



In This Issue

[From the President](#)

[November Event Highlights](#)

[In the News](#)

[Member News](#)

Upcoming Events

December 5

[Shifting Gears to the New Year:
Outlook 2017](#)

[Register](#)

December 12

[NIRI in Your Neighborhood --
North Suburban Breakfast
Roundtable](#)

[Register](#)

January 11

[Put a Spin on the New Year at a
Ping-Pong Social Club](#)

[Register](#)

Photo of the Month



Two NIRI-Chicago alums (Bill Pfund and Elizabeth Higashi) meet at a Bank of America Merrill Lynch event in Boca Raton

From the President



It's hard to believe, but the holiday season is upon us.

To kick off your season, come to our annual holiday program on December 5. We'll discuss the coming year, followed by some holiday cheer. Our speaker is Bluford Putnam, managing director and chief economist for CME

Group. Blu leads CME's economic analysis of global financial markets by identifying emerging trends, evaluating economic factors and forecasting their impact. Blu will share his perspective on 2017 trends that will affect the markets, including policy changes from the new administration, impacts of potential interest rate hikes, ongoing global geopolitical crises ranging from Brexit to Brazil, and the impact of technology on seemingly all aspects of our lives. Please register [here](#).

In January, we will conclude your holiday season with a smash. Join us on January 11 for our second annual January social event at Chicago's ping-pong social club, SPiN. Suffice it to say, we expect you'll have a spinning good time. [Register](#). And later in the month, I hope you'll join us for a webcast about IEX, the newest stock exchange, as well as the SEC's tick-size pilot program and what these two development may mean for you as an IR professional. Stay tuned for more details on what promises to be an interesting and insightful program.

As we look ahead to the holiday festivities, I know many NIRI-Chicago members are in the midst of career transitions. Whether employed or not, we should never stop expanding our networks. I've read many articles on how the holidays can spark new relationships -- but the idea of communing with strangers can be daunting and uncomfortable. I came across a good blog post on *Huffington Post*, [An Introvert's Survival Guide to Networking](#)

Check Out NIRI-Chicago's Mobile App
[Download on iOS](#)
[Download on Android](#)

Our Sponsors

Platinum

S&P Global
Market Intelligence



Gold



Silver



 **ModernIR**
Market Structure Analytics™



[During the Holidays](#), that I believe can help many of us who have trouble taking advantage of networking opportunities. I hope it will energize you to go to that one extra event. You never know what good things can happen!

May you have a blessed season. I hope to see you on December 5 for our holiday program.

Regards,

Larry Larsen
NIRI-Chicago President

November Event Highlights



Our November 16 program offered entertaining, yet extremely practical advice on how to "command the room" during presentations and more effectively manage Q&As. Best of all, speaker Lynne Franklin based her presentation on the latest neuroscience research -- which is more likely to convince your CEO or CFO to change bad presentation habits. For those of you who weren't able to attend, read

our event [summary](#) and click into Franklin's helpful [outline](#) for attendees. For ongoing advice and inspiration, subscribe to Franklin's [blog](#).

On November 11, we held a webcast with two of NIRI-Chicago's first IRC holders -- Heather Kos of Ingredion and Mike Steele of Zebra Technologies. You can hear the archived webcast [here](#).

In the News

- Investors have pulled [billions](#) from activist funds YTD . . . while activists target [smaller companies](#) and force [larger companies](#) to emphasize the short term.
- While some companies avoided [IPOs in 2016](#), *Fortune* writers think [a comeback is brewing](#).
- A [look](#) at the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board -- which may affect your company's future disclosures.
- [Survey](#): Corporate governance trends at 100 large U.S. companies.
- One investor's view of the [four key governance issues](#).
- 2017 IR risk on the horizon: [cyberattacks](#) -- including those "likely to be an inside job."



Annual In-Kind Sponsors



S&P Global
Market Intelligence



NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest members: **Michael Comilla**, senior director, investor relations, Abbott Laboratories; **Susan Hanson**, director, communications, Plexus Corp.; **David Martin**, principal, CamberView Partners, LLC; **Kathryn Night**, associate, CamberView Partners, LLC; **Steve Purtell**, SVP, investor relations and treasurer, Six Flags Entertainment Corp.

Institutional Investor magazine has announced its 2017 All-American Executive Team, which honored a number of NIRI-Chicago colleagues, Chicago-area and Wisconsin companies:

Best IR professionals (overall, mid-cap and as named by the buy-side):

- Seth Frank, Allscripts Healthcare Solutions, Chicago
- Bruce Byots, Brunswick Corp., Lake Forest, IL
- Sari Macrie, CDW Corp., Vernon Hills, IL
- Tony Huegel, Deere & Co., Moline, IL
- Bill Franklin, Discover Financial Services, Lincolnshire, IL
- Marty McKenna, Equity Residential, Chicago
- Brian Lantz, Fortune Brands Home & Security, Deerfield, IL
- Kevin Berry, General Growth Properties, Chicago
- John Thomas, Horizon Pharma, Lake Forest, IL
- Kathy MacDonald, Mead Johnson Nutrition, Glenview, IL
- Patrick Davidson, Oshkosh Corp., Oshkosh, WI
- Dave Prichard, Spectrum Brands Holdings, Madison, WI
- Laurel Lefebvre, Ulta, Bolingbrook, IL
- Jonathan Ireland, United Continental Holdings Inc., Chicago

Honored and/or "best IR" companies (overall, mid-cap and as named by the sell-side):

- Allstate, Northbrook, IL
- A.O. Smith Corp., Milwaukee
- Brunswick Corp., Lake Forest, IL
- CBOE Holdings, Chicago
- CDW Corp., Vernon Hills, IL
- Deere & Co., Moline, IL
- Discover Financial Services, Lincolnshire, IL
- Equity Residential, Chicago
- Horizon Pharma, Lake Forest, IL
- Middlebury Corp., Elgin, IL
- McDonald's Corp., Oak Brook, IL

- Oshkosh Corp., Oshkosh, WI
- Spectrum Brands Holdings, Madison, WI
- Ulta, Bolingbrook, IL

Finally, if you like to benchmark: For the first time, *Institutional Investor* listed companies with the best analyst days (AbbVie, Boeing, Brunswick, Deere, Discover, FedEx, Oshkosh, McDonald's and Ulta) and best websites (Allstate, Brunswick, Deere, Exelon, McDonald's, Oshkosh and Snap-on).

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

Maryellen Thielen
Vice President, Communications
NIRI-Chicago