

EMBA All-Classes Reunion Lifelong Learning Sessions

Back to the Future: Leadership Learning for, by and with EMBA Alumni

One of the greatest joys of the Weatherhead EMBA experience is the intense spark of knowledge generated by A-list professors in dialogue with a class of leaders and learners. These reunion sessions are designed to recreate that learning environment – with timely topics, exceptional faculty and notable alumni. The sessions will be conversational by design and will include the attendees in the learning process. We promise...no death by slide deck! No quizzes, projects, deadlines or grades. Just the pure joy of learning to be ever-better leaders.

Round I: September 12, 2025 | 8: 30 a.m.

Executive Coaching

Coached and Crushing It: EMBA Alumni on Real Impact

Moderated by [Ellen Van Oosten, PhD](#)

Panelists: [Chris Vest](#) ('23) & [Christine Jellis](#) ('24)

Executive coaching is no longer just a remedy for performance issues, it's a powerful tool for unlocking potential, accelerating growth, and navigating complexity. In this session, moderated by Weatherhead faculty member and Director of the Coaching Research Lab, Ellen Van Oosten, PhD, EMBA alumni [Chris Vest](#) ('23) & [Christine Jellis](#) ('24) will share how coaching has shaped their leadership, supported their development, and helped them thrive in high-impact roles.

Artificial Intelligence

The Promise and Perils of AI

Moderated by [Anurag Gupta, PhD](#)

Panelists: [Sam Gerace](#) ('04) and [Titte Srinivas](#) ('22)

AI is rapidly reshaping how leaders make decisions, drive innovation, and compete in the marketplace. The challenge lies in harnessing its potential while managing significant risks around privacy, safety, ethics, fairness, and economic impact. In this session, moderated by Weatherhead faculty member Anurag Gupta, PhD, EMBA alumni Sam Gerace ('04) and Titte Srinivas ('22) will share how they're engaging with AI in their organizations, what's working, what's worrisome, and what leaders need to know now. Join for a candid conversation on the complexities and strategic realities of leading in the age of AI.

Clinicians in Management

The Value of an MBA for Healthcare Leaders

Featuring [Ethan Leonard](#) ('17), [Meredith Foxx](#) ('17), & [Sarah Sydlowski](#) ('20)

In today's complex healthcare landscape, clinical expertise alone isn't enough. Strategic thinking, financial acumen, and leadership agility are essential. In this panel, EMBA alumni [Ethan Leonard](#) ('17), [Meredith Foxx](#) ('17), and [Sarah Sydlowski](#) ('20) share how earning an MBA has shaped their healthcare leadership journeys, expanded their impact, and helped them drive meaningful change in their organizations.

Round II: September 12, 2025 | 9:45 a.m.

Creative Leadership

Leadership Lessons from Music

Featuring [Frank Barrett, PhD](#) & [Jim Traxler](#) ('93)

Join [Frank Barrett, PhD](#) and EMBA alumnus [Jim Traxler](#) ('93) for an inspiring session exploring the parallels between music and leadership. Discover how creativity, improvisation, and collaboration in music can offer powerful insights to enhance leadership effectiveness and foster innovative team dynamics.

Women's Leadership

EMBA Women Who Lead

Moderated by [Julia Kious Zabell](#), Executive Director, Weatherhead Executive Education

Panelists: [Jennifer Altstadt](#) ('04), [Silvia Garcia-Luengo](#) ('04), & [Jessica Broz](#) ('23)

EMBA alumnae from different industries and career stages, [Jennifer Altstadt](#) ('04), [Silvia Garcia-Luengo](#) ('04), and [Jessica Broz](#) ('23), join moderator [Julia Kiouss Zabell](#) for a candid conversation on navigating leadership as women in business, sharing insights on growth, challenges, and the lasting impact of their EMBA experience.

Alumni Engagement Opportunities

From Alumni to Advocates: Strengthening the EMBA Network

Featuring [Ali Ahmed](#) ('08) & [Kevin Smith](#)

Description:

[Ali Ahmed](#) ('08) and [Kevin Smith](#) from Weatherhead's External Relations team will lead a conversation on how EMBA alumni can actively shape the program's future. Whether through mentoring, recruiting prospective students, or supporting career transitions, your insights and connections are vital to growing and strengthening the EMBA community. Bring your ideas to this collaborative brainstorming session and help expand these important support efforts.

Fireside Chat: September 12, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

Celebrating the Legacy of Professor Melvin Smith

Join us for a heartfelt fireside chat honoring retired faculty member [Melvin Smith, PhD](#), a cornerstone of the EMBA experience at Weatherhead. Known for his deep expertise in the nature of leadership and the role emotional intelligence plays in professional relationships, he has left a lasting impact on many classes of EMBA students. Moderated by EMBA alumnus [Dennis Terez](#) ('17), this conversation will reflect on Dr. Smith's legacy in the classroom and beyond, highlighting the leadership lessons, human connection, and lasting influence that have defined his time with the program.

Celebrating the Legacy of Professor J.B. Silvers

Are you an EMBA alumnus in healthcare or a related industry? Have you ever found yourself wondering "WWJBD" (What Would JB Do)? Or say? Or advise? Many of us who've benefited from Professor Silvers' wisdom over the years will welcome another chance to learn from the recently-retired master. In conversation with [Amy Richardson](#) ('06) and [Robbie MacCue](#) ('18), Professor Silvers will share insights gained from his distinguished academic career and stints on the front line at The Joint Commission and QualChoice.

Practice & Application Workshop: September 12, 2025 | 1:45 p.m.

The Power of the Room: An Interactive Forum for EMBA Alumni Using Open Space Technology

Facilitated by [Simon Peck, PhD](#) & [Jim Gilmore](#)

Experience Open Space Technology, an interactive facilitation method that puts participants in the driver's seat. Designed for complex challenges and collaborative problem-solving, this session invites EMBA alumni to shape the agenda, lead real-time discussions, and engage in peer-to-peer learning. Come ready to explore, contribute, and walk away with actionable insights through this dynamic, self-directed format.

Round III: September 13, 2025 | 9:15 a.m.

Family Business

Balancing Tradition and Transformation in Family Business

Moderated by [Laura Bonnet](#), Director, Weatherhead Center for Family Business

Panelists: [Chip Moll](#) ('04), [Corey Wolff](#) ('21), and [Monica Colberg](#) ('24)

Family businesses face a unique challenge: honoring legacy while adapting to change. In this session, moderated by Laura Bonnet, Director of the Weatherhead Center for Family Business, EMBA alumni Chip Moll ('04), Monica Colberg ('24), and Corey Wolff ('21) share their experiences leading their family businesses through pivotal transitions, discussing the tensions, opportunities, and leadership decisions that come with steering a family business into the future.

Chip Moll is the former Vice President, Corporate Development of MTD Products. Monica Colberg is Director of Operations for EPS, Inc. (Engineered Parts and Services), and Corey Wolff is President of Wolff Bros. Supply, Inc.

Global Perspectives

Pleasures & Perils of International Collaboration

Moderated by Peter Ritchken, PhD

Panelists: Mike Mudler ('81) & [Bill O'Riordan](#) ('04)

Beyond the obvious pitfalls of language, culture, time zones and regulations, international collaboration is a rich source of opportunity for companies large and small. Join Professor Peter Ritchken and EMBA alumni Mike Mudler ('81) and Bill O'Riordan ('04) as they share their stories of success and challenge and lessons-learned in the global business arena.

Entrepreneurship

Fueling Entrepreneurial Thinking: Resources at Weatherhead and CWRU

Featuring [Michael Goldberg](#), [James Domingo](#) ('06), & [Stacey Reid](#) ('24)

Join [Michael Goldberg](#), Executive Director and Associate Vice President of the Veale Institute for Entrepreneurship, and EMBA alumni [James Domingo](#) ('06) and [Stacey Reid](#) ('24) for a dynamic conversation on how Weatherhead and Case Western Reserve University support entrepreneurial thinking and action, with resources that

can serve as a springboard for launching ventures and connecting with opportunities across the broader university and community ecosystem.

Fireside Chat: September 13, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

In the Gorilla's Chair: A Fireside Chat with Mike Fisher

Featuring: Elizabeth “Beamer” Osborne, [Mike Fisher](#) ('00), and [Dale Schott](#) ('04)

In honor of Dr. Richard Osborne - the unforgettable “Gorilla” whose world-class entrepreneurship classes shaped so many of our careers - we’re recreating one of his signature classroom experiences. Just as the Gorilla did, we’ll host a fireside chat with a remarkable guest: Mike “Fish” Fisher (PhD, 2013, EMBA 2000) successful serial entrepreneur, CEO of MyFitnessPal, and author of the popular Fish Food Substack. He will be joined by Dale “RoadRunner” Schott (EMBA, 2002) and they will be introduced by Elizabeth “Beamer” Osborne.

Dr. Osborne had a gift for pulling out the most insightful, practical, and inspiring lessons from his guests. He’d ask deep, concise questions that uncovered unexpected stories and real-world wisdom. We’ll follow in his footsteps - engaging Mike Fisher in a candid conversation about entrepreneurship, leadership, and mindset. And just as the Gorilla always did, we’ll wrap up with a “Top 10 Learnings” from the session, scribed live for everyone to see.

In true Gorilla style, we’ll also revive another tradition - nicknames. Dr. Osborne used them because it was “easier to remember” - and because it made his class unforgettable.

Round IV: September 13, 2025 | 2:00 p.m.

Imager Jam Lab

Facilitated by [Fred Collopy, PhD](#)

Experience *Imager*, a new instrument that lets you “play” visual art the way musicians play sound. Try it yourself, see how the team is preparing for its iPad app launch, and share your ideas to help shape their jam sessions, pitch, and market focus.

Industry Networking

Reconnect, share insights, and build new connections across industries and cohorts at this dedicated networking session for EMBA alumni from all classes. Whether you're looking to exchange ideas, explore career opportunities, or simply catch up with fellow professionals, this is a chance to tap into the strength of the EMBA alumni network in an informal, high-energy setting.