“The Flores MBA Distinguished Speaker Series is just one aspect of the quality learning experience provided by the program. This forum affords students, alums, and speakers the opportunity to interactively explore the successful routes executives have traveled from the classroom to the boardroom.”

– Chris Dighton, CIO of Turner Industries Group, Flores MBA Alumnus

“As an alumnus of the E. J. Ourso College, it was certainly my privilege to return as a speaker in the series and share my trials and triumphs with future Flores MBAs.”

– Dave Steiner, CEO of Waste Management, Past Speaker

“DSS adds another real-world dimension to the program. Learning from accomplished professionals is invaluable, and the ability to ask them specific questions helps provide a better grasp of abstract concepts.”

– Amanda Brice, Second-Year Flores MBA Student

Flores MBA Distinguished Speaker Series Fall 2008

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Contact Information

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Flores MBA Program
Distinguished Speaker Series · Fall 2008
The LSU Flores MBA Program endeavors to enhance the learning experience of its students with as much exposure to industry leaders as possible.

The LSU Flores MBA Distinguished Speaker Series affords students opportunities to gain insight into the ideas and forces shaping American and international business from industry leaders responsible for creating and utilizing such driving forces on a daily basis. Interaction with these executives provides significant educational enrichment and complements the program’s standard curriculum.

This fall, the E. J. Ourso College of Business is proud to showcase three executives who are recognized as leaders in their industries and communities.

**GARRET H. DANOS · October 3, 2008**

Garret “Hank” Danos is the chief executive officer and president of Danos & Curole Marine Contractors LLC. He served previously as the company’s vice president from 1971-1989 and assumed his current duties in 1990.

Founded in 1947, Danos & Curole is a leader in the oilfield industry and provides a broad range of labor services and support equipment whenever and wherever it is needed. More than 900 employees work for Danos & Curole, which operates in areas as close to Louisiana as the Gulf of Mexico and as far removed as the West African Coast of Nigeria. The company specializes in four major areas—construction production & pipeline personnel; shop fabrication projects and offshore construction; offshore maintenance crews; and international personnel recruiting services for consultants, engineers, and other highly skilled energy professionals.

Danos grew up in South Lafourche, La. He received his bachelor’s in business administration from LSU in 1971 and immediately began his career with Danos & Curole. After serving in the Louisiana Army National Guard from 1970-1976, Danos quickly established his presence in his community by becoming the president of the South Lafourche Chamber of Commerce in 1978.

Civic and professional service has always played a large role in Danos’ career. In addition to his involvement with the board of the Louisiana Association of Oilfield Contractors from the early 1980s through the early 1990s, Danos has given his time and talents to the United Way, LA 1 Coalition, and the I-49 Governor’s Task Force. He has served as a member of various associations and boards and is a member of both the Louisiana Transportation Authority and the Executive Subcommittee of Offshore Operators.
DAVID B. SONGY · October 31, 2008

David Songy is the chief executive officer and co-founder of Songy Partners. He previously worked for office developer AP Keller Company and for the Parker Patrinely Group prior to venturing out on his own.

Founded in 1992, Songy Partners is an institutional quality developer that strategically acquires income properties in need of extensive renovation that are located in select markets. The firm has focused mainly on the office and hotel sectors and presently has ongoing projects in Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, and in Fort Myers and Boca Raton, Fla. Previous projects have been undertaken in other areas of Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mexico City.

Michael Linn is a managing director for BlackRock Inc. and previously served as the president and chief operating officer of an asset management company he co-founded. Additionally, he worked for Omega Associates and the Quellos Group.

Founded in 1988, BlackRock is a premier provider of global investment management, risk management, and advisory services to institutional and retail clients globally. As of June 30, 2008, BlackRock’s assets under management totaled $1.4 trillion across equity, fixed income, cash management, alternative investment, and real estate strategies. Headquartered in New York, the firm maintains offices in 19 countries around the world. Nearly one-third of BlackRock’s employees live and work outside of the United States.

Songy grew up in Alexandria, La. He received his bachelor’s in accounting from LSU in 1979 and immediately began pursuing his MBA, which he received in the fall of 1980, from the University. After a brief stint in Dallas following his graduation, Songy ventured south to Houston and spent six years with AP Keller, where he gained experience about development, leasing, and with the management sector. He carried that experience with him to the Parker Patrinely Group before launching Songy Partners in Boca Raton some 12 years after earning his MBA. By 1997, Songy Partners opened an office in Houston. In 1998, the firm’s headquarters were moved to Atlanta.

A former member of the Urban Land Institute, Songy has been extremely active in his community as a board member of the Atlanta Youth Academy, has volunteered his time as a youth baseball coach, and was a member of the Campus Development Committee of Whitefield Academy—a Christian educational community for Grades Pre-K through 12 founded in 1996.

MICHAEL D. LINN · November 21, 2008

Linn grew up in Washington, Mich., a suburb of Detroit. After receiving his bachelor’s in chemistry from Emory University in 1982, he went on to earn his master’s in finance in 1984 and his MBA in 1985, both from LSU. Shortly afterwards, Linn began his career with Steinhardt Management Company before establishing his own asset management company. He then moved on to Omega Advisors and joined the Quellos Group in 2002. Quellos was acquired by BlackRock in 2007, and Linn is now responsible for evaluation and negotiation of prospective seed capital opportunities for financial venture fund products.

Although he has worked for various firms since leaving LSU, Linn has been the beneficiary of living in the financial capital of the world all the while. Following a brief stint in Houston after earning his MBA, Linn moved to New York City in 1987 and has resided there ever since.