

FEATURES

A Truly Liquid Investment

Large parts of the world are running short on water—even experiencing "desertification"—at an alarming rate. Innovative solutions being implemented by the public and private sectors may offer interesting opportunities for investors.

Through the Eye of the Storm with Feminine Values

In this interview, Halla Tomasdottir, founder and CEO of Sisters Capital and first woman CEO of the Iceland Chamber of Commerce, discusses the business case for gender balance, outlines the arguments for a more balanced approach, and evaluates the connections to a more sustainable financial services industry. In a [presentation](#) at a recent CFA Institute conference, Halla discussed her success after the financial collapse of Iceland in 2008 when her firm managed to triple its assets following the crisis. She believes her company thrived because of a more balanced set of values, "feminine" as well as "masculine."

A Look Ahead

The coming decade will bring even more dramatic change than the previous one, with several trends (and trend reversals) likely to hit the investing world like earthquakes. A decade ago, much of what seemed to be coming was engineered by and/or very favorable for the financial services industry; this time around, several next big things emerging from Silicon Valley are aiming at the heart of Wall Street.

MORE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Wrong Way of Thinking About Money

There is a rational or right way as well as an irrational or wrong way of thinking about money. As human beings, we are prone to thinking about money in the wrong way. Fortunately, there are some things we can do about our irrationality. In this interview, Dan Ariely, a professor of psychology and behavioral economics at Duke University, provides a more rational approach to money and opportunity costs.

Best of 2015: Career Management

The author looks back over 2015 and highlights some of the more interesting content on career management that was published. In this post, she offers five *Enterprising Investor* blog posts and five items the @CFACareers Twitter account highlighted in 2015 that have career management messages worth remembering.

The Benefits and Risks of Target Date Funds

Determining the optimal amount of risk to have in a retirement portfolio through the years is not easy. Target

date funds are, in theory, simple investment products that allow a person to focus on a single question: "How old am I?" Current age roughly maps to retirement age, and the target date fund automatically allocates risk along a predefined allocation mix that is appropriate as the person moves toward retirement.

Is Artificial Intelligence for Real?

Various applications of artificial intelligence (AI) can decipher people's age, make art and music, and make investments. The AI that makes art and music cannot also make investments, but it's a safe bet that there is at least one person in the world who is great at all three. And that is the heart of one of the key questions in the world right now: Is it possible to create an AI that can match a human at a broad range of cognitive tasks?

IN THE NEWS

These articles connect financial news stories with the Claritas course of study, providing a practical application of what you have learned.

In the News: Shadow Banking

In September 2015, Reuters reported that several central bankers had cautioned that imposing bank regulatory requirements on non-banks, or shadow banks, could have some unintended consequences for the financial markets. This article explains what shadow banking is and the role that shadow banking plays in the global financial system. For a more in-depth article about shadow banking, check out Nico Valckx's, senior economist with the International Monetary Fund, article "[Shadow Banking: Global Trends and Policy Developments.](#)"

In the News: Quantitative Easing

In June 2015, Bloomberg Business published an article titled "The Winners and Losers of the Fed's QE," which examined the effects of quantitative easing (QE) in the United States. The author of the article cites a number of research studies that point to various benefits and costs of QE. This article examines what QE is and why it matters.

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