

Jacobs Levy Center Forum on Quantitative Finance – October 23, 2013
Welcome Remarks
Bruce Jacobs, Advisory Board Chair

Good morning, and welcome to the first annual forum of the Jacobs Levy Equity Management Center for Quantitative Financial Research.

I'd like to start with some personal reflections on the establishment of the Jacobs Levy Center at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

When Ken and I emerged from Wharton in the 1980s, our heads were filled with the latest theories and empirical techniques. At the time, the world of professional investing was still coming to grips with efficient markets and random walks and was not quite ready for quant innovation.

Of course, the practice of investing has changed monumentally since we graduated from Wharton. "Quant" has gone mainstream. The gap between theory and practice, between academia and Wall Street, has been disappearing at a fantastic rate.

To honor the 25th anniversary of our firm, we established the Jacobs Levy Center and the Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize for Quantitative Financial Innovation. Our hope is that the Center will spur idea creation and innovation that will have a beneficial impact on finance as it is *practiced* in the investment and corporate communities.

The Center is dedicated to the advancement of quantitative finance. It aims to encourage innovation and enhance our understanding of financial markets. The Center does this through the study and promotion of quantitative techniques and methods as applied in the analysis of stocks and bonds, the management of investment portfolios, and corporate finance. The ultimate goal is to improve everyone's financial well-being.

We are so glad you are able to join us for this forum. We have an exceptional line up of speakers. We will be presenting the first Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize to Harry Markowitz, and conclude with a reception.