
TRADER DAILY

30 Under 30

We polled the worldwide trading community in order to identify the top young talent currently slaying the capital markets. Behold the future -- and the present -- of trading.

By: [Andrew Barber](#), [Rich Blake](#), [AnnaMaria Andriotis](#), [Leah McGrath Goodman](#)

Issue: [August/September 2006](#), Page 76

Of all Stevie Cohen's prodigies, Chandler Bocklage is probably the best.

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30 UNDER 30



Jennifer Pomerantz

Age: 26

Firm: Sandell Asset Management

City: New York

Trades: Equity -- energy, natural resources

Oil, natural gas and alternative-energy stocks were among the biggest stories in the market over the past year, and Pomerantz has been at the center of the action throughout. The University of Chicago alumna is a driving force in the natural-resources equity group at \$3 billion-plus Sandell. Reportedly not shy about voicing her opinions to management, Pomerantz speaks several languages fluently -- which no doubt helps her get her point across.

Paul Redmond

Age: 27

Firm: Elite Derivatives

City: London

Trades: DAX futures

Just five years after graduating from college, Redmond is shaking up the DAX futures market, making his name with legendary swings and seven-figure scores. Trading up to 4,000 lots on an average day, he is aware of his own size: "Sixty lots of the DAX," he says, "is a big deal."

Born to an Iraqi father and an Irish mother, Redmond lived in Iraq until age 7, when he moved to Wexford, Ireland, with his mother. He graduated from Dublin's Trinity College with degrees in economics and finance, deferring his acceptance to an engineering doctoral program after reading an online ad that Geneva Trading was looking for trainees. He landed the job, and after five months of trading equity spreads was promoted to senior trader. By the following spring, he had delved into the DAX; by that fall, as his volume was steadily increasing from four to 30 lots per trade, Redmond, eager to leave the Emerald Isle, transferred to Geneva's Chicago office. "I had an urge to be in the center of the futures industry," he says.

In September 2003, Redmond moved to Refco's Gibraltar office, though soon after he transferred to London. Why? "It's hard to distinguish between work and leisure in Gibraltar," he says.

By early 2004, he had parlayed his solo station as a DAX trader at Refco into a two-man firm, Rooster Trading, which clears through Elite Derivatives. When he's not trading, he travels around

Europe on extended vacations. "I believe in working hard and playing hard," he says. "I'll stick to a cycle of giving it my all for two consecutive months, then take a six-week vacation as far from the City as I can get."

Scott Shleifer

Age: 29

Firm: Tiger Global Management

City: New York

Trades: Equities — emerging markets and technology

Tiger phenom Chase Coleman might never have made the Trader Monthly 100 without his secret weapon: Scott Shleifer.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Shleifer got his start in private equity at Blackstone Group after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1999. After a few years there doing research, he joined Tiger as an analyst and currently assists Coleman in managing the roughly \$2 billion Tiger Global Fund.

He focuses primarily on the Asian equities markets, racking up a considerable amount of travel time overseas as he searches for the next addition to the portfolio, which racked up gains of more than 40 percent last year. And his reputation? "On a scale of one to 10," gushes one sales trader who covers him, "Scott is a 12."

Josh Slavitt



Age: 30

Firm: BNP Paribas

City: New York

Trades: Equity derivatives

Shortly after graduating from the University of Michigan in 1998, Slavitt, who grew up in Livingston, New Jersey, joined the training program at Spear, Leeds & Kellogg. On the floor of the AMEX, he gained a reputation as a team player. "We knew Josh had the mentality and the talent," says Stu Sternberg, Slavitt's boss at SLK and the owner of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. "We'd be out after work, and he'd still have his trading sheets in his back pocket."

Slavitt excelled at SLK, rising to senior vice president by age 24. He remained there through its acquisition by Goldman Sachs, which combined it with the bank's Hull unit to create SLK-Hull Derivatives. Meanwhile, he was burnishing his reputation as one of the newly integrated firm's most intelligent risk takers.

In the summer of 2005, he jumped at the chance to move upstairs by joining the fledgling U.S. equity-derivatives platform coming together at BNP Paribas. Headed by veteran derivatives trader Todd Steinberg, BNP's effort is in full stride, increasing the bank's presence in the U.S.-listed options market while gaining a reputation for committing capital aggressively. "We have built something that more than competes with the big U.S. banks," he says. Slavitt -- who, when he's not trading, maintains a four handicap -- is one reason why.

Paul Sohn

Age: 28

Firm: Kingdon Capital Management

City: New York

Trades: Equities -- technology

Given his stellar track record (compounded average annual returns rumored to be consistently north of 30 percent), don't be surprised if Sohn eventually becomes a household name -- at least in households with \$1 million or more in investable assets. Sohn -- who no doubt knew a few such families while growing up in Westchester County, New York -- played lacrosse at Yale, where he earned a reputation as a tenacious defensive player. While in New Haven, he sat on the board of directors of the Yale College Student Investment Group, helping manage a six-figure portfolio. After graduating in 1999, he joined Soros Fund Management. At 23, he was hired by Stanley Druckenmiller's Duquesne to manage a tech-stock portfolio. Continuing his all-star hedge-fund

tour, Sohn moved to Kingdon in 2004. He now oversees hundreds of millions.

Timothy Sykes



Age: 25
Firm: Cilantro Fund Partners
City: New York
Trades: Equity -- small-cap, micro-cap

He's not the first Wall Street trader to get started in finance with his bar mitzvah windfall (a 13-year-old Michael Steinhardt famously received stock shares on his big day), but Sykes's parlay just might take the challah.

When he was 18, he placed more than \$12,000 of his bar mitzvah money in a discount online brokerage account. Just three years later, he had traded his way up to a pretax sum of \$1.65 million, a feat that earned him media attention. In 2003, during his senior year at Tulane University, he launched Cilantro Fund Partners, a short-bias hedge fund, at the behest of friends and family whose accounts he was trading.

Sykes hunkered down in his dorm room by day, finding his edge shorting micro-cap stocks, and took classes toward a philosophy degree at night. His strategy focuses on researching potential profit opportunities in companies with less than \$500 million in market capital. "I always look for stocks with the most liquidity and volatility," he says.

With \$3 million under management, four fund-of-fund investors and a 21 percent three-year annualized average return, Cilantro was ranked the top short-bias fund in the Barclays Fund Rankings, released earlier this year. Will he be able to maintain similar returns as his asset base grows? "I take comfort in knowing that Warren Buffett was once trading in his pajamas out of his living room," Sykes says. "He didn't get much respect until his tenth year of gains."

Andrew Warford

Age: 29
Firm: Maverick Capital
City: New York
Trades: Equities -- technology

Warford came to Dallas-based Maverick from Viking Global Investors in 2003 to head up the \$9 billion asset manager's technology sector. He has since posted consistently solid returns.

A physician's son from Bismarck, North Dakota, Warford attended Notre Dame, where he played on the tennis team. He was given the opportunity to actively manage money while still an undergraduate via the school's Applied Investment Management course, in which students manage funds allocated from the university's endowment pool.

The AIM course is quite prestigious; only 25 students are selected to participate. "Andy really stands out," says Frank Reilly, a Notre Dame professor of finance who helps oversee the program. "He was very involved and very articulate. It was pretty clear whenever he would speak or make a presentation that he is incredibly bright."

David Wertentheil



Age: 27
Firm: Carlin Financial
City: New York
Trades: Event-driven equity, spreads

As the head of trading on the institutional sales desk of New York's privately held Carlin Financial, Wertentheil has begun to elevate his game. He got his start during the dot-com boom trading tech stocks at a small Teaneck, New Jersey, prop shop's Manhattan office before joining Carlin, which boasts advanced prop-trading technology. Managing complex equity trades for a wide range of institutional investors, he rapidly developed a knack for event-driven trading.

These days, he oversees a team of more than a dozen -- many older than he is. Do they mind

being managed by a 27-year-old? "Not really," he says. "When you're helping people make money, they don't really care how old you are."

Travis Williamson

Age: 27

Firm: DCF Capital

City: Greenwich, Connecticut

Trades: Equities, options and fixed-income -- biotech

Biotechnology is a volatile sector to trade. But doing so doesn't faze Williamson, the head trader at DCF Capital, a hedge fund with roughly \$250 million.

A lifelong resident of Greenwich, he started in the training program at Goldenberg, Hehmeyer & Co. in 2001 after graduating from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. He left his job trading Treasury futures at Goldenberg for DCF, where he focuses on strategies to manage the portfolio's risk across the full capital structure on many core positions. He's also currently taking night classes as he works toward an MBA.

Benjamin Zorilla

Age: 25

Firm: HLV Capital

City: New York

Trades: Equity

Born in the Dominican Republic, this unassuming New Yorker needed only a few months to develop a reliable trading strategy: Buy sparingly and shoot only to win. Eighteen months ago, Zorilla came in green to New York-based prop shop HLV Capital, a significant liquidity provider for Nasdaq stocks. He quickly distinguished himself as a consistent earner.

Colleagues describe how he often waits for a golden opportunity for hours before striking. "I just aim for more positive days than negative ones," he says. He admits to having a soft spot for high-volume tech stocks such as Lucent, Nortel and Motorola, and often trades in increments of 1,000 shares or more at a time.

What is his main goal as a trader? Zorilla defers to fellow HLV trader Don Cummings, who speaks for them both: "To make enough money," Cummings says, "that money doesn't matter."

Photographs by Ian Spanier Styling by Jennifer Lee

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5 Comments:

· Posted by [ticks](#) - Aug 30 2006 @ 7:06 PM

Benjamin Zorrilla

Heavy Duty "10 pound Gorrilla" ? Trading penny stocks with 1000 lots? No post of any track record with a questionable Firm -- HLV -- that is suspect at best according to the talk on the street....

· Posted by [voredy](#) - Aug 29 2006 @ 10:15 PM

umm

You guys have a 10 lot trader as one of the best traders on the street under 30? Exactly how many traders do you know?

· Posted by [mario.pietromonaco](#) - Aug 2 2006 @ 10:51 PM

dinner @ harry's

I was invited and responded with a yes. But seemed to have deleted the e-mail. Please let me know what time and when this event is. I am really looking forward to it.

· Posted by [jtrader2802](#) - Aug 1 2006 @ 9:34 AM

Benjamin Zorilla

Trading those heavy weight tech stocks like Lucent, and Nortel in 1,000 share increments.....sounds like he'll be waiting a LONG time for that golden opportunity. Give me more of Gorilla traders, not zorilla.

· Posted by [peaktrade](#) - Jul 30 2006 @ 12:43 AM

Jennifer Pomerantz

Ms. Jones, I mean Pomerantz, just goes to show that the glass ceiling still exists big time and to play with the boys it helps to dress like the boys...

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