

#### December 2012

## 2012 Twitter

By Max J. Rudolph, FSA CFA CERA

#### **Tweets**



DB pension plans should use the AAA's Economic Scenario Generator for valuation (with original MRP formula and updated equity history).



Still wondering why the default option when 401k funds pay dividends/cap gains isn't to use my new money preferences.



In my November 2012 newsletter I discuss the relationship between emerging risks and enterprise risk management. Happy...http://lnkd.in/ZDV\_NJ



If hedged against low interest rates 5 years ago would you be better off today or would you have built a bigger liability portfolio?



Just what the economy needs - an armed employee in every school. Higher taxes to pay for a non-producer.





I have posted my Oct 2012 newsletter, comparing lessons learned from the Dust Bowl with those not learned from the 200...http://lnkd.in/D8gani



Let's change the gun laws in haste this time - taking our time only allows automatic gun advocates time to line the pockets of both parties.



There will be pressure for politicians to avoid NRA money in future elections.



Rooting for Dragon against investment bankers - M&A with LHSP. Rumors, WSJ articles ignored in clean review. Clear fiduciary duty (and \$5M).



#linkedin Woke up to message that book review app was deleted, along with all my reviews. A little notice would have been nice. All gone :(



Some say capital does not reduce systemic risk, that crises are liquidity driven. End result true, but capital encourages charging for risk.





I think Taleb borrowed Risk and Light from <u>@dingramerm</u> in his AntiFragile book - as always Dave is ahead of the curve.



When the government manipulates markets it is like holding a ball under water - when you let go it overcorrects in the other direction.



NAIC members should engage true contrarians to review models - instead they make it so hard to "qualify" that solo practitioners stay away.



Anti PBR letter from NY rails about "redundant reserves" but ignores the high counterparty risk from offshore reinsurance that goes away.



As I work on the Emerging Risk survey, concerns abound of unintended consequences between fracking, fresh water, energy policy, food production.



Low rates make taxing munis easier. Tax benefit is small today.





You can't debase your currency unless some other country is strong. I don't see any country able to fill that role.



Why do regulators think CTE can be combined with conservative assumptions? #unintendedconsequences



I find that when I try to focus on a few investment ideas that they tend to concentrate in just a few sectors. #investingchallenges



Putting active <u>#CRO</u> on board is a conflict of interest. How do you create a healthy tension with line managers when you determine their job?



Read comment pushing alternative asset classes with lower correlations to mainstream assets over the full market cycle - misses the point!



Is a country strong enough economically to absorb the hit when all the others try to inflate their way out of debt? **#Fiscaloptionslimited**.





Is DB plan funding percentage a leading contrarian indicator of investment returns? It is if markets mean revert.



Do political parties really think I'm more likely to vote their way after 500 phone calls? #really!



Value investors act independently. When they post do they even read the responses?



<u>@frankashe</u> <u>@dingramerm</u> except I don't have intrinsic value for all assets (funds in tax advantaged plans)



<u>@dingramerm</u> it's one or the other. my gut tells me IV but you have to be really confident in your own ability to totally ignore MV



If a value investor believes in asset allocation, should they use market prices or intrinsic value for weightings?





In my Sep 2012 newsletter I review a paper describing excess returns earned by Warren Buffett, Buffett's Alpha. http://lnkd.in/tPNdAm



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

Thanks to all who filled out the Emerging Risk Survey. We had 30% more than last year. I'm looking forward to diving into the data!



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**#Sandy** is a great example where those not impacted directly can debrief an event and think about localized risks.



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Of course NY based exchanges will be open tomorrow - it's month end!



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11 years out from 911 and the markets are still hostage to events in NYC. I feel bad for those impacted but this is embarrassing.



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Good luck to all my friends on the east coast as they experience <u>#sandy</u> this week - gettin' up close and personal to an outlier!





In my August 2012 newsletter I discussed China, fracking, political insider trading, and an interpretation of Malthus....http://lnkd.in/it3apx



Why is it called the iPhone? I never use it to call anyone.



In my July 2012 newsletter I discuss the ERM Standards project that is currently underway by the Actuarial Standards B...http://lnkd.in/it3apx



Commercials should not be longer than the video tweet I want to watch!



Had Buffett stuck strictly to Graham's cigar butt approach he could not have grown to current size. Opportunities too small/time intensive.



Is it a contrarian move that pension plans are hedging at high cost driven by low interest rates? Insurers are speculating on rate increase.





In my June 2012 newsletter I suggest that a financial crisis can be explained using categories of concentration risk. ...http://lnkd.in/\_rGhxm



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Biggest systemic risk for life insurers is interest rates - slow death if they stay low and quick death if they spike. Not company specific.



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In my May 2012 newsletter I shared a misaligned incentives example and talked about fiduciary duty of DB plan overseer...http://lnkd.in/\_rGhxm



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In my April 2012 newsletter I spoke about some of my ideas to fix the economy. Note: they aren't all economic in natur...http://lnkd.in/\_rGhxm



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I've started releasing my 2012 newsletters. In March I wrote about some reasons why Berkshire Hathaway bought communit...http://lnkd.in/it3apx



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

I'm looking forward to seeing friends in DC this week at the SOA annual meeting - 2 talks this time, emerging risk & social media.





The 2011 Emerging Risk Survey is open. Please follow the link to complete it and share with other risk managers as we ...http://lnkd.in/K-WCdt



A piece highlighting cyber-risk was published in the Oct 2012 RIMS RM magazine. It's based off my emerging risk survey...http://lnkd.in/duMEuV



Those taking system to the brink should automatically be named systemically important. AIG, anything John Meriwether is involved in, etc.



One of my January predictions was re-election for Obama if the unemployment rate was less than 8%. Doesn't seem to matter how we got here!



Why are some trying to make it harder to vote than to receive Social Security benefits or Medicare?



I just reread Dave Ingram's Law of Risk and Light - classic paper!





Why don't journalists talk about the low expenses of buy and hold self-directed accounts? Mine are below 1 bp, yes 1 bp. #timehorizon



Higher capital gains rate would lead to more repurchases of stock when overvalued. Let investors invest. #obvious



Buffett claims to avoid macro forecasts but collects companies that provide the best leading indicators and pores over their data.



You can still sign up for Wed webcast - insurer investing strategies during the financial crisis. Geoff Hancock gives ...http://lnkd.in/aBHp7U



Does the NAIC understand interest rate risk when there is a required floor and the Fed has rates artificially low?#unintendedconsequences



Why aren't investors piecing together the signs that China is slowing? #mosaictheory





#### **SOA@SOActuaries**

#Insurance company investment strategies in an economic downturn http://bit.ly/U6DTly On the SOA blog @maxrudolph

Retweeted by Max Rudolph



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

#CLRS2012 just attended first CAS seminar - great discussion with attendees! I need to steal some of their ideas:)



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

I'm kicking off a busy fall schedule with a talk covering my prize winning ORSA essay at the Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar Friday morning.



4 Aug Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

I'm disappointed that SEC was not able to increase transparency of money market funds and their investments. #lostopportunity



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Scenario for insurers: know how large an interest rate spike you can survive. Consider reinsurer stress, credit losses, pension losses, etc.



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Do pension consultants have defined benefit plans? #practicewhatyoupreach





Another sign that off-balance sheet items are taking down municipal bonds as Berkshire Hathaway terminates \$8 billion of CDS contracts.



Congrats to NAIC for taking another step toward PBA! Implementation will be even tougher.



With states improving process to pay old life insurance death benefits, will they turn now to health policies (e.g., LTC) with cash values?



The longer the Fed keeps rates low the closer we are to destroying the life insurance industry and its promises. **#goalsofgovernment**?



Just received August 2012 JRMS newsletter with my essay on leveraging ORSA to add value. Note new website address. http://lnkd.in/CgcWvT



Corn crop knee high by June 1, now **#drought** leaves few ears and mostly brown stalks. **#differenceamonthmakes** 





Interesting - lots of Penn State t-shirts on the Boardwalk. More interesting - all worn by 12 year old boys. #notthereyet



<u>Max Rudolph@maxru</u>dolph

For my actuarial friends, please vote in the SOA election. Great choices! Especially consider Jim Ramenda - non trad background, CERA.



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NAIC requires 1,000 fixed interest rate scenarios - helps them audit but increases systemic risk due to generator bias. What is their goal?



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Football scandals just scratch the surface of university risk management woes. Concentration of power at the top, driven by football money.



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<u>#riskmanagement</u> gotta love Disney - at youth baseball tourney they ignore visual sightings of lightning and rely entirely on machines



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Penn State scandal shows common features with Wall Street risk management shortcomings - culture, concentration of power, accountability





I wonder if banks financing the Panama Canal expansion factored in lost business due to global warming? NW passage #unintendedconsequences



# Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

Why are actuarial assumptions not consistent across practice areas? PBA is overly redundant while pension practice is still aggressive.



### Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

I have a new website and email address. I have not received email at the old address since June 14. max.rudolph@rudolp...http://lnkd.in/CgcWvT



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

<u>@millimanhealth</u> using mean seems odd metric for health care since the distribution of care is not normal - do you have median or quartiles?



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More coverage of our Emerging Risk survey from Global Finance magazine. Includes quotes from me and Alan Roth. http://lnkd.in/-XvVVJ



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

Why are we calculating health care cost for a family of 4? Is cost of elderly (Medicare) backed out first? Makes no sense otherwise.





http://tinyurl.com/7556q3q IBC report worries that climate change will be bad for Canada. Doesn't mention positive impact on cold weather events.



When CEO and Chair jobs are combined it seems like an automatic fail for ERM practice due to concentration of decision making power.



Nice piece in Financial Executive magazine covering the Emerging Risk survey. http://lnkd.in/5FAjcs



Accounting standards should consider moving from assets and liabilities to portfolios, reflecting how assets and liabilities are managed.



**#Schwab** MMF ad is confusing. Claims MMFs have no liabilities but insurers are leveraged 9 to 1. Misleading at best-MMF currently subsidized.



If Basle switches to TVaR/CTE/ES they will still need to consider extreme events in a deterministic stress scenario.





An article I co-authored about insurer investment strategies has been posted to the CFA magazine May/June issue, pages...http://lnkd.in/YfusBS



Add to list of things to avoid - dominant position in trade you don't understand, with basis risk, in market the Fed drives. Who knew? #JPM



I was quoted in an INN article about Lloyd's entering emerging markets re general expectations of such a move. http://lnkd.in/kBqebW



My article on leveraging the ORSA requirements is now available, along with 17 other short essays I'm looking forward ...http://lnkd.in/bcC5va



The JP Morgan loss makes clear once again that if you don't understand the potential outcomes of your trade, don't put it on your books.



It is not a "standard" if you have to pay to access the information. Basel is a standard, COSO and ISO31000 are not.





There is a contradiction between those who think of risk as downside only and those who believe CAPM is an optimization tool.



pg 11 article in April/May Treasury & Risk Management magazine covering my Emerging Risk Survey - I attached a link t…http://lnkd.in/zKk9rX



#Buffett comments re Chief Risk Officer focus on losing capital, still seems to miss the reputational risk from the Sokol fallout #BRK #ERM



received defined benefit funding notice this week - 73% funded (aggressive assumptions?) - \$300 million shortfall - **#fiduciary #incentives** 



Business Insurance article focuses on the Emerging Risks Survey and includes some quotes from me. #ERMSymposium http://lnkd.in/M2P3xv



CFO magazine article quoting me and talking about the Emerging Risks Survey! **#ERMSymposium** http://lnkd.in/-g-Dar





5th Emerging Risks Survey was released today. Lots of interest in it again this year as we start to see trends. http://lnkd.in/rFVsYi



Revelation (to me) - 99.5% over 1 year really means under normal circumstances. Ignoring extreme events limits the value of the result.



**#CFT** would add value if ran a single scenario to match initial reserves/assets, then turned all accounting features off - cash flows only.



<u>#NAIC</u> 4/6 Capital Markets report on <u>#reinsurer</u> investing misses the mark by focusing on industry exposure. Why they differ is not answered.



My ORSA essay submitted to the JRMS was recognized as one of the top papers received. Check it out at my website. http://lnkd.in/h4d7S7



CRO of Guggenheim's holistic operations would be fun job. Wealth management/insurance/LA Dodgers. Correlations and unintended consequences!





Why aren't projected earnings and growth rate trends tracked as an index? May be predictive. Now higher current year but lower growth rates.



Reinsurers reporting that 2011 had the worst flooding, tornados, etc. in XX years. Not saying the worst ever. Don't ignore distant history.



Why no discussion of board succession planning at <u>#BerkshireHathaway</u>? Worries about Buffett at 81 but 6 board members are at least 80.



Hedge funds will report market beating returns when dumb capital comes in due to <a href="#survivorbias">#survivorbias</a>. Hard to argue they can overcome high fees.



Interesting op-ed in yesterday's WSJ by Burton Malkiel, where Mr. Efficient Markets tells you which asset classes are mispriced. Seems odd!



#Goldman's #riskculture won't improve until the managers are working with their own money. They should return to the partnership model.





Interesting responses to Greg Smith <u>#Goldman</u> op-ed. Why don't clients insist on a fiduciary duty in their contracts?



is looking forward to attending the ERM Symposium, presenting on Emerging Risks and moderating a session from the call...http://lnkd.in/shYyq3



With unemployment still high, esp among youth, the minimum wage should be lowered for below 22 working 20 hours or less per week. #thefuture



Zvi Bodie's <u>#WSJ</u> article Monday - does he really believe the last 30 years of bond returns are predictive? Rates cycle, will go up eventually.



Rather than allow corporate America to reduce pension contributions, PBGC should increase charge on plans that are underfunded. #moralhazard



More jobs but unemployment rate not going down as workers return to the job market. Good sign!





I was recruited for an emerging risk session at <u>#soa</u> annual meeting in October - DC Gaylord property. Should be fun! I hope to see you there



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

I wish there was a fiduciary duty to those hiring young employees into a DB pension plan - either fulfill the promise or don't offer it!



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

Watched part of <u>#Buffett</u> on <u>#CNBC</u> - most interesting comment was that <u>#Sokol</u> was not the "chosen one" prior to his escapades with Lubrizol.



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

My question to **#Buffett** was first one asked on CNBC this morning. I'm sure everyone saw it at 5:30 this morning. :)



eb Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

Surprisingly no discussion of **#BRK** underwriting profit 88% reduction, including Jain's \$700 million loss. Understandable, but no mention.



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Buffett letter to **#BRK** shareholders says successor chosen but not that it is an internal candidate. Bill Gates? Why aren't rumors flying?





New **#SOAdirectory** feature allows you to include social media contact points. Easy to use! Thanks SOA



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How much of this month's stock market rally is due to Jeremy Lin and the NY Giants Super Bowl win? And some still say markets are efficient!



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So Michael Phelps won't wear a high-tech suit but sleeps in a hyperbaric chamber. Sure seems like an inconsistent brand to me.



Max Rudolph@maxrudolph

Normally I like Andrew Lo's writing style but found his 21 book review weak. I learn best when I merge new stuff with what I already know.



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Bureaucratic/compliance driven <u>#ERM</u> always comes out in the long run. False sense of security until then.



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Why does <u>#wsj</u> allow Phil <u>#Gramm</u> to write op-ed? Should be expose on his family's role in crisis. Guaranteed <u>#bestseller</u>





In Nobel winner Kahneman's new book he seems to be laying the groundwork to say computers would diagnose better than engaged doctors.



has posted a research project titled U.S. Insurance Company Investment Strategies in an Economic Downturn. http://lnkd.in/-xwUAV



was quoted in the Wall Street Journal print edition January 17, 2012 on emerging risks - page B5.



posted my 2012 predictions. Lots to think/worry about this year. http://lnkd.in/aamC9-



<u>@samcox</u> Sam I'm so sorry to hear about Mike. We will keep the Manitoba family in our prayers.



Posted December 2011 newsletter including all my tweets for the year! No editing :) http://lnkd.in/aamC9-





<u>@CherylKrueger</u> You are a media star! You forgot the "shoebox" method. The interest is competitive with the other options:)

**View conversation Hide conversation** 



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Posted November 2011 two page newsletter with topics Preparation, Global Warming, and Correlation and Tail Risk (lolla...http://lnkd.in/aamC9-



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Posted October 2011 two page newsletter with topics Deja vu (Black Swan vs. perfect storm), Transparency, and Savings ...http://lnkd.in/aamC9-



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Posted September 2011 two page newsletter titled "What is risk?" where I describe 3 ways I see people think about risk...http://lnkd.in/aamC9-



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Posted August 2011 two page newsletter titled "Tax Code" where I detail my ideas to improve the fairness of the US fed...http://lnkd.in/aamC9-



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Notice from Schwab in monthly statements about money market funds that break the buck and their protection plan. Appears ever closer.





<u>@eddie\_smith</u> some right some wrong this year - working on 2012 predictions now!



Posted July 2011 one page newsletter titled "Tools work great, until they don't". http://lnkd.in/aamC9-



Posted June 2011 newsletter discussing <u>#BerkshireHathaway</u> in context of <u>#successionplanning</u>, including how <u>#BRK</u> could ...http://<u>lnkd.in/aamC9-</u>



Posted a review of my 2011 predictions. Some were surprisingly correct, like unemployment, politics and volatility. http://lnkd.in/aamC9-

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