HSI Week Ended January 20th, 2017

The Husson Stock Index increased 0.73% from the week ended January 13th. However, the analysis of companies comprising the Husson Stock Index is being compared to December 9th, 2016, the week of Husson University’s fall semester. The Husson Stock Index ended with an increase of 2.20% over that time period. There were many significant increases and decreases over this period. The most significant increase from December 9th to January 20th was Athenahealth (ATHN) which increased 26.64% to $121.83. Additionally, Northeast Bancorp (NBN) increased 10.25% to $13.45 and Charter Communications (CHTR) increased 10.63% to $308.44. Charter has seen this increase because it is finally starting to control its newly acquired markets from Time Warner Cable. The rest of the significant changes were decreases. Rite Aid (RAD) decreased by 11.61% to $7.46. This occurred due to investor’s skepticism about the possible Walgreens buyout. Two other banks had large decreases: Bar Harbor Bankshares (BHB) decreased by 13.14% to $42.49 and First Bancorp (FNLC) decreased by 13.83% to $26.85. We were unable to find any articles which addressed these decreases or Northeast Bancorp’s increase.

United Technologies Corporation was added to the Husson Stock Index starting the week of January 20th. Pratt & Whitney, one of its subsidiaries, is a large Maine employer.

Athenahealth (ATHN): Athenahealth has seen an incredible rise in its stock value due to their recent announcement of their 2017 projections. This is explained in detail by Yahoo Finances Zacks Equity Research saying, “For 2017, the company affirmed total revenue at the range of $1.290–$1.330 billion. GAAP operating income is estimated in the $61–$81 million range. The adjusted operating income is expected between $170 million and $190 million. Annual bookings are expected in the range of $400–$450 million.”

Charter Communications (CHTR): Charter has seen a stock increase because it is finally taking over the large markets previously controlled by Time Warner Cable. Charter Communications is also offering exceptionally better packages than Time Warner Cable, as explained by Andy Brownfield, “For one, Charter's base speed is now 100 Megabits per second (“Mbps”). Time Warner's maximum speed was 50 Mbps, so customers who sign up for a new Charter plan will see at least double their internet speed. The new max speed on Charter is 300 Mbps” (Brownfield, Andy).

Rite Aid (RAD): Rite Aid took a major fall due to the fact that people are becoming skeptic about the Federal Trade Commission possibly rejecting the Walgreens Boots Alliance (WAG) purchase of Rite Aid. “One of last week's biggest losers was **Rite Aid**. Shares of the drugstore chain plummeted 13.9% on the week [of January 20th], falling on concerns that regulators may not approve its pending acquisition by **Walgreens Boots Alliance” (Munarriz, Rick.)**

The Husson Stock Index was developed by Marie Kenney, while a student at Husson University, in consultation with Associate Professor J. Douglas Wellington. The index is currently being tracked and analyzed by Husson student Justin Hallowell. The index tracks and analyzes 28 companies that are considered to have an effect on the Maine economy. These companies are either based in Maine or have an influence on the Maine economy through employment, number of consumers, and overall presence in the State. This price-weighted index offers a numerical break down of Maine’s economy. The analysis looks into the events of the week and finds the likely reasons the index was up or down. The index and analysis help provide a better understanding of Maine’s economy and offer an explanation of significant changes in the stock prices of the companies that comprise the Husson Stock Index.

Zacks Equity Research. Yahoo Finance. (2016, December 15).Athenahealth (ATHN) Reaffirms 2016 View, Guides for 2017. Retrieved from: <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/athenahealth-athn-reaffirms-2016-view-112711152.html>

Brownfield, Andy. Cincinnati Business Journals. (2017, January 18). Time Warner completes switchover to Charter; here's what that means for Cincinnati. Retrieved from: <http://www.bizjournals.com/cincinnati/news/2017/01/18/time-warner-completes-switchover-to-charter-heres.html?ana=yahoo&yptr=yahoo>

Munarriz, Rick. The Motley Fool. (2017, January 22). Can Rite Aid Stock Bounce Back After Last Week's 14% Drop?Retrieved from <http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2017/01/22/can-rite-aid-stock-bounce-back-after-last-weeks-14.aspx?source=yahoo-2-news&utm_campaign=article&utm_medium=feed&utm_source=yahoo-2-news&yptr=yahoo>