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Other programs of interest

December 10

CFA Society of Chicago
Advanced Financial Modeling -- Core Model with Wall Street Training
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 The Standard Club

Check Out NIRI-Chicago's New Mobile App

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Photo of the Month



Panelists Steve Balet and David McHugh at the November luncheon

From the President

What a great weekend for college football! UCLA beat USC handily, which made my day and year -- and the surprise upset of #4 Auburn over #1 Alabama just goes to show you that anything can happen, anywhere, any time, even with 00:00 on the clock.

For those of you with fiscal calendar year-ends, proxy season is just around the corner. ISS just published its 2014 global guidelines, and you'll find additional insights on our website -- a summary of our November luncheon panel, [Clear Skies: Optimizing Engagement With the Street](#). Clearly, our investor panelists appreciate non-proxy season communications, and strongly suggested that companies reach out year-round to proxy voting committees. Panelists David McHugh of Northern Trust and Russell Kohn of Ariel Investments also encouraged corporate board nominating committees to ask their companies' major institutional investors for board nominee suggestions. McHugh was most concerned about over-boarding, particularly for lead directors. And [Debbie Koopman](#), CBOE Holdings' VP-IR, shared both her earlier career experiences and CBOE's IR program to ensure shareholder engagement. Must be working, since CBOE stock is up 80% year-to-date. Go, Debbie!

The Chicago Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors also hosted a panel of investors last month. Anne Simpson, CALPERS senior portfolio manager and director of corporate governance, pointed out one high priority: to make sure companies have a policy on director tenure. She didn't want to cap age or years of service, but said it was imperative that corporate boards define a policy. Watch for more on the subject as ISS and Glass-Lewis pay more attention to rising concerns from the large public funds. I've been spending a lot of time of corporate governance issues lately, as I will be moderating a panel on "The Path to Independent Director" at the NIRI Senior Roundtable [annual meeting](#) later this week. If you're interested in more on this subject, please let me know, and I'll share the key takeaways from our panel.

It's hard for me to believe that it's December and the end of 2013. Please join your NIRI-Chicago colleagues at our Let it Snow: Holiday Networking Reception at Lloyd's from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11. Equity holders have a lot to celebrate this year, and there will be lots of food and drink to

Someone You Should Know

Don't be shy about speaking your mind, advises Deborah Koopman of the Chicago Board of Trade.

IR Cliffhangers

IROs can't always prevent management from making bad decisions -- but the NIRI Ethics Council can help.

Job Bank

Tired of cold winters? See our latest posting from DTS, Inc.

share...please [register online](#). Our thanks to [Vintage Filings](#) for sponsoring the event.

As we prepare for 2014, it's not too early to register for our January 16 program, [Bad Weather Ahead? 2014 Equity Market Outlook](#) with Jason DeSena Trennert, Strategas Securities' chief investment strategist and a regular CNBC Squawk Box and Bloomberg commentator. Can this upward market trend last, or is the bubble about to burst? Join us at the Conference Center in the UBS Tower at One N. Wacker Drive, with the program starting at 5 p.m., followed by a reception. [Register](#).

In the meantime, let me wish you all a very happy holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014.

Best regards,
[Elizabeth Higashi](#)
President, NIRI-Chicago

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In the News

- Technology can now beam market data at about 95% of the [speed of light](#).
- Is the [independent director](#) model broken?
- Another view on [activist directors](#) who double-dip.
- Hedge funds website praises activists who are more than [value investors](#).
- Why do successful people [do wrong](#)?
- [Stock splits](#) outperform in 2013. (Subscription required.)
- How to [profit](#) from today's shareholder activism. (Subscription required)

NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest member: **David Wetzel**, vice president, AST IR Solutions.

Congratulations to NIRI-Chicago board member Victoria Sivrais on the birth of her son William (Billy) James Sivrais Jr.

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

Maryellen Thielen

Vice President, Communications
NIRI-Chicago

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