

Second Quarter 2011 Mutual Fund Commentary RS Partners Fund

Philosophy and Process

We believe that company-specific value creation is often mispriced in the public markets and, as such, we have built a team of investment professionals who employ a research process that is private equity-like in nature. As business analysts, we are interested in understanding how companies create value over time. We work in teams, dissecting businesses into their component parts to gain insights into how and where capital is being allocated, and the cash flows and returns associated with those capital decisions. As value investors, we believe that capital preservation is the key to long-term wealth creation, and only deploy our shareholders' capital when we feel that the purchase price available in the market provides us with what we view as a reasonable risk profile. We acknowledge that investment returns are a function of entry price and, as such, we define risk as the permanent impairment of our clients' wealth, as opposed to stock price volatility. We acknowledge that over short periods of time we may under perform a benchmark, but believe that our differentiated team structure, philosophy and process will continue to provide us with the opportunity to generate superior risk-adjusted returns over a reasonable investment timeframe.

Performance Update

For the second quarter of 2011, RS Partners Fund (Class A Shares) generated a return of -2.35% versus -2.65% for the benchmark Russell 2000[®] Value Index¹. Consumer Discretionary and Producer Durables were the Fund's two best performing sectors during the second quarter, led by GameStop Corp. (4.39% position as of 6/30/2011, a specialty retailer focused on electronic game and PC entertainment software) and Waste Connections (2.34%, a provider of waste collection, disposal and recycling services), respectively. (Please see "Appendix- Stock Examples" below for additional commentary on Waste Connections.) Financial Services underperformed during the quarter, led by MGIC Investment Corp. (1.58%, a private mortgage insurer). In addition, the Fund's underweight to both Utilities and Consumer Staples weighed on quarterly performance as investors sought shelter within these sectors during the quarter.

Year-to-date, the Fund posted a return of 4.05% versus 3.77% for the benchmark. Technology and Consumer Discretionary were the Fund's two best performing sectors during the first six months of 2011. Within Technology, Atmel Corp (4.33%, a provider of semiconductors and touch solutions,

Performance quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, so shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Fund's total gross annual operating expense ratio as of the most current prospectus for the Class A Shares is 1.54%. Please refer to the most current Fund prospectus for complete details on expenses including fees. The performance quoted, unless otherwise indicated, does not reflect the current maximum sales charge of 4.75% that became effective on October 9, 2006. If the maximum sales charge were included, the performance stated above would be lower. Please read the prospectus carefully for more information on sales charges as they do not apply in all cases and if applied are reduced for larger purchases. Performance results assume the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Current and month-end performance information, which may be lower or higher than that cited and is available by contacting RS Investments at 800-766-3863 or visiting www.RSinvestments.com.

primarily used in mobile devices) led performance while GameStop (4.39%) was the top performer within Consumer Discretionary. Conversely, Financial Services was the sector that most negatively impacted the Fund's relative performance for the year-to-date period. Within Financials, MGIC Investment Corp. (1.58%) and First Horizon National Corp. (2.70%, a regional commercial bank focused on the Southeastern United States) were the two biggest laggards.

We remain committed to our core philosophy and are using the current market environment to selectively deploy additional capital. We believe that our process has proven itself over time, and it is something that we continue to believe provides us with a useful framework with which to prudently manage our clients' capital, as well as our own.

Portfolio Positioning

Broadly speaking, within the financial services sector, we continue to see evidence that delinquencies have peaked and that the credit fire is in the process of burning itself out. Moreover, capital and liquidity are more than sufficient at many companies, and material changes to underwriting standards should lead to higher risk-adjusted returns for the industry. That said, we have been quite discriminating in our investments within financials, concentrating our holdings primarily in insurance companies and banks with what we view as advantaged business structures. These include insurance companies with structurally superior distribution models as well as banks focused on "relationship lending" that possess low cost core deposit franchises. We continue to believe that these business models will generate superior risk-adjusted returns over our longer-term investment time horizon.

Recall that we increased the Fund's exposure to banks in late '09/early '10 as we became more constructive on the sector. During this period, we deployed capital toward those businesses that we felt possessed solid capital positions, stable and reliable funding sources, strong management teams, increasing returns on invested capital, and a favorable risk/reward profile over our three year investment horizon. We continue to believe that the banking industry is undergoing significant structural change, accreting value to traditional relationship-focused franchises. We believe that the elimination of irrational competitors and a return to more economic pricing of credit risk will lead to structurally higher long-term risk-adjusted returns for these franchises. In addition, we expect that the better positioned banks will garner significant market share from weakened and sub-scale competitors. Importantly, while we see signs that credit losses may have peaked, our investment thesis does not rely on improving trends, as our downside analysis continues to assume a significant degradation in credit, as well as an extended period of muted loan growth.

In general, valuations within financials remain attractive. Looking forward, we would expect the portfolio to continue to favor banks and insurance companies. With returns on new business improving at select banks and insurance companies, we remain interested in those companies that possess sustainable longer term business models, while also seeking to purchase our stakes at levels that we believe provide an extremely favorable entry point.

Consumer, Business Services, Health Care, and Technology

In last quarter's commentary, despite evidence suggesting a modest improvement in the unemployment picture domestically, we expressed our concerns about the fragile nature of the US consumer. As such, we remained cautious and selective with regard to our consumer discretionary investments. During the second quarter, the market appeared to wake up to some of these concerns, and we used market weakness as an opportunity to add incremental capital to both existing positions as well as to select what we view as high-quality consumer discretionary positions. As always, we seek to invest in companies undergoing company-specific structural change that can lead to an improvement in the Return on Invested Capital (ROIC) profile of the enterprise, irrespective of broader trends in general economic activity.

In addition, healthcare continues to be an area where we have been active in searching for new opportunities. As the impact of healthcare reform becomes clarified, we believe winners and losers will emerge. As such, we continue to allocate capital to those companies that we believe should thrive under different health care reform scenarios. Within business services and technology, we continue to allocate capital to businesses that have understandable and predictable revenue streams with high customer retention rates and recurring cash flow characteristics. As such, we believe that the Fund is appropriately positioned for whatever unfolds within the broader economy.

Hard Assets

The hard asset pod (sector grouping) is divided between businesses that we generically label "industrials" and those falling under the natural resource heading. The primary difference between the two groups relates to the laws of mean reversion. In industrials, processing and service oriented businesses, excess returns are typically competed away over time, which is why we focus on *improvements* in returns on invested capital when assessing investment opportunities. In contrast, returns on capital in the natural resource space are a function of where a company's producing assets sit on a supply cost curve. Effectively, returns are driven by the "quality of the rock" and, because geology doesn't change over our 3-5 year investment time horizon, returns on capital in the natural resource space tend not to mean revert over time. As a result, in the natural resource space we use short-term volatility, often driven by changing expectations regarding near term commodity price movements, to establish positions in businesses that we believe are structurally advantaged, both in-terms of asset quality and management's capital allocation acumen. Due to this fundamental difference, each segment deserves its own separate commentary.

Industrials

While the operating environment for many industrial companies has improved over the past year, we remain concerned about most companies' ability to generate positive pricing in a world where significant excess labor and manufacturing capacity persists. As a result, we have slanted our exposure towards what we view as the higher quality, more durable franchises within the industrial landscape. When we can buy these businesses at what we view as reasonable prices given our estimation of downside, and estimate equity returns based on company specific initiatives, we deploy our clients' capital.

Natural Resources

Our objective in managing investments within natural resources is to optimize risk-adjusted returns across a full commodity price cycle. An important part of our process involves visiting various natural resource projects around the world. We do this to gain perspective on how future projects will impact the supply cost curve for a commodity and to identify the owners of what we believe are the most cost-advantaged projects in a given commodity. Importantly, we believe that this work provides us with a basis for assessing current and future incentive prices for various commodities, as well as helping us in our efforts to generate project-by-project net asset value models for the companies we own. We believe that the best way to generate superior through-cycle returns for our investors is by:

1. owning only those low-cost, advantaged producers of commodities ("advantaged" in the sense that the companies own assets that sit at the bottom of a steeply sloped supply cost curve and can earn excess returns on capital, independent of the commodity cycle);
2. investing in advantaged companies that have management teams focused on generating returns that exceed their cost of capital, irrespective of commodity price;
3. limiting sovereign and geological risk; and
4. purchasing stakes in these few advantaged producers only when we believe that their share prices are trading below current net asset value.

The commodity complex has come under pressure over the last several weeks given concerns related to the outlook for demand in both developed and developing economies. We are not

economists and our guess regarding near-term demand trends is likely no better than anyone else's. However, we remain confident that the longer-term outlook for commodities is intact, driven primarily by limited spare capacity and rising marginal costs of supply. Thus, while commodities like oil and silver may drop in price due to proposed reserve releases or changes in margin requirements, we believe that these short-term price movements provide patient, long-term investors with opportunities to deploy capital into those producers of commodities that are temporarily out of favor. In addition, while commodities like copper and gold continue to trade above our assessment of sustainable price levels, the related equities are discounting more attractive long-term prices. We believe that markets such as these, characterized by volatility and frequent discrepancies between asset value and stock prices, are attractive environments in which to deploy capital.

We believe that in the absence of a coordinated pick-up in global demand, commodity prices will continue to oscillate around their respective incentive prices with a high degree of volatility. We will attempt to use short-term dislocations between price and underlying economic value to establish positions in what we believe to be the most advantaged assets at reasonable prices, and will conversely use periods of strength to reduce exposure to businesses when valuations look stretched. As such, our turnover in the Fund may pick up slightly versus historical levels, although our turnover with respect to companies held in the Fund likely will remain quite low.

The longer-term outlook for natural resources remains positive, in our view. Supply costs for many commodities continue to rise for geological reasons, excess capacity remains relatively low, the longer-term demand trends from emerging market countries remain favorable, and the risk of inflation in basic commodities continues to rise. Our objective is to continue to expose our shareholders to the most advantaged natural resource companies across the commodities spectrum when valuations are attractive. By doing so, we believe that we are best able to provide our investors with all the benefits associated with an investment in the natural resource space, while also mitigating the associated risks. As long term investors, we believe that these are the markets that establish the foundation for strong future returns, and we are excited about the prospects moving forward.

Outlook

We believe that we are in a period of protracted volatility as the markets grapple with a variety of issues, including ongoing deleveraging, deflation/inflation risks, government budget deficits, higher taxes, and the potential for rising risk premiums. We have never attempted to maximize short-term results, as we do not believe that our investors would be adequately compensated for the level of risk that we would have to assume. As business analysts, we enjoy fundamentally-driven environments where company-specific structural change and improvements in cash flow returns on invested capital are the primary determinant of investment results. We firmly believe that the strength of our team, a consistent and repeatable process and a realistic investment horizon have put us in a position to benefit long-term investors. Moreover, we think that the Fund is very well positioned for an environment where individual company-specific cash flow fundamentals are properly rewarded.

We are, as always, thankful for your patience and support.

Sincerely,



Mackenzie Davis, CFA



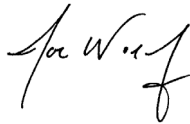
David Kelley



Andy Pilara



Ken Settles, CFA



Joe Wolf

As with all mutual funds, the value of an investment in the Fund could decline, so you could lose money. Investments in companies in natural resources industries may involve risks including changes in commodities prices, changes in demand for various natural resources, changes in energy prices, and international political and economic developments. Investing in small- and mid-size companies can involve risks such as having less publicly available information, higher volatility, and less liquidity than in the case of larger companies. Investing in a more limited number of issuers and sectors can be subject to greater market fluctuation. Overweighting investments in certain sectors or industries increases the risk of loss due to general declines in the prices of stocks in those sectors or industries. Foreign securities are subject to political, regulatory, economic, and exchange-rate risks not present in domestic investments. The value of a debt security is affected by changes in interest rates and is subject to any credit risk of the issuer or guarantor of the security.

Any discussions of specific securities should not be considered a recommendation to buy or sell those securities. Fund holdings will vary.

Except as otherwise specifically stated, all information and portfolio manager commentary, including portfolio security positions, is as of June 30, 2011.

RS Funds are sold by prospectus only. You should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the RS Funds before making an investment decision. The prospectus contains this and other important information. Please read it carefully before investing or sending money. To obtain a copy, please call 800-766-3863 or visit www.RSinvestments.com.

Appendix – Stock Examples

Axiom Corporation (ACXM, 2.53% position as of 6/30/2011) provides marketing technology products and services that enable marketers to personalize consumer experiences, create customer relationships, and manage audiences. The Company operates in two segments, Information Services and Information Products. The Information Services segment offers customer data integration, multichannel marketing services, infrastructure management services, and consulting services. The Information Products segment develops and sells various data products, including segmentation products and domestic fraud and risk mitigation products, as well as online advertising products. The company serves its global client base in industries including financial services, insurance, information services, direct marketing, media, retail, consumer packaged goods, technology, automotive, healthcare, travel, and telecommunications.

Axiom is undergoing a significant structural change as a new interim management team brings operational efficiencies to the business. Former management enjoyed levels of compensation and generous stock option grants based on very opaque and loosely defined performance metrics. As a result, they did not aim to grow the business and often failed to pursue new customers or

geographies, due to the near term drag that initial set-up costs might have on margins and earnings. After a shake up of the board and management team by activist investor, ValueAct, the new interim management team was brought in to right size the company and reposition it for future growth. Under this new leadership, Acxiom deemphasized the failed strategy of trying to grow the business by focusing on low-margin, low-ROIC, and capital intensive IT outsourcing contracts. Instead, Acxiom is now focused on its core competencies of marketing services and building value added data products, which generate significantly higher incremental margins. Acxiom is also in the process of modernizing its technology platform to enable best-in-class real time data integration capabilities. Now that the ship has been steadied, the Company is actively searching for a permanent CEO who can, among other things, serve as a strategic visionary for the company.

Acxiom enjoys a very sticky installed base, creating very stable and reliable recurring Free Cash Flow. Acxiom currently manages over 1,000 marketing databases on behalf of large corporate customers. These databases play a critical role in new customer acquisition and retention. Acxiom receives a monthly maintenance fee to manage these databases, regardless of marketing campaign activity. Renewal rates run in the high 90% range. Switching costs are incredibly high due to the duplicate cost structure during the 1-2 year migration period, the loss of cumulative knowledge associated with building the database, and the loss of scale in data acquisition costs. Acxiom will continue to play a critical role in helping its customers build multi-channel marketing campaigns that combine both offline and online targeting techniques to reach target customers. Acxiom has invested in key digital assets, including permission based email marketing, SMS marketing and web analytics. The emergence of the internet and social media channels represents a new set of data feeds that are much more valuable when combined with an existing database, where Acxiom enjoys a stronghold position. In addition, Acxiom has deep privacy experience and has the ability to work with sensitive data streams, which will be a key asset in the digital age, particularly given the sensitivity around social media sites like Facebook.

Due to the fixed cost nature of Acxiom's business, future revenue growth would generate very high incremental margins and cash flow. Contracts are designed such that monthly maintenance fees allow customers to utilize marketing activities up to certain prescribed volumes. Any activity above these minimum levels creates additional charges, which are at a higher margin given that database administration costs are largely fixed. As such, if marketing spend in Acxiom's key verticals improves, operating margins should benefit substantially. Similarly, the cost structure in Acxiom's Products division is largely fixed. While sales have been somewhat pressured due to recent European weakness, any rebound should lead to operating margin expansion. In addition, the rapidly growing middle class in the emerging markets will likely provide Acxiom with new growth opportunities. Given its significant installed base among large, multi-national clients, Acxiom can help these customers more effectively enter these fast-growing emerging markets.

Headquartered in Folsom, California, **Waste Connections** (WCN, 2.34%) owns 134 waste collection operations, 43 landfills, 55 transfer stations and 37 recycling centers with a regional focus on secondary markets in the Western, Central and Southern United States. Since the company's founding in 1997, CEO Ron Mittelstaedt and his management team have pursued a strategy of avoiding urban markets where competitive barriers are minimal.

We expect return on invested capital to improve over the next 2-4 years due to i) improving cash flow from recent acquisitions, ii) a more efficient cost structure, iii) continued strong pricing, and iv) modest cyclical volume improvements. Significant free cash flow has been reinvested both directly into the company as well as into acquisitions, which carry attractive returns. Management's ability to create incremental value via acquisitions is based on controllable synergies such as optimizing asset density and improving pricing power. Waste Connections' ability to add additional routes increases the number of pick-ups per truck and the coupling of collection and landfill assets creates a significant barrier to entry, which in our view supports strong pricing over the longer term.

Our confidence around downside risk is underpinned by high competitive barriers, which drive both durable pricing and stable volumes. A focus on non-urban markets has resulted in 55% of sales derived from markets where Waste Connections has an exclusive right to provide specified services with 45% of sales derived from competitive markets where vertical integration (e.g., landfill ownership) places the company in a monopolistic or duopolistic position. In summary, we view Waste Connections as a very good business, characterized by a unique combination of clearly defined asset protection which serves as a risk mitigant and a self-financed growth option that we believe creates value for us, as long-term shareholders.

Sector Allocation²

(As of 6/30/11)

Financial Services	26.45%
Technology	17.83%
Consumer Discretionary	11.78%
Energy	10.35%
Health Care	8.51%
Materials and Processing	6.59%
Utilities	5.10%
Producer Durables	2.34%
Consumer Staples	0.00%
Cash	11.04%

Top Ten Holdings³

(As of 6/30/11)

GameStop Corp.	4.39%
Atmel Corp.	4.33%
Groupe Aeroplan, Inc.	3.66%
Denbury Resources, Inc.	3.65%
New Gold, Inc.	3.32%
Compass Minerals International	3.27%
Myriad Genetics, Inc.	3.24%
Calpine Corp.	3.10%
Key Energy Services, Inc.	3.05%
Associated Banc-Corp.	2.99%

Performance

(Average Annual Total Returns as of 6/30/11)

	Second Quarter 2011	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception ⁴
RS Partners Fund, Class A						
without sales charge	-2.35%	33.92%	6.72%	3.66%	11.57%	12.22%
with maximum sales charge	-7.00%	27.57%	5.01%	2.65%	11.03%	11.88%
Russell 2000 [®] Value Index ¹	-2.65%	31.35%	7.09%	2.24%	7.53%	9.98%

Performance returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized.

Performance quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, so shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Fund's total gross annual operating expense ratio as of the most current prospectus for the Class A Shares is 1.54%. Please refer to the most current Fund prospectus for complete details on expenses including fees. The performance quoted, unless otherwise indicated, does not reflect the current maximum sales charge of 4.75% that became effective on October 9, 2006. If the maximum sales charge were included, the performance stated above would be lower. Please read the prospectus carefully for more information on sales charges as they do not apply in all cases and if applied are reduced for larger purchases. Performance results assume the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Current and month-end performance information, which may be lower or higher than that cited and is available by contacting RS Investments at 800-766-3863 or visiting www.RSinvestments.com.

1 The Russell 2000[®] Value Index is an unmanaged market-capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of those companies in the Russell 2000[®] Index with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. (The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000[®] Index, which consists of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization.) Index results assume the reinvestment of dividends paid on the stocks constituting the index. You may not invest in the index, and, unlike the Fund, it does not incur fees and expenses.

2 The Fund's holdings are allocated to each sector based on their Russell classification. If a holding is not classified by Russell, it is assigned a Russell designation by RS Investments. Cash includes short-term investments and net other assets and liabilities.

3 Portfolio holdings are subject to change and should not be considered a recommendation to buy or sell individual securities.

4 Class A shares inception date July 12, 1995.

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