



## Jackson Square Large-Cap Growth Fund Commentary

As of March 31, 2019

### QUARTERLY MARKET REVIEW

If the closing months of 2018 were defined by significant volatility and greater dispersion in sector returns, the first quarter at 2019 represented its complete reversal; stocks, credit and crude oil saw their best quarters in a decade. This was driven, in part, by the Federal Reserve and other central banks shying away from interest rate rises alongside an increasingly optimistic outlook on the geopolitical tensions between China and the U.S.

The market's risk-on sectors, namely information technology, consumer discretionary and communication services, led the charge, comprising almost 70% of the Russell 1000 Growth's performance; Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google stocks alone were responsible for approximately a quarter of the benchmark's swing back into positive returns. Large-Cap stocks similarly dominated the Russell 3000 Growth, with good returns in the small and medium capitalization segment of the market unable to keep up.

The U.S. maintained its lead over other developed countries, however investors, for the first time since 2007, saw the U.S. bond yield curve invert. As bearish participants have fled to the safety of government debt, we believe we are seeing greater angst at the late stages of an economic cycle regarding the market's return to high-growth behavior further dislocated from underlying business fundamentals.

### STRATEGY REVIEW

For the first quarter of 2019, the Large-Cap Growth Portfolio underperformed its benchmark, the Russell 1000 Growth Index. While performance was largely driven by our stock exposure, on a sector level, communication services was the largest detractor from performance and information technology was the largest contributor.

#### Contributors

**Arista Networks, Inc.**, a supplier of cloud networking switches with proprietary, purpose-built software for large-scale internet companies, cloud service providers, and data centers, was a contributor to performance during the quarter. The company reported earnings, which included fourth quarter revenues of \$595.7mm, an increase of 5.8% compared to the prior quarter and 27.3% year-over-year. Further, for the fiscal year 2018, revenues of \$2.15bn represented a 30.7% increase compared to 2017. We continue to hold Arista as we see the expansion of high performance cloud services as early in the game, and believe the company continues to have a superior product offering and business model relative to the competition.

**IQVIA Holdings, Inc.**, a provider of outsourced Research & Development and commercial solutions for pharmaceutical companies, was a contributor to performance during the quarter. The company's fourth quarter revenues of \$2.7bn came in above guidance, resulting in constant currency growth of 8.1%. Additionally, full year revenue of \$10.4bn represented growth of 6.8% at constant currency. We believe the company is uniquely positioned due to its unmatched data set to run a clinical trial faster than the status quo and an analytical toolkit that further sweetens the value proposition for potential customers. Furthermore, the company stands to benefit from the growing contract research organization (CRO) market, as biotech companies increasingly outsource R&D to independent providers.

**Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.**, the dominant ecommerce platform in China, was a contributor to performance during the period. Investors appeared willing to overlook immediate macro-headwinds associated with the US/China geopolitical relationship in order to focus on strengthening fundamentals. The company announced third quarter earnings, which despite the top line miss, core marketplace results and profit growth drove better than expected profitability. We continue to believe Alibaba Group benefits from a network effect across platforms which, when combined with scale and user data, could allow for elevated topline growth ahead of consensus estimates.

#### Detractors

**Biogen, Inc.**, a biotechnology company focused on neurodegenerative diseases was a detractor from performance during the period. The company announced it is discontinuing trials on what looked like a promising, high profile treatment for Alzheimer's, a disease which continues to have very limited treatment options. We believe the stock is overreacting at least somewhat given the disappointing clinical results that led to the halting of this high-profile drug. While we continue to believe there is intrinsic business value in Biogen's extant business and the rest of its pipeline, we are reassessing our stock thesis in order to make a final decision on the appropriate go-forward exposure to the name, which could result in a different weighting in the portfolio, or perhaps an outright exit.

**Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc.**, a publisher and distributor of video games, was a detractor from performance during the period. While the company's results and execution have continued to exceed expectations, the stock underperformed due to (i) stock correlation to peers EA and ATVI whose results missed consensus expectations and have disappointed investors for several quarters in a row and (ii) market concerns that "free-to-play" monetization mechanisms will undermine the Porter 5 of the console gaming industry, which we believe is untrue. Therefore, despite transitory choppiness, the fundamentals remain compelling and our long-term thesis remains unchanged, with TTWO in the early innings of its journey towards increased scale, profitability, and diversification, all of which is being underappreciated by the market. Additionally, the company's balance sheet remains strong with \$1.6bn in cash and short-term investments and zero debt.

**The CME Group, Inc.**, the financial market company operating options and futures exchanges, was a detractor from performance during the quarter. The company has suffered as a result of declining volatility levels across the capital markets, most notably a decline in interest rates in the US, which limits CME's trading exchange volumes. This, given a particularly strong 2018 which saw volumes up 18.4%, has encouraged shorter-term investors to realize gains on a stock which appreciated 32% during the year. Regardless, we continue to believe that as the industry stands, the CME Group is a platform company with a natural monopoly in many of

## STRATEGY REVIEW CONTINUED

its futures and clearing products. The business is highly cash generative with low capital spending requirements. Furthermore, we believe there are multiple regulatory and structural changes that are creating favorable growth conditions for the CME Group.

## MARKET OUTLOOK

After significant positive absolute returns in the equity market over the past several years, sporadic volatility emerged during 2018, most notably in the fourth quarter. The volatility appeared to be both technical and fundamental, leaving investors continuing to struggle with accurately predicting the pace of global economic activity and assessing external factors that threaten economic fundamentals, such as central bank actions and fiscal policy debates across the globe. During the first quarter of 2019, the equity markets reversed course and resumed its multi-year run of strong absolute markets and elevated risk appetites. Previous market corrections over the past several years tended to be relatively quick, only to reverse before getting to any sustained level of investor risk aversion. This again seems to be the case as the 2019 year begins, and investors are focused on the interplay between technical and fundamental factors to determine whether the long, post-financial crisis economic and equity market recovery has come to an end or whether the late 2018 sell off will prove to be transitory.

Adding to investor consideration is President's Trump's unconventional style as a head of state and various controversies surrounding his administration that may hamper significant policy change. While the completion of the Mueller Report has so far passed with little controversy and disruption, we are mindful of the potential macroeconomic implications of President Trump's policy positions, including his comments and public positioning on global trade negotiations with China and political posturing on preferred candidates to be added to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. We believe it is too early to determine the long term magnitude of such outcomes but we will closely monitor President Trump's tenure with a keen eye on the execution of significant policy shifts.

Nonetheless, regardless of policy outcomes and oscillating investor sentiment in any given period, we remain consistent in our long-term investment philosophy:

We want to own what we view as strong secular-growth companies with solid business models and competitive positions that we believe can grow market share and have the potential to deliver shareholder value in a variety of market environments.

PERFORMANCE as of 03/31/19	Current quarter	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Since inception	Inception date	Gross expense	Net expense*
JS Large-Cap Growth Fund Inst. Class**	11.76%	11.76%	7.08%	12.25%	9.40%	15.81%	8.39%	9/19/16	0.85%	0.74%
JS Large-Cap Growth Fund Inv. Class**	11.81%	11.81%	6.84%	11.97%	9.13%	15.52%	8.12%	9/19/16	1.11%	0.99%
JS Large-Cap Growth Fund IS Class	11.79%	11.79%	7.03%	12.27%	9.46%	15.89%	8.48%	11/1/05	0.76%	0.64%
Russell 1000® Growth Index	16.10%	16.10%	12.75%	16.53%	13.50%	17.52%	10.42%	11/1/05		

The performance shown represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results and current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. Investment results and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. To obtain performance data current to the most recent month-end, call 844.577.3863. Performance reflects fee waivers in effect. In the absence of such waiver, returns would be reduced. Returns greater than 1 year are Average Annualized.

\* The adviser has contractually agreed to reduce management fees and reimburse operating expenses until 02/28/20. Net expense is what the investor pays.

\*\*Returns shown are for the IS Class shares of the Fund. Pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Reorganization between Managed Portfolio Series, on behalf of the Fund, and Delaware Pooled Trust on behalf of The Large-Cap Growth Equity Portfolio (the "Predecessor Fund"), the Fund acquired all of the assets and liabilities of the Predecessor Fund in exchange for IS Class shares of the Fund on September 19, 2016 (the "Reorganization"). The IS Class of the Fund had no operations prior to the Reorganization. The Predecessor Fund was a series of Delaware Pooled Trust, a registered open-end investment company. As a result of the Reorganization, the Fund will be the accounting successor of the Predecessor Fund. Prior to September 19, 2016, the Adviser served as sub-adviser to the Predecessor Fund. The IS Class performance has not been restated to reflect any differences in expenses paid by the Predecessor Fund and those paid by the Fund. Performance shown for the periods prior to the inception of the Institutional Class and Investor Class is based on the performance of the IS Class shares, adjusted for the higher expenses applicable to that class.

## TOP 10 HOLDINGS

		% of Total Net Assets
Microsoft	Technology	9.41
IQVIA Holdings	Health Care	5.88
Dollar Tree	Consumer Discretionary	5.59
KKR & Co. - Class A	Financial Services	4.84
PayPal Holdings	Financial Services	3.95
Autodesk	Technology	3.89
Mastercard - Class A	Financial Services	3.85
Liberty Global - Series A & C	Consumer Discretionary	3.84
Visa - Class A	Financial Services	3.75
Hasbro	Consumer Discretionary	3.64
<b>Total Top Ten Holdings</b>		<b>48.64</b>

List excludes cash and cash equivalents.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Unless otherwise noted, the source of statistical information used in this document was FactSet.

The views expressed represent the Manager's assessment of the account and market environment as of 03/31/19 and should not be considered a recommendation to buy, hold, or sell any security, and should not be relied on as research or investment advice. Holdings are as of 03/31/19 and subject to change. Investments in small and/or medium-sized companies typically exhibit greater risk and higher volatility than larger, more established companies. Because this strategy expects to hold a concentrated portfolio of a limited number of securities, the portfolio's risk is increased because each investment has a greater effect on the strategy's overall performance.

The Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The statutory and summary prospectus contains this and other important information about the investment company and may be obtained by calling 844.577.3863, or by visiting [www.jspfunds.com](http://www.jspfunds.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

Mutual Fund investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible. The Fund is non-diversified, meaning it may concentrate its assets in fewer individual holdings than a diversified fund. Therefore, the Fund is more exposed to individual stock volatility than a diversified fund. The Fund invests in foreign securities which involve greater volatility and political, economic and currency risks and differences in accounting methods. These risks are greater in emerging and frontier markets. Investments in Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) involve additional risks such as declines in the value of real estate and increased susceptibility to adverse economic or regulatory developments.

Earnings growth is not representative of the Fund's future performance.

Russell 1000® Growth Index is an unmanaged index that measures the performance of the large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. Index returns do not reflect management fees, transaction costs, or expenses. The Russell 3000® Growth Index measures the growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 3000® Index companies with higher growth earning potential, as defined by Russell's leading style methodology. Indices are unmanaged, and one cannot invest directly in an index. Benchmark information contained herein has been obtained from third party sources believed to be reliable, but we cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. All third-party marks are the property of their respective owners.

Information regarding JSP's policies and procedures for calculating and reporting performance results is available upon request. A complete list and description of composites managed by Jackson Square Partners is available upon request. The above information is not intended and should not be construed as a presentation of information regarding any mutual fund.

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