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Upcoming Events

December 6
[Markets After the Mid-Terms: What's in Store for 2019?](#)
[Register](#)

December 13
[NIRI in Your Neighborhood North Suburban Breakfast Roundtable](#)
[Register](#)

January 17
[Escape from Investor Relations](#)
[Register](#)

January 31
[NIRI in Your Neighborhood Downtown Breakfast Roundtable](#)
[Register](#)

Photo of the Month



The November panel discussed why ETFs and passive investing matter to your company

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From the President

What a year this has been! Volatile markets, trade tensions and tax reform were just three of the transformational issues we dealt with in 2018. I'm sure you could add several other major topics that are important to your company.

Only one thing is certain: transformation will continue in 2019. That's why I'm looking forward to our December 6 program, [Markets After the Mid-Terms: What's in Store for 2019?](#) Hope Jarkowski of the NYSE government relations team will offer her views on how the recent mid-term elections could affect equity markets in the new year. This is information you need as you plan for 2019. While the trends may be challenging (and aren't they always?), any gloomy viewpoint will be balanced by the fact that this is our chapter's holiday party. Celebrate the season with your NIRI-Chicago colleagues. [Register](#). [Directions and parking information](#).

Stay tuned for lots more great programs in the new year, starting in January with [Escape from Investor Relations](#). We will gather on January 17 at [Fox in a Box Chicago](#) in Printer's Row to form teams, get locked in different rooms and compete for escape artist bragging rights. Afterward, we'll move down the street to Bar Louie for drinks, appetizers and networking. Dress comfortably, arrive on time and be prepared to check your electronics and other possessions at the door. Overachievers can research [Escape Rooms 101](#) beforehand. [Register](#).

I end the year with mixed emotions because NIRI-Chicago EVP [Leslie Kratcoski, IRC](#), has resigned this position to relocate to Atlanta to become VP-IR for GMS, Inc., a leading North American distributor of wallboard and suspended ceilings systems. Leslie joined our board in 2017 and chaired the 2017 IR Workshop; she previously was a board member of NIRI-Atlanta and served as its program chair. Leslie, we are thrilled about your new adventure, but we will miss you. On behalf of NIRI-Chicago, thank you for all your hard work. I also thank [Terri Anne Powers](#), VP-IR for Diplomat Pharmacy, who has stepped in as our new chapter EVP.

As we close out 2018, I am thankful for my colleagues at NIRI-Chicago and wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

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Elizabeth Allen
NIRI-Chicago President

November Event Highlights

If you missed our November panel discussion on why ETFs and passive investing matter to your company and your IR program, read our [event summary](#). We're not the only ones considering the implications of the [dramatic increase](#) in passive investing. Jack Bogle, the father of the index fund, [says](#) it's probably only a matter of time before index funds own half of all U.S. stocks and "I do not believe that such concentration would serve the national interest."

In the News

- The [downside](#) of upside earnings surprises.
- Sell-side trends (selling [data](#) versus analysis, and [too much optimism](#)) and opinion (the hidden danger of [paid research](#)).
- [Opinion](#): new accounting rules make it harder to understand annual reports.
- Opinions: CalPERS pension fund activism: [no](#) or [yes](#)?
- [Curbing](#) activist shareholders.
- Quantifying the [value](#) of ESG; [SASB](#) announces industry-specific sustainability standards
- [Opinion](#): Index funds and the future of corporate governance.

NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest members: **Sara Verbsky**, vice president - investor relations, Snap-on Incorporated.

Congratulations to **Victoria Sivrais** of Clermont Partners for her election to the NIRI board; **Martin Jarosick, IRC** of CF Industries and **Zach Rothberg** of AlphaSense, who have been named to the 2019 NIRI Conference Committee; and **Ashish Kohli, CFA**, who has relocated to California to become global head of IR at Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Congratulations to NIRI-Chicago members with milestone NIRI anniversaries in October, November and December:

5 years

Victor Jendras, Q4 Inc.

Colleen Mumford, Cabot Microelectronics Corporation

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

Maryellen Thielen
Vice President, Communications
NIRI-Chicago