Dynamic Allocation Strategies

Brian D. Singer, CFA, Partner, Head of Dynamic Allocation Strategies Team

Brian Singer is the head of William Blair’s Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team, on which he also serves as portfolio manager. Before joining William Blair in 2011, Brian was the head of investment strategies at Singer Partners, LLC. Before that, Brian was the head of global investment solutions and the Americas chief investment officer for UBS Global Asset Management, where he was a member of the UBS Group’s managing board and global asset management executive committee. Brian is extensively involved with the CFA Institute. He formerly served as a board member and chair of the CFA Institute board of governors. He is a member of the CFA Society of Chicago and a former chair and member of the CFA Institute Research Foundation Board of Regents, and in 2015, he received the CFA Institute’s Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes CFA members who have made a significant contribution to the CFA Institute through their leadership, exceptional stewardship, and outstanding service. Brian has written extensively on global portfolio, currency, and performance issues, and co-wrote the seminal *Determinants of Portfolio Performance II: An Update* with Gary Brinson and Gilbert Beebower. In 2009 Brian was the lead author of *Investment Leadership and Portfolio Management* from Wiley Publishing. In 2018 the CFA Society of Chicago awarded Brian the Hortense Friedman Award for Excellence, and in 2015 The Spaulding Group inducted Brian into the Performance and Risk Management Hall of Fame. Brian serves on the endowment investment committee for Exeter College at Oxford University; he is chairman of the “Free to Choose Network,” which is inspired by the ideas of economist Milton Friedman; and he serves as a member of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago Keystone board. Brian received a B.A. in economics from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business.

Thomas Clarke, Partner

Thomas Clarke is a portfolio manager on William Blair’s Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, Tom shares, with Brian Singer, ultimate responsibility for strategy setting and portfolio construction across all DAS portfolios. Before joining William Blair in 2011, Tom was a member of Singer Partners’ investment team, where he focused on currency strategy. Until 2009, Tom was a managing director and head of currency analysis and strategy for the global investment solutions team of UBS Global Asset Management. There, he set currency strategies for multi-asset, global and international equity, and fixed-income portfolios, and developed and oversaw the currency analysis process. Tom was also a member of the firm’s global asset allocation and currency committees and the U.K. investment committee. Before joining UBS in 2000, Tom was head of currency for Rothschild Asset Management, where he spent 10 years as part of the fixed-income and currency group. Tom received a B.Sc. from the University of Manchester.

Aaron Balsam, CFA

Aaron Balsam is a senior analyst on William Blair’s Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, he is responsible for all aspects of macro investment research, including valuation work, conventional wisdom, macro thematic and geopolitical analysis, and strategy setting. Before joining William Blair in 2011, Aaron was a member of the global investment solutions team at UBS Global Asset Management. Most recently at UBS, Aaron was a portfolio manager responsible for both relative and total return multi-asset strategies. Before that, he was an asset-allocation analyst responsible for strategy analysis, construction, implementation, and communication. He is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Chicago. Aaron received a B.S. in finance and economics from North Park University and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business.

Walter Barr, CFA, CAIA

Walter Barr is a trader for William Blair’s Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. Before taking on this role in 2016, he had been with William Blair since 2011, working as a business analyst and trading systems associate. Previously, he held roles at Guggenheim Partners, Northern Trust, and Wolverine Trading, largely focused on investment technologies with an emphasis in accounting, trading, and client reporting platforms. Walter is a member of the CFA Institute, the CFA Society of Chicago, and the CAIA Association. He received a B.S. in network technology from DePaul University and an M.B.A. from DePaul University.
Guy Bloomfield

Guy Bloomfield is an analyst on William Blair's Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, Guy is responsible for trade operations and technology. Before joining William Blair in 2011, he was responsible for operations at Singer Partners. Before that, he was the director of the investment analytics group for UBS Global Asset Management, where he led teams responsible for risk, asset rebalancing, and strategy-setting technologies. Before working at UBS, Guy managed the IT infrastructure for a global consulting firm and consulted in the finance and insurance industries. He received a B.S. in operations management and information systems from Northern Illinois University.

Kyle Concannon, CFA, CAIA

Kyle is an investment strategist on William Blair's Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, he contributes to the investment process and is responsible for communicating the team's philosophy and process, portfolio positioning, and performance drivers to internal and external stakeholders. Before joining William Blair in 2015, Kyle spent eight years at UBS Global Asset Management, most recently as part of its global investment solutions team, where he was responsible for interacting with clients and prospects regarding the firm's multi-asset capabilities. Kyle is a member of the CFA Institute, the CFA Society of Chicago, and the CAIA Association. He received a B.A. in finance from Boston College.

Ross Hambrick, CFA

Ross Hambrick is an analyst on William Blair's Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, Ross supports the team in all aspects of macro investment research, asset and currency valuation, trade support, and cash and collateral management. Before joining William Blair in 2014, Ross worked at Johnson Investment Counsel, where he completed rotations in portfolio management and investment research. He is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Chicago. Ross received a B.B.A. in finance and business economics, summa cum laude, from the University of Cincinnati.

Patrick Hurless

Patrick Hurless is the research director for William Blair's Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. He has more than 10 years of experience working on multi-asset and multi-currency investment teams, overseeing the frameworks that support the investment process and portfolio implementation. Before joining William Blair in 2014, Patrick was a managing director for the global investment solutions team at UBS Global Asset Management. In this role, he organized and supported the firm’s multi-asset and multi-currency investment functions and institutional advisory functions, and he chaired the global investment solutions senior management committee. Before that, he was a member of the U.S. institutional client relationship management team. Patrick received a B.S. in economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an M.B.A. from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

Steve Karasick

Steve Karasick is the head of derivatives trading for William Blair Investment Management. Before joining William Blair in 2014, he managed the derivatives desk for Allstate Investments. He began his career in the financial markets as an options market maker, first for Citigroup and then for Goldman Sachs. He also worked at Towers Perrin as a consulting actuary. Steve received a B.A. in mathematics and economics from the University of Michigan and an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Sam Marshall

Sam Marshall is an analyst on William Blair's Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, he is responsible for portfolio coordination and implementation, including managing cash flows and updating, implementing, and monitoring strategy changes for all team investment capabilities. Before joining William Blair in 2011, he was a director at UBS Global Asset Management, where he was part of the global investment solutions group. Before joining that group in 2005, he was a performance analyst for three years. He received a B.Sc. from the University of Surrey. His designations include an Investment Management Certificate (IMC).
Allyson Martinez
Allyson Martinez is an investment strategist on William Blair’s Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. Before joining William Blair in 2017, she worked as an associate for Mesirow Financial’s currency management team, focusing on client service and reporting, which required extensive currency product knowledge. Since 2014, she has been an active member in the University Club of Chicago and an auxiliary board member of Metrosquash. She is currently a member of the CFA Society and a CFA Level II Candidate. Allyson received a B.A. in economics and finance from Augustana College.

Lotta Moberg, Ph.D., CFA
Lotta Moberg is an analyst on William Blair’s Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, she is responsible for global macro research. Lotta previously worked for the Swedish foreign ministry in Russia and the Swedish Defense Forces in Kosovo, and has been a consultant for the World Bank. She has published articles in several economics journals, including *The Journal of Institutional Economics* and *The Review of Austrian Economics*, and has taught classes in economics at George Mason University. Lotta’s research includes special economic zones, tax policy, and municipal bankruptcy. She is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Chicago. She received a B.A. in economics from Lund University in Sweden and a Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University.

Edouard Senechal, CFA, FRM
Edouard Senechal is a research analyst on the Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, Edouard focuses on valuation research and risk management. Before joining William Blair in 2011, he was responsible for quantitative investment research and risk management at Singer Partners, LLC. Edouard is the former executive director and senior risk manager of UBS Global Asset Management Americas. At UBS, Edouard also managed a quantitative research group focused on external manager research and was in charge of implementing portable alpha solutions. Before that, he was a senior consultant for applied research at Barra. Edouard has authored a number of publications and is also the current chair of the CFA Institute Standard of Practice Council. He received a B.A. in economics from Dauphine University and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business.

John C. Simmons, CFA
John Simmons is the senior investment strategist for William Blair’s Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, he oversees client engagement globally on behalf of the team. John joined William Blair in his current role in 2012. Previously, he was a senior vice president with Callan Associates. Before that, he was a senior consultant, portfolio manager, and president for Nuveen Investment Solutions and the Nuveen HydePark Group, where, as portfolio manager for Nuveen Moderate Allocation Fund, he won the 2011 Lipper Fund Award for the “Best Fund over Three Years” in the Mixed-Asset Target Allocation Moderate Funds category. Before that, John was a senior consultant and principal with Richards & Tierney and an equity analyst and underwriter with a division of the American Financial Group following his retirement from a career in professional baseball. He is a member and past director of the CFA Society of Chicago and a member of the CFA Institute, the Economic Club of Chicago, the Executives’ Club of Chicago, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the advisory board of the Center for Study of Financial Markets and Derivatives at Saint Xavier University. In addition, John has current or past memberships on the School District 161 Board of Education, the board of trustees of Saint Xavier University, the community board of the Cancer Support Center, the governing council of Saint Francis de Sales High School, as well as Kappa Gamma Pi, Mensa, and the Association of Professional Ball Players of America. John received a B.A., *cum laude*, from Saint Xavier University and an M.B.A. from Saint Xavier University.

Renato Staub, Ph.D.
Renato Staub is a senior analyst with William Blair’s Dynamic Allocation Strategies (DAS) team. In this role, he oversees risk management. Before joining William Blair in 2011, Renato was responsible for quantitative investment research and risk management at Singer Partners, LLC, and was a senior investment and risk analyst at UBS Global Asset Management in Chicago and Zurich, where he was responsible for valuation analysis, risk analysis, and risk modeling, and portfolio design of liquid and alternative assets for asset allocation. He started his
career in investment management in 1996 as a quantitative analyst involved in the development of various alternative investments. Renato has published articles in a variety of professional journals. He received an M.S. from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of St. Gallen School of Management, Economics, Law, Social Sciences, and International Affairs (HSG).