



MFS[®] Research International Series

Initial Class

Prospectus May 1, 2009

This prospectus describes the MFS Research International Series.

The fund's investment objective is to seek capital appreciation.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved the fund's shares or determined whether this prospectus is accurate or complete. Anyone who tells you otherwise is committing a crime.

MFS[®] Variable Insurance Trust

5/1/09

VRI-IPRO

MFS Research International Series

Initial Class

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RISK RETURN SUMMARY

Investment Objective

The fund's investment objective is to seek capital appreciation. The fund's objective may be changed without shareholder approval.

Principal Investment Strategies

MFS (Massachusetts Financial Services Company, the fund's investment adviser) normally invests the fund's assets primarily in foreign equity securities, including emerging market equity securities.

MFS may invest a relatively large percentage of the fund's assets in a single country, a small number of countries, or a particular geographic region.

In selecting investments for the fund, MFS is not constrained to any particular investment style. MFS may invest the fund's assets in the stocks of companies it believes to have above average earnings growth potential compared to other companies (growth companies), in the stocks of companies it believes are undervalued compared to their perceived worth (value companies), or in a combination of growth and value companies.

MFS may invest the fund's assets in companies of any size.

MFS may use derivatives for different purposes, including to earn income and enhance returns, to increase or decrease exposure to a particular market, to manage or adjust the risk profile of the fund, or as alternatives to direct investments.

A team of investment research analysts selects investments for the fund. MFS allocates the fund's assets to analysts by broad market sectors.

MFS uses a bottom-up investment approach in buying and selling investments for the fund. Investments are selected primarily based on fundamental analysis of issuers and their potential in light of their current financial condition and industry position, and market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions. Factors considered may include analysis of earnings, cash flows, competitive position, and management ability. Quantitative analysis of these and other factors may also be considered.

MFS may engage in active and frequent trading in pursuing the fund's principal investment strategies.

In response to market, economic, political, or other conditions, MFS may depart from the fund's principal investment strategies by temporarily investing for defensive purposes.

Principal Investment Types

Equity Securities: Equity securities represent an ownership interest, or the right to acquire an ownership interest, in a company or other issuer. Different types of equity securities provide different voting and dividend rights and priorities in the event of bankruptcy of the issuer. Equity securities include common stocks, preferred stocks, securities convertible into stocks, and depositary receipts for those securities.

Derivatives: Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is based on the value of one or more underlying indicators or the difference between underlying indicators. Underlying indicators may include a security or other financial instrument, asset, currency, interest rate, credit rating, commodity, volatility measure, or index. Derivatives often involve a counterparty to the transaction. Derivatives include futures, forward contracts, options, structured securities, inverse floating rate instruments, swaps, caps, floors, and collars.

Principal Risks

As with any mutual fund, you could lose money on your investment in the fund. An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The principal risks of investing in the fund are:

Stock Market Risk: The price of an equity security fluctuates in response to issuer, market, economic, industry, political, and regulatory developments. Prices can decrease significantly in response to these developments, and these developments can affect a single issuer, issuers within a broad market sector, industry or geographic region, or the market

in general. Different parts of the market and different types of securities can react differently to these developments. For example, the stocks of growth companies can react differently from the stocks of value companies, and the stocks of large cap companies can react differently from the stocks of small cap companies. Certain unanticipated events, such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks, war, and other geopolitical events, can have a dramatic adverse effect on stock markets.

Company Risk: Changes in the financial condition of a company or other issuer, changes in specific market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions that affect a particular type of investment or issuer, and changes in general market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions can adversely affect the price of an investment. The price of securities of smaller, less well-known companies can be more volatile than the price of securities of larger companies or the market in general.

Foreign Risk: Investments in securities of foreign issuers, securities of companies with significant foreign exposure, and foreign currencies can involve additional risks relating to market, economic, political, or regulatory conditions and developments. Political, social, and economic instability, the imposition of currency or capital controls, or the expropriation or nationalization of assets in a particular country can cause dramatic declines in that country's economy. Less stringent regulatory, accounting, and disclosure requirements for issuers and markets are more common in certain foreign countries. Enforcing legal rights can be difficult, costly, and slow in certain foreign countries, and can be particularly difficult against foreign governments. Additional risks of foreign investments include trading, settlement, custodial, and other operational risks, and withholding and other taxes. These factors can make foreign investments, especially those in emerging markets, more volatile and less liquid than U.S. investments. In addition, foreign markets can react differently to market, economic, political, or regulatory developments than the U.S. market.

Emerging Markets Risk: Emerging markets investments can involve additional and greater risks than the risks associated with investments in developed foreign markets securities. Emerging markets typically have less economic development, market structure and depth and regulatory oversight than developed countries. Emerging markets can also be subject to greater political, social, and economic instability. These factors can make emerging market investments more volatile and less liquid than investments in developed markets.

Currency Risk: A decline in the value of a foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar reduces the value of the foreign currency and investments denominated in that currency. In addition, the use of foreign exchange contracts to reduce foreign currency exposure can eliminate some or all of the benefit of an increase in the value of a foreign currency versus the U.S. dollar. The value of foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar fluctuates in response to, among other factors, interest rate changes, intervention (or failure to intervene) by the U.S. or foreign governments, central banks, or supranational entities such as the International Monetary Fund, the imposition of currency controls, and other political or regulatory developments in the U.S. or abroad. Foreign currency values can decrease significantly both in the short term and over the long term in response to these and other developments.

Geographic Concentration Risk: Because MFS may invest a relatively large percentage of the fund's assets in issuers located in a single country, a small number of countries, or a particular geographic region, the fund's performance could be closely tied to the market, currency, economic, political, or regulatory conditions and developments in those countries or that region, and could be more volatile than the performance of more geographically-diversified funds.

Derivatives Risk: Derivatives can be used to take both long and short positions (i.e., the value of a derivative can be positively or negatively related to the value of the underlying indicator(s) on which the derivative is based). Derivatives can be highly volatile and involve risks in addition to the risks of the underlying indicator(s). Gains or losses from derivatives can be substantially greater than the derivatives' original cost, and can sometimes be unlimited, and therefore, can involve leverage. Derivatives can be complex instruments and can involve analysis and processing that differs from that required for other investment types used by the fund. If the value of a derivative does not correlate well with the particular market or other asset class the derivative is intended to provide exposure to, the derivative may not have the effect anticipated. Derivatives can also reduce the opportunity for gains or result in losses by offsetting positive returns in other investments. Derivatives can be less liquid than other types of investments.

Leveraging Risk: Certain transactions, including when-issued, delayed-delivery, and forward commitment purchases, and the use of some derivatives, can result in leverage. Leverage involves investment exposure in an amount exceeding the initial investment. In transactions involving leverage, a relatively small change in an underlying indicator can lead to significantly larger losses to the fund. Leverage can cause increased volatility by magnifying gains or losses.

Investment Selection Risk: The MFS analysis of an investment can be incorrect and its selection of investments can lead to an investment focus that results in the fund underperforming other funds with similar investment strategies and/or underperforming the markets in which the fund invests.

Counterparty and Third Party Risk: Transactions involving a counterparty other than the issuer of the instrument, or a third party responsible for servicing the instrument, are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty or third party, and to the counterparty's or third party's ability to perform in accordance with the terms of the transaction.

Liquidity Risk: Certain investments and types of investments are subject to restrictions on resale, may trade in the over-the-counter market or in limited volume, or may not have an active trading market. As a result, it may not be possible to sell the investment at any particular time or at an acceptable price.

Frequent Trading Risk: Frequent trading increases transaction costs, which may reduce the fund's return.

Defensive Investing Risk: When MFS invests defensively, different factors could affect the fund's performance and the fund may not achieve its investment objective. In addition, the defensive strategy may not work as intended.

Further Information Available

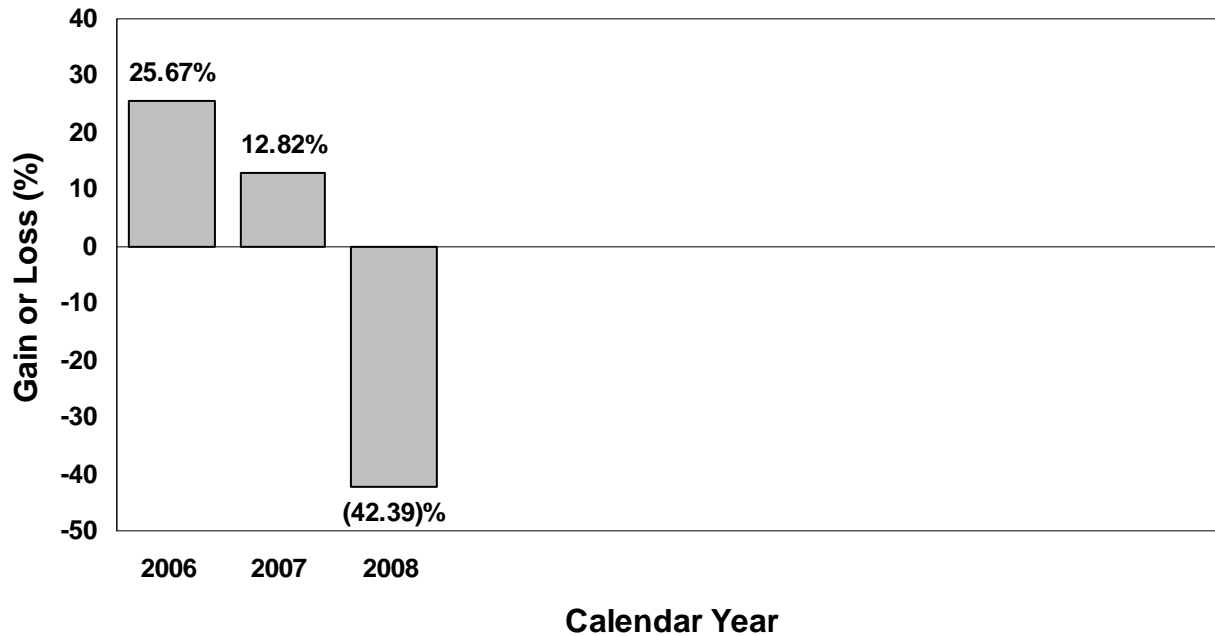
Information about investment strategies and investment types not described in the Prospectus and the risks associated with those investment strategies and investment types are described in the fund's Statement of Additional Information ("SAI").

Bar Chart and Performance Table

The bar chart and performance table below are intended to indicate some of the risks of investing in the fund by showing changes in the fund's performance over time. The performance table also shows how the fund's performance over time compares with that of a broad measure of market performance and one or more other performance measures.

The chart and table provide past performance information. The fund's past performance does not necessarily indicate how the fund will perform in the future. The returns shown do not reflect fees and expenses imposed by the separate accounts established by insurance companies in order to serve as investment vehicles for variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts, qualified pension and retirement plans, and other eligible investors. If these fees and expenses were included, they would reduce the returns shown.

Bar Chart. The bar chart will show changes over time in the annual total return of the fund's Initial Class shares for ten calendar years, and assumes the reinvestment of distributions.



The total return for the three-month period ended March 31, 2009 was (13.61)%. During the periods shown in the bar chart, the highest quarterly return was 10.47% (for the calendar quarter ended March 31, 2006) and the lowest quarterly return was (20.20)% (for the calendar quarter ended September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2008).

Performance Table. This table shows how the average annual total returns of the Initial Class shares of the fund compare to a broad measure of market performance and one or more other performance measures, and assumes the reinvestment of distributions.

Average Annual Total Returns (for the periods ended December 31, 2008)

Share Class	1 Year	Life#
Initial Class	(42.39)%	(0.35)%
Benchmark Comparisons		
Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) EAFE (Europe, Australasia, Far East) Index (gross div)*†	(43.06)%	(1.54)%
MSCI All Country World (ex-US) Index (gross div)**†	(45.24)%	(0.56)%

Life refers to the period from the commencement of the fund's investment operations, April 29, 2005, through December 31, 2008.

* Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) EAFE (Europe, Australasia, Far East) Index (gross div) is a market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure equity market performance in the developed markets, excluding the U.S. and Canada.

** Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) All Country World (ex-US) Index (gross div) is a market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure equity market performance in the developed and emerging markets, excluding the U.S.

† Source: FactSet Research Systems Inc.

All performance results reflect any applicable fee and expense waivers in effect during the periods shown; without these, the results would have been lower.

The fund commenced investment operations on April 29, 2005, with the offering of Initial Class shares and Service Class shares.

EXPENSE SUMMARY

Expense Table

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay when you hold shares of the fund. These expenses do not reflect the fees and expenses imposed by the separate accounts established by insurance companies in order to serve as investment vehicles for variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts, qualified pension and retirement plans, and other eligible investors, through which an investment in the fund is made. If these fees and expenses had been included, your expenses would be higher. The annual fund operating expenses below are based on expenses incurred during the fund's most recently completed fiscal year expressed as a percentage of the fund's average net assets during the period. They have been adjusted to reflect annualized expenses, but have not been adjusted to reflect the fund's current asset size. The fund's annual operating expenses will likely vary from year to year. In general, a fund's annual operating expenses as a percentage of the fund's assets increase as the fund's assets decrease.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that are deducted from fund assets):

	INITIAL CLASS
Management Fee.....	0.90%
Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) Fees	N/A
Other Expenses ⁽¹⁾	<u>0.45%</u>
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses ⁽¹⁾	1.35%
Fee Reductions ⁽²⁾	<u>(0.25)%</u>
Net Expenses ⁽¹⁾	1.10%

- (1) The fund has entered into an expense offset arrangement that reduces the fund's custodian fee based upon the amount of cash maintained by the fund with its custodian. Such fee reduction is not reflected in the table. Had this fee reduction been taken into account, "Net Expenses" would be lower.
- (2) MFS agreed in writing to bear the fund's expenses such that "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses," determined without giving effect to the expense offset arrangement described above, do not exceed 1.10% annually. This written agreement excludes interest, taxes, extraordinary expenses, brokerage and transaction costs and investment-related expenses, and will continue until modified by the fund's Board of Trustees, but such agreement will continue until at least April 30, 2010.

Example of Expenses

These examples are intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. These examples do not reflect the fees and expenses imposed by the investment vehicle through which an investment in the fund is made. If these fees and expenses were included, your expenses would be higher.

The examples assume that:

- You invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated and you redeem your shares at the end of the time periods (unless otherwise indicated);
- Your investment has a 5% return each year and dividends and other distributions are reinvested; and
- The fund's operating expenses remain the same, except that the fund's total operating expenses are assumed to be the fund's "Net Expenses" for the period during which any written fee reductions are in effect (see "Expense Summary - Expense Table" above).

Although your actual costs will likely be higher or lower, under these assumptions your costs would be:

Share Class	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Initial Class	\$112	\$403	\$715	\$1,602

MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

Investment Adviser

Massachusetts Financial Services Company (“MFS”), located at 500 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts, serves as the investment adviser for the fund. Subject to the supervision of the fund’s Board of Trustees, MFS is responsible for managing the fund’s investments, executing transactions and providing related administrative services and facilities under an Investment Advisory Agreement between the fund and MFS.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the fund paid MFS an effective management fee equal to 0.90% of the fund’s average daily net assets.

The management fee set forth in the Investment Advisory Agreement is 0.90% annually of the fund’s average daily net assets.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board of Trustees’ approval of the Investment Advisory Agreement is available in the fund’s most recent annual report for the one year period that ends December 31.

MFS is America’s oldest mutual fund organization. MFS and its predecessor organizations have a history of money management dating from 1924 and the founding of the first mutual fund, Massachusetts Investors Trust. Net assets under the management of the MFS organization were approximately \$134 billion as of December 31, 2008.

Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings. The MFS funds have established a policy with respect to the disclosure of fund portfolio holdings. A description of this policy is provided in the SAI. In addition, the following information is generally available to you on the MFS Web site (mfs.com) by clicking “Products and Performance,” then “Variable Insurance Portfolios,” then “VIT,” and then on a fund name:

Information	Approximate Date of Posting to Web Site
Fund’s top 10 securities holdings as of each month’s end	14 days after month end
Fund’s full securities holdings as of each month’s end	24 days after month end

If a fund has substantial investments in both equity and debt instruments (e.g., a balanced fund), the fund’s top 10 equity holdings and top 10 debt holdings will be made available.

Note that the fund or MFS may suspend the posting of this information or modify the elements of this web posting policy without notice to shareholders. Once posted, the above information will generally remain available on the Web site until at least the date on which the fund files a Form N-CSR or Form N-Q for the period that includes the date as of which the Web site information is current.

Portfolio Manager(s)

Information regarding the portfolio manager(s) of the fund is set forth below. Further information regarding the portfolio manager(s), including other accounts managed, compensation, ownership of fund shares, and possible conflicts of interest, is available in the fund’s SAI. Each portfolio manager is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the fund unless otherwise specified .

Portfolio Manager	Primary Role	Since	Title and Five Year History
Jose Luis Garcia	Portfolio Manager; General Oversight of a Team of Analysts.	2005	Investment Officer of MFS; employed in the investment area of MFS since 2002.
Thomas Melendez	Portfolio Manager; General Oversight of a Team of Analysts.	2005	Investment Officer of MFS; employed in the investment area of MFS since 2002.

Administrator

MFS provides the fund with certain financial, legal, and other administrative services under a Master Administrative Services Agreement between the fund and MFS. Under the Agreement, MFS is paid an annual fee for providing these services.

Distributor

MFS Fund Distributors, Inc. (“MFD”), a wholly owned subsidiary of MFS, is the distributor of shares of the fund.

Shareholder Servicing Agent

MFS Service Center, Inc. (“MFSC”), a wholly owned subsidiary of MFS, provides dividend and distribution disbursing and transfer agent and recordkeeping functions in connection with the issuance, transfer, and redemption of each class of shares of the fund under a Shareholder Servicing Agent Agreement. MFSC receives a fee based on the costs it incurs in providing these services and a target profit margin. In addition, MFSC is reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses.

DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CLASSES

The fund offers Initial Class and Service Class shares. Initial Class shares are offered through this prospectus.

The fund offers Initial Class shares to separate accounts established by insurance companies to serve as investment vehicles for variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts, to qualified pension and retirement plans, and to any other person or plan permitted to hold shares of the trust pursuant to applicable Treasury Regulations without impairing the ability of insurance companies to satisfy the diversification requirements of Section 817(h) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code").

Financial Intermediary Compensation

Insurance companies, plan sponsors, and other eligible investors to whom shares of the fund are offered (collectively, together with their affiliates, "Financial Intermediaries") receive various forms of compensation in connection with the sale of shares of the fund and/or the servicing of accounts. Financial Intermediaries may receive such compensation in the form of payments paid by MFD and/or one or more of its affiliates (for purposes of this section only, collectively, "MFD") from MFD's own additional resources.

The types of payments described above are not exclusive and such payments can be significant to the Financial Intermediary. In addition, the compensation that Financial Intermediaries receive may vary by class of shares sold and among Financial Intermediaries. Depending upon the arrangements in place at any particular time, Financial Intermediaries may have a financial incentive to recommend a particular fund or share class.

Financial Intermediaries may receive payments from MFD from MFD's own additional resources as incentives to market the MFS funds, to cooperate with MFD's promotional efforts and/or in recognition of their marketing, administrative services and/or processing support. This compensation from MFD is not reflected in the fees and expenses listed in the fee table section of the fund's prospectus. MFD compensates Financial Intermediaries based on criteria established by MFD from time to time that consider, among other factors, the level and/or type of marketing and administrative support provided by the Financial Intermediary, the level of assets attributable to and/or sales by the Financial Intermediary, and the quality of the overall relationship with the Financial Intermediary.

You can find further details in the SAI about the payments made by MFD and the services provided by Financial Intermediaries. Financial Intermediaries may charge you additional fees and/or commissions other than those disclosed in this prospectus. You can ask your Financial Intermediary for information about any payments it receives from MFD and any services it provides, as well as about any fees and/or commissions it charges. Financial Intermediaries that market the funds may also act as, or be affiliated with, a broker/dealer in connection with a fund's purchase or sale of portfolio securities. However, the fund and MFS do not consider Financial Intermediaries' purchases of shares of the fund as a factor when choosing brokers/dealers to effect portfolio transactions for the fund.

HOW TO PURCHASE, REDEEM, AND EXCHANGE SHARES

All purchases, redemptions, and exchanges of shares are made through insurance company separate accounts, qualified retirement and pension plans, and other eligible investors that are the record owner of the shares. Contract holders, plan beneficiaries, and other investors seeking to purchase, redeem, or exchange interests in the fund's shares should consult with the insurance company, plan sponsor or other eligible investor through which their investment in the fund is made.

Insurance companies, plan sponsors, and other eligible investors are the designees of the trust for receipt of purchase, exchange, and redemption orders from contract holders and plan beneficiaries. An order submitted to the fund's designee by the valuation time will receive the net asset value next calculated, provided that the trust receives notice of the order generally by 11:00 a.m., Eastern time, on the next day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading.

The fund may reject for any reason any purchase orders.

How to Exchange Shares

An exchange involves the redemption of shares of one fund and the purchase of shares of another fund. You can exchange shares of your fund for shares of the same class of another fund at net asset value if shares of that fund are available for purchase by the insurance company separate account, plan, or other eligible investor through which your investment in the fund is made. See the prospectus or other materials for the investment vehicle through which your investment in the fund is made for a further discussion of the exchange privilege. You should read the prospectus of the fund into which you are exchanging and consider the differences in objectives, policies, and risks before making any exchange.

Other Considerations

Frequent Trading

- **Right to Reject or Restrict Purchase and Exchange Orders.** The Board of Trustees of the MFS funds has adopted the purchase and exchange limitation policies described below, which it believes are reasonably designed to discourage frequent fund share transactions. MFSC seeks to monitor and enforce these policies, subject to oversight by the Board of Trustees. The MFS funds may alter their policies at any time without notice to shareholders.
- **Purchase and Exchange Limitation Policies.** The MFS funds reserve the right to restrict or reject, without any prior notice, any purchase or exchange order, including transactions believed to represent frequent trading activity. For example, MFSC may in its discretion restrict or reject a purchase or exchange order even if the transaction is not subject to specific exchange or other limitations described in this prospectus if MFSC determines that accepting the order could interfere with the efficient management of a fund's portfolio, increase costs to the fund, dilute the value of an investment in the fund to long-term shareholders, or otherwise not be in the fund's best interests. In the event that MFSC rejects an exchange request, neither the redemption nor the purchase side of the exchange will be processed. Each MFS fund reserves the right to delay for one business day the processing of exchange requests in the event that, in MFSC's judgment, such delay would be in the fund's best interest, in which case both the redemption and purchase side of the exchange will receive the fund's net asset value at the conclusion of the delay period.
- **Financial Intermediary Purchase and Exchange Limitations.** MFSC receives purchase, exchange and redemption orders through financial intermediaries. A financial intermediary's policy restricting frequent trading may be more or less restrictive than the MFS funds' policies, may permit certain transactions not permitted by the MFS funds' policies, or prohibit transactions not subject to the MFS funds' policies. In addition, the terms of a particular insurance contract, plan or other eligible investment vehicle may also limit the ability of the insurance company, plan or other investor to prohibit transactions that MFSC might consider

to be frequent trading. Please refer to your insurance company contract, plan or other material for the investment vehicle through which your investment in the fund is made regarding the application of these limitations and any additional or different limitations.

- **Omnibus Accounts.** MFSC receives purchase, exchange, and redemption orders through certain financial intermediaries that hold omnibus accounts with an MFS fund. Omnibus account arrangements are common forms of holding shares of MFS funds, particularly among insurance companies offering insurance products and retirement plans. MFSC is generally not able to identify trading by a particular underlying shareholder within an omnibus account, which makes it difficult or impossible to determine if a particular underlying shareholder is engaged in frequent trading.

For omnibus accounts for which MFSC does not regularly receive underlying shareholder data, MFSC reviews trading activity at the omnibus level to detect suspicious trading activity. This review is based on MFSC's internal parameters for detecting frequent trading, including reviewing transactions that exceed a certain dollar amount or transactions that occur close in time to other transactions in the same account or in multiple accounts that are under common ownership or influence. These parameters may change from time to time. If MFSC detects suspicious trading activity at the omnibus level it will contact the financial intermediary to request underlying shareholder level activity to determine whether there is underlying shareholder level frequent trading. If frequent trading is identified, MFSC will take appropriate action, such as prohibiting purchases into the account, requiring purchases by mail, or prohibiting purchases from the financial intermediary.

- **Limitations on the Ability to Detect and Curtail Frequent Trading Practices.** Depending upon the composition of a fund's shareholder accounts and the efforts made by certain shareholders to evade these limitations, MFSC may not be in a position to monitor and deter frequent trading with respect to a significant percentage of a fund's shareholders. MFSC's ability to monitor and deter frequent trading in omnibus accounts ultimately depends on the capability and cooperation of the financial intermediary and the frequency with which MFSC requests underlying shareholder account data from omnibus accounts. MFSC expects to request underlying shareholder account data less frequently from financial intermediaries who have adopted a policy restricting frequent trading that MFSC has determined is reasonably designed to identify and curtail trading activity that is not in the best interest of the funds than from other financial intermediaries. In certain instances, a financial intermediary may be unable to provide MFSC with information about underlying shareholder level activity. There is no assurance that MFSC will request data with sufficient frequency to detect or deter frequent trading in omnibus accounts effectively. Shareholders seeking to engage in frequent trading practices may deploy a variety of strategies to avoid detection, and, despite the efforts of MFSC to prevent frequent trading, there is no assurance that MFSC will be able to identify such shareholders or curtail their trading practices.
- **Frequent Trading Risks.** To the extent that the MFS funds or their agents are unable to curtail excessive trading practices in a fund, these practices may interfere with the efficient management of the fund's portfolio, may result in increased transaction and administrative costs, and may adversely impact the fund's performance.

In addition, to the extent that the fund invests in foreign securities, the interests of long-term shareholders may be diluted as a result of time-zone arbitrage, a short-term trading practice that seeks to exploit changes in the value of the fund's investments that result from events occurring after the close of the foreign markets on which the investments trade, but prior to the time the fund determines its net asset value. The fund's use of fair valuation can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that the fund's fair valuation policies and procedures will prevent dilution of the fund's net asset value by short-term traders.

To the extent that the fund invests in securities that trade infrequently or are difficult to value, such as the securities of smaller companies, high yield debt instruments, and floating rate loans, the interests of long-term shareholders may be diluted as a result of price arbitrage, a short-term trading strategy that seeks to exploit perceived pricing inefficiencies in the fund's investments. Such short-term trading strategies may interfere with efficient management of the fund's portfolio to a greater degree than funds that invest in more frequently traded or liquid securities, in part because the fund may have difficulty selling these portfolio securities at advantageous times or prices to satisfy large and/or frequent redemption requests. Any successful price arbitrage may also cause dilution in the value of fund shares held by other shareholders.

Reservation of Other Rights. In addition to the rights expressly stated elsewhere in this prospectus, MFSC reserves the right to: 1) alter, add, or discontinue any conditions of purchase, service, or privilege at any time without notice; and 2) freeze any account or suspend account services when MFSC has received reasonable notice (written or otherwise) of a dispute between registered or beneficial account owners or when MFSC believes a fraudulent transaction may occur or has occurred.

Anti-Money Laundering Restrictions. Federal law requires the fund to implement policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent, detect and report money laundering and other illegal activity. The fund, consistent with applicable federal law, may redeem your shares and close your account; suspend, restrict or cancel purchase and redemption orders; process redemption requests and withhold your proceeds; and take other action if it is unable to verify your identity within a reasonable time or conduct required due diligence on your account or as otherwise permitted by its anti-money laundering policies and procedures.

Potential Conflicts. Shares of the fund are offered to the separate accounts of insurance companies that may be affiliated or unaffiliated with MFS and each other ("shared funding") and may serve as the underlying investments for both variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts ("mixed funding"). Due to differences in tax treatment or other considerations, the interests of various contract owners might at some time be in conflict. The trust currently does not foresee any such conflict. Nevertheless, the Board of Trustees which oversees the funds intends to monitor events in order to identify any material irreconcilable conflicts which may possibly arise and to determine what action, if any, should be taken in response. If such a conflict were to occur, one or more separate accounts of the insurance companies might be required to withdraw its investments in the fund. This might force the fund to sell securities at disadvantageous prices.

OTHER INFORMATION

Valuation

The price of each class of the fund's shares is based on its net asset value. The net asset value of each class of shares is determined each day the New York Stock Exchange (the Exchange) is open for trading as of the close of regular trading on the Exchange (generally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time). However, net asset value may be calculated earlier in emergency situations or as otherwise permitted by the SEC. Net asset value per share is computed by dividing the net assets allocated to each share class by the number of shares outstanding for that class. On days when the Exchange is closed (such as week-ends and holidays), net asset value is not calculated, and the fund does not transact purchase and redemption orders. To the extent the fund's assets are traded in other markets on days when the fund does not price its shares, the value of the fund's assets will likely change when you will not be able to purchase or redeem shares.

To determine net asset value, the fund's investments for which reliable market quotations are readily available are valued at market value. Certain short term debt instruments are valued at amortized cost.

The Board of Trustees has delegated primary responsibility for determining or causing to be determined the value of the fund's investments (including any fair valuation) to the adviser pursuant to valuation policies and procedures approved by the Board. If the adviser determines that reliable market quotations are not readily available, investments are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the adviser in accordance with such procedures under the oversight of the Board of Trustees.

In addition, investments may be valued at fair value if the adviser determines that an investment's value has been materially affected by events occurring after the close of the exchange or market on which the investment is principally traded (such as a foreign exchange or market) and prior to the determination of the fund's net asset value, or after the halting of trading of a specific security where trading does not resume prior to the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded. Events that occur on a frequent basis after foreign markets close (such as developments in foreign markets and significant movements in the U.S. markets) and prior to the determination of the fund's net asset value may be deemed to have a material affect on the value of securities traded in foreign markets. Accordingly, the fund's foreign equity securities may often be valued at fair value. The adviser generally relies on third-party pricing services or other information (such as the correlation with price movements of similar securities in the same or other markets; the type, cost and investment characteristics of the security; the business and financial condition of the issuer; and trading and other market data) to assist in determining whether to fair value and at what value to fair value an investment. The value of an investment for purposes of calculating the fund's net asset value can differ depending on the source and method used to determine value. When fair valuation is used, the value of an investment used to determine the fund's net asset value may differ from quoted or published prices for the same investment. There can be no assurance that the fund could obtain the fair value assigned to an investment if it were to sell the investment at the same time at which the fund determines its net asset value per share.

Distributions

The fund intends to declare and pay a dividend to shareholders at least annually.

Any capital gains are distributed at least annually.

Distribution Options

Dividends and capital gain distributions will automatically be reinvested in additional shares of the fund.

Tax Considerations

The following discussion is very general. You are urged to consult your tax adviser regarding the effect that an investment in the fund may have on your particular tax situation, including possible foreign, state, and local taxes.

The fund is treated as a separate corporation for federal income tax purposes. As long as the fund qualifies for treatment as a regulated investment company (which the fund has done in the past and intends to do in the future), it pays no federal income or excise taxes on the net earnings and net realized gains it timely distributes to shareholders. In addition, the fund intends to continue to diversify its assets to satisfy the federal tax diversification rules applicable to separate accounts that fund variable insurance and annuity contracts.

Shares of the fund are offered to insurance company separate accounts, qualified retirement plans and pension plans, and other eligible investors. You should consult with the insurance company that issued your contract, plan sponsor, or other eligible investor through which your investment in the fund is made to understand the tax treatment of your investment.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights are intended to help you understand the fund's financial performance for the past five years (or, if shorter, the period of the fund's operation). Certain information reflects financial results for a single fund share. The total returns in the financial highlights represent the rate by which an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the fund (assuming reinvestment of all distributions) held for the entire period. The returns shown do not reflect fees and expenses imposed by the investment vehicle through which an investment in the fund is made. If these fees and expenses were included, they would reduce returns. This information has been audited by the fund's independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, together with the fund's financial statements, are included in the fund's Annual Report to shareholders. The fund's Annual Report is available upon request by contacting MFSC (please see back cover for address and telephone number). The financial statements contained in the Annual Report are incorporated by reference into the SAI. The fund's independent registered public accounting firm is Deloitte & Touche LLP.

Initial Class

	Years Ended 12/31			
	2008	2007	2006	2005(c)
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$ 16.12	\$ 14.44	\$ 11.84	\$ 10.00
Income (loss) from investment operations				
Net investment income (d)	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.05
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency	(6.82)	1.67	2.85	2.03
Total from investment operations	\$ (6.57)	\$ 1.84	\$ 3.03	\$ 2.08
Less distributions declared to shareholders				
From net investment income	\$ (0.10)	\$ —	\$ (0.13)	\$ (0.07)
From net realized gain on investments	(0.56)	(0.16)	(0.30)	(0.17)
Total distributions declared to shareholders	\$ (0.66)	\$ (0.16)	\$ (0.43)	\$ (0.24)
Net asset value, end of period	\$ 8.89	\$ 16.12	\$ 14.44	\$ 11.84
Total return (%) (k)(r)(s)	(42.39)	12.82	25.67	20.85(n)
Ratios (%) (to average net assets) and Supplemental data:				
Expenses before expense reductions (f)	1.35	1.56	2.77	4.03(a)
Expenses after expense reductions (f)	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10(a)
Net investment income	2.06	1.14	1.36	0.66(a)
Portfolio turnover	77	64	130	95
Net assets at end of period (000 omitted)	\$ 115,944	\$ 81,987	\$ 32,437	\$ 5,878

(a) Annualized.

(c) For the period from the commencement of the fund's investment operations, April 29, 2005, through the stated period end.

(d) Per share data is based on average shares outstanding.

(f) Ratios do not reflect reductions from fees paid indirectly, if applicable.

(k) The total return does not reflect expenses that apply to separate accounts. Inclusion of these charges would reduce the total return figures for all periods shown.

(n) Not annualized.

(r) Certain expenses have been reduced without which performance would have been lower.

(s) From time to time the fund may receive proceeds from litigation settlements, without which performance would be lower.

MFS Research International Series

Shareholder Communications with the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees of the MFS funds has adopted procedures by which shareholders may send communications to the Board. Shareholders may mail written communications to the Board to the attention of the Board of Trustees, [fund name], Massachusetts Financial Services Company, 500 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116-3741, Attention: Frank Tarantino, Independent Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund. Shareholder communications must (i) be in writing and be signed by the shareholder, (ii) identify the MFS fund to which they relate and (iii) identify the class and number of shares held by the shareholder.

If you want more information about MFS Research International Series, the following documents are available free upon request:

Annual/Semiannual Reports. These reports contain information about the fund's actual investments. Annual reports discuss the effect of recent market conditions and investment strategies on the fund's performance during its last fiscal year.

Statement of Additional Information (SAI). The SAI, dated May 1, 2009, provides more detailed information about the fund and is incorporated into this prospectus by reference.

Because the fund is only available to insurance company separate accounts, qualified pension and retirement plans, and certain other eligible investors, the SAI and annual/semiannual reports for the fund are not available on mfs.com.

You can get free copies of the annual/semiannual reports, the SAI and other information about the fund, and make inquiries about the fund, by contacting:

MFS Service Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 55824
Boston, MA 02205-5824
Telephone: 1-800-343-2829 X3500

Information about the fund (including its prospectus, SAI and shareholder reports) can be reviewed and copied at the:

Public Reference Room
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549-0102

Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the Commission at 1-202-551-8090. Reports and other information about the fund are available on the Edgar Database on the Commission's Internet Web site at <http://www.sec.gov>, and copies of this information may be obtained, upon payment of a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov or by writing the Public Reference Section at the above address.

The fund's Investment Company Act file number is 811-8326.