Our quality education prepares students for professional success.

“As a professor, and particularly as an advisor to the Student Investment Fund (SIF), I have seen first-hand how students rise to meet the challenge of experiential learning. I want to build on the success of SIF by creating a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) fund. As students learn the risk of investing real money, they will also enrich the lives of future students by awarding scholarships with the fund earnings. This REIT fund will position the School of Management as one of the top business schools for financial learning.”

Craig Wisen, Ph.D., CFA

What is a REIT?

A Real Estate Investment Trust is an investment vehicle which has grown in popularity over the last several years. A REIT uses the pooled capital of many investors to purchase and manage income property and mortgage loans. They generate returns through revenue from leases, mortgages, and selling properties that have appreciated in value. REITs are traded on major exchanges, like stocks, but receive favorable tax treatment and offer attractive dividend payouts.

REIT Fund

We continue to raise capital to build the REIT fund, offering the opportunity to be part of a ground-breaking trust, one of only a few in the nation housed on a university campus. Established in spring of 2012, REIT funds are managed by students taking the Real Estate and Alternative Investments course, led by Professor Craig Wisen. This new fund provides an additional experience similar to the Student Investment Fund, a class which greatly enhances the school’s commitment to experiential learning, and will eventually fund needs-based scholarships.

SIF Alumnus Point-of-View

“There’s a level of accountability when you see $600,000 on the board, and the stock is moving - you’re working for more than just a grade. You have to be accountable to stakeholders. When you’re looking at these equations and the end result, you’re thinking, “This is real money; this is real life.”” –P. Craig Millard, Student Investment Fund alumnus and Programmer/Analyst at Resource Data Inc
Investing in REITs

REITs are a viable alternative to investing in traditional stocks. There are as many different types of REITs as there are types of real estate (see chart, right).

REITs historically offer investors:

- **High Dividend Yield**: Significantly higher on average than other equities, the industry’s dividend yields historically have produced a steady stream of income through a variety of market conditions (see chart, lower right).

- **Income and Long-term Growth**: REITs provide competitive long-term rates of return that complement the returns from other stocks (see chart, below).

Source: reit.com

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**REITs Measure Up Over Time**

**Compound Annual Total Returns in Percent**


- **Equity REITs (publicly traded)**: 12.01%
- **S&P 500**: 10.04%
- **NASDAQ Composite**: 8.4%
- **Dow Jones Industrials**: 6.8%

Source: reit.com

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**Relative Performance**

- **S&P 500**
- **Russell 2000**
- **Equity REITs**

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**Bloomberg Terminal at UAF**

The Bloomberg Terminal, provided by McKinley Capital Management, LLC, is a top-of-the-line computer system which provides access to the Bloomberg Professional services, allowing students to monitor and analyze real-time financial market movements. Most large financial firms have subscriptions to the Bloomberg Professional service, and it is known for revolutionizing the way bankers, analysts, attorneys, and others access financial information. A Bloomberg Terminal at UAF gives students a competitive edge over their peers at other universities and better prepares them for professional success.

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