

**The Presidents’ Forum**

**OF CLEVELAND**

**Thursday, May 12, 2016**

---

**Presidential Presenters:**

**Scott Forster**  
Vice President, COO, & Co-Owner, Magnus International Group

Magnus International was launched by Scott Forster and Eric Lofquist in 2007. The company is an award-winning, Cleveland, Ohio-area company which creates proprietary U.S. made natural products by uniquely recovering and refining domestic and tropical vegetable oils, cooking greases, animal fats and other co-products. An entrepreneur since his early 30s, Mr. Forster started in 1993 as a lab chemist for Northeast Chemical. In 1997 he took a leadership role at Chemtron Corporation where he managed the broker business and customer service group. He led the company to its first million-dollar month and expanded their capabilities to better serve a growing customer base. Following Chemtron he co-owned an environmental services business for six years before founding Magnus. At Magnus, Mr. Forster focuses on operations, new business ventures, marketing, human resources and finances. The company’s revenue growth and accomplishments in sustainable global products development have resulted in numerous awards, including a No. 1 position on the Weatherhead 100 list of Northeast Ohio’s fastest growing organizations. The company partners with such noteworthy firms as Cargill, Land O’Lakes, Purina and Duraflame.

**Sean Brauser**  
Founder & CEO, Pizzafire and Founder, Romeo’s Pizza

Sean Brauser always had a passion for pizza. In 2001, he purchased a small pizza shop called Romeo’s Pizza & Pasta in Medina, Ohio. He overhauled the entire Romeo’s menu, and changed the Pizza in order to carve out a better-pizza niche. The enthusiasm for the revamped Romeo’s Pizza spread like wildfire. Since then Romeo’s Pizza has won a few awards, including 6 Time Best Pizza “Slice of Columbus” by People’s Choice and 2011 Business Growth Award from the Medina County Economic Development. These awards were a catalyst to the growth of 34 new Romeo’s Pizza restaurants since 2005. Romeo’s Pizza has now created more than 700 jobs for the state of Ohio and grosses $22 million+ in revenue each year- and growing! It all began 15 years ago with Sean’s passion for pizza, armed with $50,000 in credit card debt. Mr. Brauser is continuing his entrepreneurial drive recently launching his newest concept Pizzafire. Pizzafire is a fast casual restaurant dubbed the “Chipotle for Pizza” slated to have 30 units open by year end. In addition to his entrepreneurial drive Mr. Brauser has been featured in various publications such as Crains Magazine, Smart Business and PMQ Magazine.

**Tom Lix**  
Founder & CEO, Cleveland Whiskey LLC

Serial entrepreneur Tom Lix is Cleveland Whiskey’s founder and CEO. Inspired by the 1970 film MASH, Mr. Lix first learned distilling while stationed on a US Navy Destroyer just prior to its decommissioning. With considerable help from an “almost” retired Chief Petty Officer, he learned to make bootleg spirits from fermented fruit juice, discarded steel piping and patched up sea-water condensers. After the Navy, he spent his time as an entrepreneur in the software industry. It wasn’t until recently that he decided to return to the world of whiskey, working on a process that would accelerate the aging process to meet growing global demand for whiskey. Since its founding in 2009, the company has sold over 200,000 bottles. Previously, he was President and Chief Operating Officer of Yankelovich Partners, where he consulted for leading food, beverage, hospitality and entertainment companies including Guinness PLC, Proctor & Gamble, PepsiCo, Burger King and Harrah’s Entertainment. In addition, Mr. Lix has consulted to leading media companies and brands such as HBO®, Time Magazine, and MTV Networks; travel and transportation companies including American Airlines, Amtrak and Northwestern Airlines; as well as service delivery and technology innovators that included FedEx® and Visa.
The Presidents’ Forum of Cleveland

A 'By-Invitation-Only' Program For CEOs, Presidents Or Owners

“All quality presenters. Great to take a day away to work on the business!”

Kathy Bush
BUSH INTEGRATED
THE PRESIDENTS’ FORUM OF CLEVELAND

“I attended the Forum last year and had one great take-away. This year I had 2-3 good take-aways! Well done!”

Tom Salpietra
EYE LIGHTING INTERNATIONAL
THE PRESIDENTS’ FORUM OF CLEVELAND

“I found the President’s Forum to be surprisingly enjoyable and thought-provoking. Thanks for putting together a program that made me step back and consider the issues facing my business in new ways. I’m looking forward to next year’s Forum.”

Alison Hill
FORD DISTRIBUTING
THE PRESIDENTS’ FORUM OF CLEVELAND

You can’t google the solution to an important business problem. What you can do is listen to and discuss how other CEOs have addressed the same issues of concern to your business. From enlightening “case study” presentations to inspiring smaller roundtables and substantial peer-to-peer networking, you’ll get practical solutions, generate new ideas and make valuable business connections.

Presentations
Successful owners and prominent leaders discuss best practices to resolve key business issues.

Roundtable Interaction
Participate in engaging Q&A sessions with the Forum’s CEO, faculty and other top-level experts.

Networking
Share ideas, develop leads to expand your market, and build your business through strategic alliances.

Thursday, May 12, 2016
The Club at Key Center
127 Public Square, Cleveland, OH 44114

The Presidents’ Forum was created through the efforts of the Advisory Board of Cleveland and The Entrepreneurship Institute (TEI) to provide practical solutions, relevant information and valuable contacts needed to thrive in a challenging economy. TEI is the most successful independent non-profit educational corporation organized solely to assist and encourage the growth of American enterprises. Since 1976, TEI has assisted thousands of company presidents in solving problems and developing business contacts that contribute positively to the bottom line.

To learn more about the Presidents’ Forum and our various other opportunities and resources, visit www.tei.net.

Follow us on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/TEIForum