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Oct15

[Marcia](#)

[A journey inside the volatile world of corporate finance](#)



Chicago may have lost its bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympics, but the Windy City is playing host to another internationally rich assortment of visitors representing [RIT's Financial Management Association](#). Ten students and their RIT mentors will be visiting the city's financial district today and Friday.

From the classroom to the boardroom is a giant leap for these students—majoring in finance, as well as other diverse disciplines like biology and applied math. They'll meet top-level executives and inquire about the recession and the volatility of the market, as well as get expert advice on company growth, maintaining diverse portfolios and personal finance.

Professors Patricia Wollan (FMA advisor) and Daniel Tessonni, from RIT's [E. Philip Saunders College of Business](#), and Jare Alloco Allen, from [RIT's finance and administration department](#), are allowing ME to join the group—and yes, I must admit I'm excited to be reporting about the experience for our [University News](#) publication [Athenaeum](#).

On the agenda are visits to three publicly held companies: [Chicago Mercantile Exchange](#), [Boeing](#) and [Crown Imports](#) (all facilitated by Tessonni). The latter has a Rochester connection as a joint venture of [Constellation Brands](#). Also on “tap” is a private equity firm called Walton Street Capitol (facilitated by Allen).

The Financial Management Association students have a predetermined job to do: manage a “real money” investment portfolio of more than \$90,000 and decide to invest or not invest in a company based on their detailed analysis. For the past few weeks, the students have been busy doing their assessments and will deliver presentations as they analyze each company as an investment.

Last year, in late October, a team of students visited Wall Street and got a real eye opener on the deteriorating economic conditions threatening investments and growth of companies across the board. What will they find out in Chicago? Stay tuned . . . and I'll give you an update when we get back.

All I know is, pizza is one business that is still alive and well, and we will of course enjoy a time-out at [Giordano's](#), which, according to the [Chicago Tribune](#), won the “reader's choice” as a *must* when visiting Chicago.

Share the experience with me over the next couple of days on Twitter. Look for my updates at [twitter.com/marciamorphy](#).

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1. [Kevin](#)
Oct15

Mmm, Chicago! My skewed view from living there most of my life says, "Don't have too much fun in the best city in the country!"

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