Featured School:

Roosevelt University
Heller College of Business
Chicago, Illinois, USA

http://www.roosevelt.edu/Business.aspx

October, 2012
AACSB International
Wabash Vertical Campus

Construction Began: May 2010  
Open for Business: March 2012  
Size: 414,585 square feet  
Floors: 32  
Cost: 128 million USD  
Architectural Firm: VOA Associates  
More Information: [http://www.roosevelt.edu/CampusCommunity/Wabash/WabashTour.aspx](http://www.roosevelt.edu/CampusCommunity/Wabash/WabashTour.aspx)

Background:
On May 5, 2012, Roosevelt University in Chicago opened the second tallest university building in the country (behind the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh) and the sixth tallest academic building in the world. The Wabash Building is referred to as a Vertical Campus because its laboratories and classrooms, student life facilities and residential housing are all in one tall building in an urban setting. Featuring a unique undulating shape with blue-green glass, the building is a dramatic new addition to Chicago’s famous skyline.

Features:
- **Offices**: Admissions office; financial aid office; faculty and administrative offices
- **Classrooms**: Seven conventional classrooms (seating 36 or fewer), three tiered classrooms (seating 60 to 80), and three auditorium classrooms (seating 78 to 108); 6 breakout rooms allow for student teams of 10 or fewer to meet outside of the tiered classrooms
- **Other**: School bookstore; fitness center; residence floors for students; trading floor; dining center; 2 boardrooms (seating 20) designed for board meetings and seminars

The Wabash Building is 469 feet tall and is constructed on a very small site, only 100 feet across and 170 feet deep. The Wabash Building connects in five places to Roosevelt University’s signature building, the Auditorium Building, a national historic landmark completed in the late 1880s.
The first six floors of the building are devoted to student life activities. For the convenience of prospective students, the offices of admission, financial aid and advising are on the first floor and mezzanine. The bookstore is also on the first floor and in the basement, while a comprehensive dining center with seating for 300 people is on the second floor. Other floors contain offices and meeting rooms for student organizations and a fitness center with exercise and weight lifting equipment.

The Vertical Campus has beds for 633 students on floors 15 through 31. To enter the residence floors, students take an elevator to the 14th floor where they must pass a security booth and electronic turnstiles to gain entrance to the residential floors via separate elevators.

Unique to the Heller College of Business are two classrooms referred to as “learn labs” designed by Steelcase based on research on how students live and learn on campuses. These Learn labs have $250,000 USD in technology including 4 Interactive White boards called Eno Boards.

On the 12th floor one classroom will have Cisco Systems Telepresence technology that will allow for teleconferencing with overseas locations or businesses during class.

Green Building
From the onset, the Wabash Building was designed as a green building and Roosevelt expects to receive a Silver or perhaps a Gold LEED-certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Some of the features that make this building green are a bike storage facility for 130 bikes; over 51% of the roof space has native plants; construction materials that were 20% recycled; energy efficient heating and air conditioning equipment; low volatile organic compound paints, mastics, glues and caulks; and recycled content carpets and other materials.

Fun Fact
The Fine Arts Annex, a small office building formerly situated to the north of the vertical campus, was torn down, but it's façade has
been preserved and incorporated into the Wabash building's design. The façade was created by Andrew Rebori, a renowned Chicago architect. Matching the 100-year-old terra cotta was one of the most challenging parts of the construction. The façade is now the entrance to the University's bookstore at the north end of the Wabash Building.

Acknowledgements: AACSB International is grateful for the assistance of Terri Friel, Dean of the Walter E. Heller College of Business