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(Standard registration rate ends May 11)

Photo of the Month

From the President



First quarter earnings were a bit of an adventure for me at Anixter. We sifted through complex issues that included exposure to foreign currency, commodities, acquisitions and divestitures. I'm quite thankful that the announcement is out! Now, I've turned my attention to the culmination of the NIRI-Chicago program year and the NIRI Annual Conference coming to our city next

month.

Our chapter has supported the conference by sharing recommendations with attendees. Board member and experienced conference attendee Ruth Venning discusses how to maximize the conference's value (see story below). As always, it pays to be prepared. In addition, several Board members worked with VP-Communications Maryellen Thielen to develop a fabulous, fun summary of things to do in Chicago. While it may have been created with visitors in mind, I suspect that even those lifelong Chicagoans among us can find a few gems in our Insider's Guide (see story below).

But the NIRI-Chicago program year is not yet over. Please join us next **Thursday, May 14** for our last monthly program. [Communicating the Deal: Tips from the Trenches](#) is highly relevant in the current M&A environment. NIRI-Chicago member and former NIRI President Brad Wilks will moderate a panel of experts with experience in a broad and diverse set of transactions. Our panelists are Mike Steele (former IRO of OfficeMax and Office Depot) and Varvara Alva (IRO during the Gogo IPO). Mark Gerstein, partner at Latham and Watkins, will provide the legal lens on a range of transactions. [Register](#).

The following week, on **Tuesday, May 19**, we will host the program year's last NIRI in Your Neighborhood [networking reception](#), in the western suburbs at D.O.C. Wine Bar in Yorktown. These events are always great fun, whether you're talking about IR or simply relaxing with your colleagues. [Register](#).



NIRI CEO James Cudahy with Mitchell Schacher of UBS

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Mark your calendars for our [annual meeting](#), which comes in the form of a "bonus boat cruise" and will be held on **Sunday, June 14** on Chicago's First Lady. We will depart the dock at 5 p.m. for a quick cruise, returning at 6:00 sharp to walk across the street to the conference's opening reception.

In other news, we were delighted to have new NIRI President Jim Cudahy join us for our April meeting on [Insights from the Buy Side to Win the Competition for Capital](#). If you missed the event, you can read the high points in our meeting [summary](#).

Finally, please remember to vote for our 2015-2016 chapter officers. In addition, remember that you don't have to be on the Board to have an impact on your chapter. Please let me know if you have ideas or are looking to become more involved in the coming year. While we are fortunate to have a strong, active and vital chapter that enriches all our professional lives, we cannot take it for granted. It is YOUR chapter and I invite you to speak up, participate, join.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing commitment to NIRI.

Regards,

[Lisa Micou Meers](#), CFA
NIRI-Chicago President

Making the Most of the NIRI Annual Conference

The NIRI Annual Conference is in Chicago this year. For those of us who live and work in the Second City, it's a great opportunity to learn and network at a discount (no airfare or hotel charges). Whether it's your first time attending or you're a seasoned NIRI conference veteran, you can get more value from the meeting by developing your strategy before you go. [Read article](#).

Become a NIRI-Chicago Ambassador

The NIRI-Chicago chapter will welcome NIRI members and guests to Chicago in June 2015 for the NIRI Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. To help visitors make the most of their time before/after the conference and after the day's events conclude, several chapter members developed recommendations for the nearby not-to-be-missed sights, plus restaurants, nightlife and more. Read [The NIRI-Chicago Insider's Guide to Chicago](#).

Our chapter will provide NIRI-Chicago buttons for our members to wear at the conference. We'll also encourage



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attendees to ask us -- as "Chicago ambassadors" -- for advice on Chicago sights and restaurants. It's just one way our chapter can offer a warm Chicago welcome to our NIRI colleagues.

In the News

- [No consensus](#) on consensus estimates
- Beware the "[scraper bots](#)"-- which found Twitter's earnings release when it was accidentally posted early for just [45 SECONDS](#)
- Keep away the activists -- be required to repay debt [ahead of schedule](#), running the risk of default, if dissidents take control
- Do asset managers pose [systemic risk](#)?
- Fed watchers: Learn more about the [Taylor Rule](#)
- [Chairmen](#)/lead directors now on the corporate governance hot seat.

NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest members: **Steven Carlson**, manager, financial & corporate communications, SunCoke Energy Inc.; **James Duies**, manager, investor relations, Archer Daniels Midland; **Teresa Gutierrez**, senior vice president, investor relations, Associated Bank; and **Conan Heelan**, investor relations analyst, Gogo Inc.

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

*Maryellen Thielen
Vice President, Communications
NIRI-Chicago*