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Photo of the Month



Adam Tannebaum, Kevin Kelly and Lisa Meers enjoyed our June boat cruise

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From the President



I am thrilled to step into the role of president of such an esteemed chapter as Niri-Chicago -- although our chairman, Lisa Micou Meers, leaves big shoes for me to fill. I'm consistently amazed by the strength of this board and its willingness to spend so much time to ensure we provide member value through consistently strong professional development programs, unique networking events and career opportunities. That's why our 2015-2016 theme is **Strength in Numbers**. We all know that the knowledge we can share during the year enables us to be better IR officers and counselors.



This is particularly important as we exit another earnings season that included both challenges and opportunities. The market waited with bated breath for insights from reporting companies on the factors and trends affecting results, including the global economic picture, whether growth was slowing or not, and the continued impact of lower oil and gas prices and the stronger U.S. dollar. From my perspective, companies were usually rewarded for their efforts to provide ample transparency and draw concise conclusions about how these factors translate into future performance. As we continue to manage through a time of mixed results -- from booming numbers in the healthcare sector to lackluster performance from energy companies -- we all need to be more effective in communicating information that is both relevant and meaningful.

To bring you Strength in Numbers, we are pleased to kick off the 2015-2016 program year with our eighth annual [golf outing](#) and dinner on Wednesday, September 2 at the Glen Club in Glenview. This highly ranked Tom Fazio course has been named to all three Top 10 New Course lists published by *Golf Digest*, *Golf Magazine* and *Sports Illustrated*. It is also on Golf Magazine's list of the [Top 100 Courses You Can Play](#). We hope you will be able to join us for what will truly be a great event -- and please share the fun with your corporate secretary, finance, treasury or communications colleagues. (Please come just for dinner if you don't golf.) [Register](#).



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On Friday, September 25, we will host our annual IR Workshop -- [Global Convergence: The New IR Reality](#). This year's full-day workshop will discuss how globalization impacts the work of investor relations officers. We'll cover a wide range of topics, including global economic trends and capital flows, the impact of currency fluctuations on our financial information and messages, the best ways to approach corporate access and disclosure in an increasingly international investor universe, and the global economic impacts found in our financial statements. Don't miss the great information and networking to come. [Register](#).

We are hard at work planning our programs for the year ahead, with the goal of providing you with unique insights and actionable recommendations. I am excited about the opportunity to engage with our Chicagoland IR community, and look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.

Regards,

Victoria Sivrais
NIRI-Chicago President

In the News

- [Nine complaints](#) about earnings releases
- Innovating quarterly [earnings calls](#)
- [Why](#) exchange traded funds are overtaking hedge funds
- The security analysts of [Lake Wobegon](#) (most equities are above average)
- The beginning of the [end](#) of class action [merger](#) objection lawsuits?
- [Survey](#): auditor rotation makes auditors less skeptical
- Speaking of skepticism: an [idea](#) to avoid corporate groupthink

NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest members: **Christopher Bona**, head of communications, Ryerson; **Joshua Jepsen**, manager, investor communications, Deere & Company; **Christopher LaHurd**, director, investor relations, GATX Corporation; **Matthew Rand**, manager, market research & investor relations, Joy Global Inc.; **Meenal Sethna**, SVP, finance, Littelfuse Inc; **Dewey Steadman**, executive director, investor relations, Akorn, Inc.; and **Josh Williams**, manager, IPREO.

Congratulations to **Tina Ventura**, who has been appointed vice president of investor relations for Horizon Pharma. She most recently was divisional VP of IR for Abbott Laboratories. **Geoffrey Mogilner**, formerly of Edelman, is now senior director, global external communications at Baxalta. And **Doug Fox** is celebrating his retirement from his role as vice president, investor relations and treasurer of Zebra Technologies Corp

Congratulations to NIRI-Chicago members who had milestone anniversaries in June, July and August:

15 years

Blair Rieth, Hill-Rom Holdings

10 years

Amy Arnott, Morningstar, Inc.

5 years

Jennifer McGuffin, Calamos Asset Management

Matthew Ragas, DePaul University

[Share](#) your news (job changes, awards, interesting articles) -- and thanks for reading the MEMBER CONNECTION.

Maryellen Thielen
Vice President, Communications
NIRI-Chicago