

David Russ '86 Leads New Investment Group at Credit Suisse in New York

by Tim Akin

Alumnus David Russ '86, recipient of the Graduate School of Management's 2008 Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award, was named in June to lead a new Investment Strategies and Solutions group at Credit Suisse in New York.

Russ, who joined Credit Suisse after serving four years as chief investment officer of Dartmouth College's Office of Investments, is managing director and chief investment strategist of the new group. Credit Suisse created the Investment Strategies and Solutions group in its Asset Management Division, which will work in collaboration with Asset Management's Global Institutional Distribution team to help clients develop investment solutions from across their full range of product offerings.

Russ brings more than two decades of investment expertise to Credit Suisse, including an 18-year career directing investing strategies, risk management and asset allocations to benefit some of the most prestigious institutions in higher education.

"This is an exciting opportunity to bring my experience as an endowment and pension plan investor with several of the world's leading

academic institutions to one of the world's leading financial institutions," Russ said when he accepted the position.

As one of the world's leading banks, Zurich-based Credit Suisse operates in more than 50 countries with more than 47,800 employees. Credit Suisse's Asset Management business manages portfolios, mutual funds and other investment vehicles for clients ranging from governments, institutions and corporations to private individuals.

After graduating from UC Davis in 1986, Russ began his career trading bonds for the Bay Area Rapid Transit District in Oakland. He went on to spend six years managing investments for Stanford University, where he created several original bond structures that are now commonplace. Stanford's portfolio saw a profit every month.

From 1994 to 1997, Russ managed a \$16 billion portfolio for Pacific Telesis Group in San Francisco. He then returned to higher education, first as the managing director of public markets for the University of Texas Investment Management Company from 1997 to 2001, and then



as treasurer of the Regents and vice president for investments for his alma mater, the University of California, from 2001 to 2005, where he managed a \$65 billion portfolio.

Russ arrived at Dartmouth in August 2005 and recalibrated the Ivy League school's endowment, boosting it by more than a billion dollars during his first two years on the job. That performance landed Russ on the cover of *Alpha*, Institutional Investor's magazine for hedge fund investors and managers, and among three nominees for Foundation & Endowment Money Management's large endowment investor of the year honor in 2007. Russ is a member of the Graduate School of Management's Dean's Advisory Council and has shared his investment insights with the School's community as a Dean's Distinguished Speaker. 📌



David Sundstrom '85 Sets High Standards

Alumnus Named to Governmental Accounting Standards Board

by Marianne Skoczek

Recognizing his "distinguished career in public sector finance and auditing" and his "strong commitment to serving citizens through transparency in financial reporting," the Financial Accounting Foundation has named alumnus David E. Sundstrom '85 to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Based in Norwalk, Conn., GASB is an independent, not-for-profit organization that establishes and improves neutral accounting standards for nearly 90,000 state and local governments, as well as in health care and higher education. "While it cannot direct government's behavior, GASB can be quite influential," said Sundstrom.

Sundstrom began his five-year term on July 1. It's a weighty commitment: the seven-member board meets for three days every six weeks, and several times a year with the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Council. To prepare for his first meeting, Sundstrom read more than 2,500 pages of materials.

Sundstrom credits his father, an auditor for the University of California system, with

inspiring him to a career in the public sector. Following a nine-year stint as an audit manager at UC Davis and seven years as the California State University system's auditor, Sundstrom moved into local government. He was appointed Orange County, California's first director of internal audit in 1995, charged with returning the county to solvency in the wake of its 1994 bankruptcy.

Today, as the county's elected auditor-controller, Sundstrom manages a 430-member staff, a \$6.5 billion budget and a \$6.3 billion investment pool. He prides himself on his watchdog reputation: one recent project secured \$500 million in the county's coffers "by keeping us out of a pension obligation bond scheme," he said. Another project saved \$1.5 billion in retiree medical costs.

But the current economy has brought "multiple challenges," Sundstrom acknowledged. Budget cuts forced furloughs and consequent program cuts in the 3,500-staff member Social Services Department and saw the county scrambling for letter of credit and bond facilities.

"While this caused a lot of anxiety, we came out of it whole," he said. Most recently, an October 16 article in the *Wall Street Journal* detailed the success of Orange County's stay-local strategy by sticking with its own more conservative pension fund, which outperformed the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

Sundstrom was honored with the GSM Alumni Association's Distinguished Achievement Award in 2005. "The GSM taught me the value of collaboration, to work effectively under pressure, balance my priorities and fit an incredible amount of personal production into very little time," he said.

A generous volunteer, Sundstrom serves as the treasurer of Orange Rotary, and of a foundation that provides scholarships to music students. He sits on Orange County United Way's finance committee; chairs the Citizen's Oversight Committee for transportation projects; and holds leadership positions in several California and national professional organizations and county fiscal oversight committees. 📌