The James C. and Cherie H. Flores MBA Program is the flagship academic program of the E. J. Ourso College of Business Administration at Louisiana State University.

The Distinguished Speaker Series is an integral part of the MBA program. Students gain insight through the series to new ideas and forces shaping American and international business from executives who face these issues daily. Interaction with executives provides students significant educational enrichment to complement their classroom curriculum.

This semester we are proud to showcase three executives who are recognized as leaders in their industries and communities.

**February 15**
Frederick E. “Rick” Wolfert
President and CEO
GEC Capital Healthcare Financial Services

**March 1**
David M. Eppler
President, CEO, and Director
Cleco Corporation

**April 12**
Blake Young
Executive Vice President
Dynegy, Inc.

Please visit www.bus.lsu.edu/corporate/speakerseries for event details.
Rick Wolfert

February 15

Rick Wolfert is president and CEO of GEC Capital Healthcare Financial Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of General Electric. The company was created through the consolidation of the specialty healthcare finance units of GE Capital. GEC Healthcare Financial Services is a global player in the healthcare industry with $10 billion in assets. It provides services in every aspect of the healthcare industry, including equipment leasing, financing, equity investments, and vendor services.

Wolfert is the former president and COO of Heller Financial, Inc. (recently acquired by GE), which provides a broad array of financial products and services to mid-sized and small businesses through its worldwide operations in 20 countries. Wolfert also served as chairman, president, and chief executive officer of KeyCorp Leasing, Ltd. His responsibilities included KeyCorp’s $5 billion leasing group. From 1993 to 1996 he served as chairman, president, and CEO of KeyBank USA N.A. Prior to joining KeyCorp in 1988, he worked for nine years at U.S. Leasing Corporation’s San Francisco headquarters. He is a member of Heller Financial’s Board of Directors and is chairman of the Equipment Leasing Association of America, which represents more than 800 member companies.

Wolfert received his B.S. in business administration from LSU in 1976 and is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking, University of Delaware. He is vice-chairman of Junior Achievement of Chicago, a trustee of the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo, and on the Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Carondelet Child Center.
David Eppler

March 1

David Eppler is president, CEO, and director of Cleco Corporation, which operates several businesses in the electrical services industry. Cleco Power provides electric service to about 250,000 Louisiana customers. Cleco Midstream Resources is a regional energy-services group that develops and operates electric power generation facilities, invests in and develops natural gas-related assets, and provides energy services. The company also operates several smaller businesses in the industry.

Eppler joined Cleco in 1981 as manager of investor relations and finance and held executive positions in several divisions, including vice president of financial services, vice president of finance and rates, treasurer, chief financial officer, executive vice president, and chief operating officer, prior to assuming his current position in April 2000. He served as director of finance and investor relations for Public Services Company of New Mexico from 1976 to 1981 and as senior tax specialist for Peat Marwick Mitchell in Albuquerque from 1974 to 1976.

Eppler, a native of New Mexico, earned a B.S. in mathematics in 1972 and an M.B.A., with a specialization in accounting, in 1974 from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

He was president of the YMCA and the United Way of Central Louisiana. He serves on the Ourso College’s Executive Advisory Board and is a member of the Board of Directors of EEI, Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, Council for a Better Louisiana, and Hibernia National Bank. He will be chairman of the Committee of 100 for Louisiana in 2002.
Blake Young

April 12

Blake Young is executive vice president of Dynegy, Inc., and president of Global Technology of Dynegy, Inc. Dynegy is a leading provider of energy and communications solutions to customers around the globe. Its principal business segments include Energy Convergence (wholesale power and natural gas); Midstream Services; Transmission and Distribution; and Communications.

Young is responsible for all technology deployment across Dynegy’s core businesses, including application systems development and support, global infrastructure, and technology planning strategy. He is responsible for Dynegy’s e-commerce and e-business initiatives, advancing the application of new technology to Dynegy’s businesses, and identifying new technology-related investments consistent with Dynegy’s long-term strategies.

Young earned a B.S. in computer science from LSU in 1981. He joined Dynegy from Campbell Soup Company where he served as CIO for its North American U.S. Grocery Division. Prior to joining Campbell Soup Company, he was employed by Tenneco Energy for 14 years. Young held positions at Tenneco as director of national accounts, executive assistant to the chairman and chief executive officer, and vice president and chief information officer.

He serves on the Board of Directors for Child Advocates, Inc. (Houston), the Houston Technology Center, and Dynegy Beijing Telecom, Ltd. He is a member of the Ourso College’s Executive Advisory Board.
Past Distinguished Speakers

We are grateful to the following executives who have participated in our Distinguished Speaker Series:

• Jeffrey A. Kleinpeter, Vice President, Kleinpeter Farms Dairy, Inc.

• Eddie J. Jones, President and Chief Operating Officer, Miami Dolphins

• Kimberlee Bernson DeBosier, Founder and President, Bayside Engineering, Inc.

• James E. Maurin, Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Stirling Properties, Inc.

• Gerald L. Kohlenberger, President, Global Services at ExxonMobil Corporation

• Roland Toups, Chairman and CEO, Turner Industries, Ltd.

• Kathryn Sullivan, President and CEO, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana

• James M. Bernhard, Jr., Founder, President, and CEO, The Shaw Group, Inc.

• Richard Zuschlag, President, Co-chairman, Acadian Ambulance and Air Med Services, Inc.

• James C. Flores, Chairman, President, and CEO, Plains Resources Inc.

• G. Lee Griffin, CEO, Chairman, and President, Bank One, Louisiana, NA

• Robert M. Wohleber, CEO, Freeport-McMoRan Sulphur, Inc.

• Matthew G. Stuller, Founder and CEO, and Charles D. Lein, President and COO, Stuller Settings, Inc.

• James H. Stone, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Stone Energy

• Kevin P. Reilly, Jr., CEO, Lamar Corporation

• Carroll Suggs, Chairman, President, and CEO, Petroleum Helicopters, Inc.

• Robert C. Davidge, Jr., CEO, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

• A. Emmett Stephenson, Jr., Chairman, Startek, Inc.

• Donald T. "Boysie" Bollinger, Chairman and CEO, Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.

• Milton Carroll, Chairman, President, and CEO, Instrument Products, Inc.

• John D. Folse, Owner and Executive Chef, Chef John Folse and Company

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