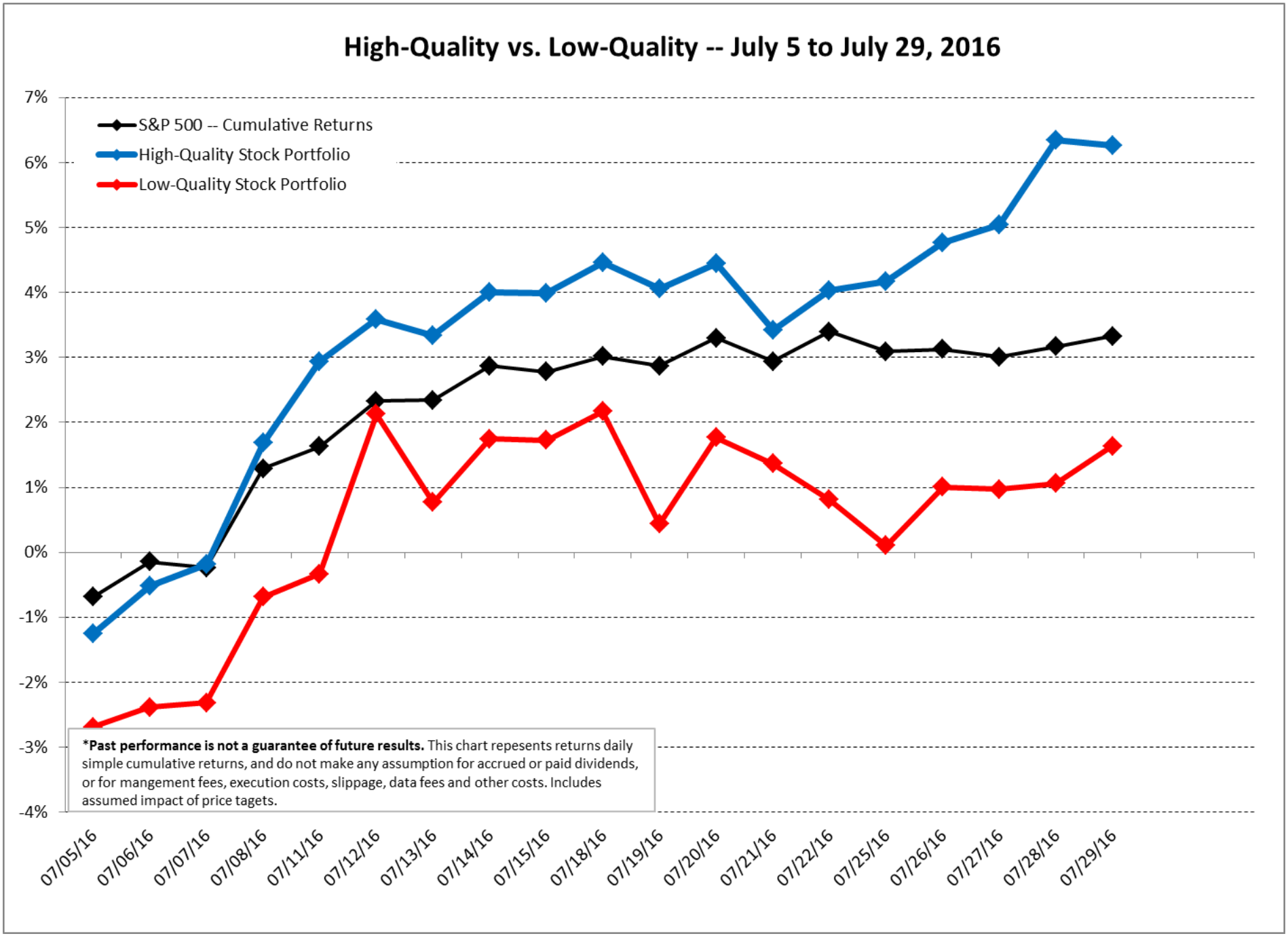
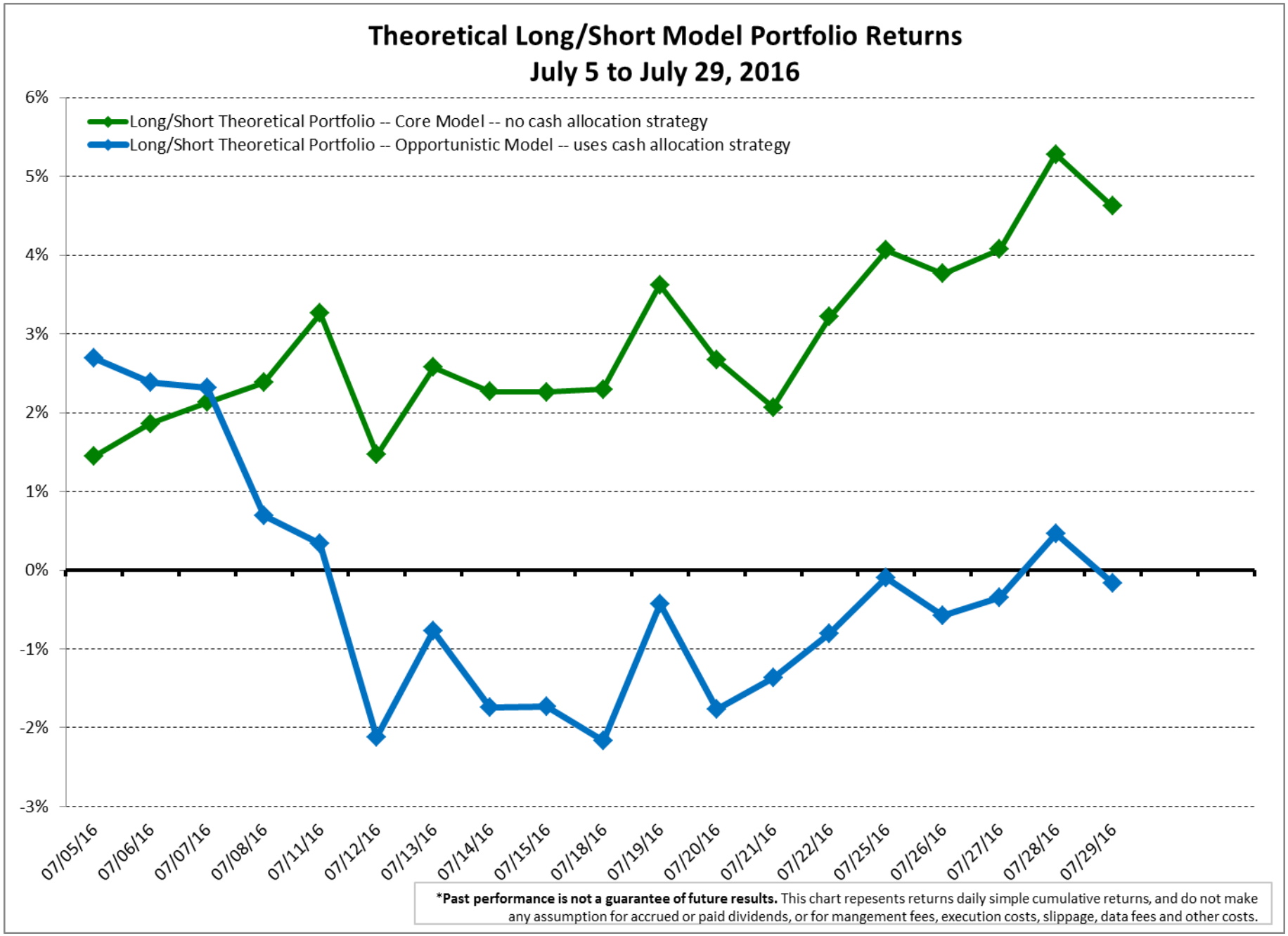
06/30/16


High-Quality vs. Low-Quality -- July 5 to July 29, 2016
S&P 500 -- Cumulative Returns
High-Quality Stock Portfolio
Low-Quality Stock Portfolio
7%
6%
5%
4%
3%
2%
1%
0%
-1%
-2%
-3%
-4%
07/05/16
07/06/16
07/07/16
07/08/16
07/11/16
07/12/16
07/13/16
07/14/16
07/15/16
07/18/16
07/19/16
07/20/16
07/21/16
07/22/16
07/25/16
07/26/16
07/27/16
07/28/16
07/29/16
*Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. This chart repesents returns daily simple cumulative returns, and do not make any assumption for accrued or paid dividends, or for mangement fees, execution costs, slippage, data fees and other costs. Includes assumed impact of price tagets.


Theoretical Long/Short Model Portfolio Returns
July 5 to July 29, 2016
Long/Short Theoretical Portfolio -- Core Model -- no cash allocation strategy
Long/Short Theoretical Portfolio -- Opportunistic Model -- uses cash allocation strategy
6%
5%
4%
3%
2%
1%
0%
-1%
-2%
-3%
07/05/16
07/06/16
07/07/16
07/08/16
07/11/16
07/12/16
07/13/16
07/14/16
07/15/16
07/18/16
07/19/16
07/20/16
07/21/16
07/22/16
07/25/16
07/26/16
07/27/16
07/28/16
07/29/16
*Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. This chart repesents returns daily simple cumulative returns, and do not make any assumption for accrued or paid dividends, or for mangement fees, execution costs, slippage, data fees and other costs.

Inception March 31, 2009	Core Long , Stock Targets	Opportunistic Long, Stock and Portfolio Targets	"Dollar Neutral" 1 Long/Short, Stock Targets and Portfolio Targets	"Dollar Neutral" 2 Long, Stock and Portfolio Targets / Long ^SH ETF	S&P 500
7/29/2016	Theoretical	Theoretical	Theoretical	Theoretical	
Simple Returns					
Today	-0.09%	-0.06%	-0.63%	-0.06%	0.16%
MTD -- July 1 close to July 29 close	6.26%	1.47%	-0.17%	1.57%	3.33%
YTD	8.06%	-1.23%	14.46%	-0.05%	6.82%
Cumulative from 3/31/2009	168.15%	145.99%	159.24%	74.20%	110.05%
Absolute Risk					
Daily Average	0.09%	0.08%	0.09%	0.04%	0.06%
Daily Range	16.86%	15.84%	11.84%	12.00%	11.40%
Daily Standard Deviation	1.44%	1.12%	0.97%	0.82%	1.03%
Daily Return/Standard Deviation	6.31%	7.09%	8.90%	4.92%	5.79%
Average 90-Day T-bill	1.23%	1.23%	1.23%	1.23%	1.23%
Annualized Daily Returns	22.95%	19.93%	21.74%	10.13%	15.02%
Annualized Standard Deviation	22.9%	17.7%	15.4%	13.0%	16.3%
Sharpe Ratio	0.95	1.06	1.33	0.69	0.84
Percentage Down Days	45.2%	34.9%	42.6%	44.2%	44.9%
Average Daily Downside Value	-1.03%	-0.91%	-0.66%	-0.55%	-0.74%
Daily Downside Deviation	-1.08%	-0.91%	-0.63%	-0.57%	-0.78%
Daily VAR of 1000 at 95% Conf	-23	-18	-15	-13	-16
Benchmark Relative Risk					
Correlation	0.91	0.70	(0.04)	0.05	
R-Squared	0.82	0.49	0.00	0.00	
Daily Tracking Error	0.67%	0.83%	1.45%	1.28%	
Regression					
Beta	1.27	0.76	-0.04	0.04	
Daily Alpha	0.031%	0.019%	0.027%	-0.019%	
Jensen's Daily Alpha	0.040%	0.015%	-0.001%	-0.001%	
Trading Days	1846	1846	1846	1846	

*Returns calculated by the simple return method (not compounded).

* Portfolio models are theoretical and assume no costs.

* Data collected in real time since 3/31/2009

Source: Ascendere Associates LLC

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J. Stephen Castellano – founded Ascendere Associates LLC in 2009 to provide innovative equity research and financial modeling consulting services.

Among the services that Ascendere provides are: 1) detailed custom equity research analysis; 2) valuation scenario analysis studies; 3) supply /demand studies; 4) long and short stock idea generation; 5) portfolio feedback; 6) detailed fundamental financial modeling services; and 7) additional analytical consulting services. Additional information is available at jstephencastellano.tumblr.com.

Mr. Castellano has over 20 years of experience in equity research and related consulting positions. At PaineWebber, Warburg Dillon Read, and Credit Lyonnais Securities he developed fundamental equity valuation models and conducted in-depth research on the steel and telecom services industries. At Boston Private Value Investors, he built sophisticated screens for stock idea generation and also provided general fundamental equity research coverage. He received a MBA from the F. W. Olin School of Business at Babson College (2005) and a BA from Oberlin College (1993). He is a CFA Level 3 candidate, and is on the Board of Advisors of GovBrain, a political intelligence and government analytics company serving the hedge fund industry.

Mr. Castellano's sell side equity research experience includes consulting with investment banking teams on planned equity, debt, and M&A deals. Consulting projects have included the development of xml-based financial models as well as marketing strategies for a financial data provider, equity research reports for a family office equity portfolio, supply/demand models for a telecom consulting firm, cash burn rate scenarios for a key stakeholder in an iconic food manufacturing company, a budget forecast model for a 250,000 bpd oil refining company, a budget forecast and valuation for a risk management software startup, and due diligence of a potential acquisition of a fast-growing fashion apparel boutique, among others.
Mr. Castellano's career history is highlighted below:

- Ascendere Associates, LLC (2009-Present)
- Boston Private Value Investors , Equity Research, Equity Research Analyst (2005-2009)
- Pyramid Research, Contract Consultant, Telecom Services (2002-2003)
- Credit Lyonnais Securities (USA), Equity Research, Telecom Services, Vice President (2000-2001)
- Warburg Dillon Read, Equity Research, Telecom Services, Research Associate (1999-2000)
- PaineWebber, Equity Research, Steel and Nonferrous Metals, Research Associate, Editor (1995-1999)