

# National Energy Forum

hosted by **BAUER** **MBAFOCUS**  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

Here is a breakdown of the event's agenda with bios for each panelist and speaker.

## Welcome Address:

Dr. Latha Ramchand

*Dean, C. T. Bauer College of Business*



Latha Ramchand is Dean and Professor of Finance at the C. T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston. Her previous roles at Bauer include Associate Dean of Programs and Administration, where she was responsible for oversight of all the college's academic programs, and Associate Dean of Graduate and Professional Programs, where she led faculty and staff serving in Master of Business Administration (MBA), Executive MBA Master of Science in Accountancy, Master of Science in Finance, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and a variety of professional programs, including Energy Certificate Programs.

Ramchand teaches in the areas of Corporate and International Finance and Risk Management. She received her Ph.D. in finance at Northwestern University where she attended the Kellogg Graduate School of Management. She is a gold medalist in Economics from Bombay University where she graduated with a master's degree in Economics. Professor Ramchand has taught in the MBA programs at the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, the University of Houston and the Indian School of Business.

Ramchand is a noted expert and speaker on several topics, including international and corporate finance, energy education, corporate governance and leadership, global business, energy and the economy, and women in leadership.

She has won several awards for her publications, including Best Paper Award in International Finance from the Financial Management Association. Ramchand has also been recognized for her teaching, receiving the 2012 Executive MBA MidCon Teaching Excellence Award and the UH Faculty Excellence Proclamation awarded by the Houston City Council (1995), among other honors. Her publications have appeared in prestigious finance journals, and she has presented her work at various national and international conferences. She is a CFA charter holder and is a member of the Houston Society for Financial Analysts. Ramchand worked in the banking industry prior to joining academia.

Jack Gainer

*CEO, MBA Focus*



Jack Gainer became the Chief Executive Officer of MBA Focus in 2010 and is a minority shareholder. He brings nearly two decades of senior management experience in information technology, recruiting and consumer products to the firm. MBA Focus is Jack's 4th entrepreneurial growth business. He previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of O-Cedar Brands, Inc., was a key member of the senior management team that took Drypers Corporation public and was President and founder of a highly successful personnel and staffing franchise. Jack started his career at Ernst & Young, where he was a founding member of the Entrepreneurial Services Group. Jack graduated cum laude from Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio.

*Moderated Student Panel:*

**“Best Practices in Energy Recruiting From The Student Perspective”**

**Moderator:**

Lisa Jammer

*Director of MBA Career Services, C. T. Bauer College of Business*

**Panelists:**

Imran Khowaja - UH

*MBA Summer Intern*

Indirect Procurement

Cameron

Jedd Martin – UT

*MBA Summer Intern*

Business Development Analyst, Emerging Energy

Chevron Technology Ventures

Gabriel Villasmil – Rice

*MBA 2012*

Energy Analyst

Apache Corporation

Jay D’Souza – UH

*MBA Intern*

Strategy, Western Hemisphere

Halliburton



*Moderated Company Panel:*

**“Challenges in Diversity Recruiting”**

**Moderator:**

Jamie Belinne

*Assistant Dean, C. T. Bauer College of Business*

**Panelists:**

Cindy Bigner

*Global Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Halliburton*

Cindy Bigner, is Halliburton's Global Director of Diversity and Inclusion. In this role, Cindy's focus is on using Halliburton's talent-management processes and systems to implement the Company's global diversity and inclusion plans. Halliburton's overall mission is to attract and retain diverse talent in all parts of our organization. Cindy started her career with Halliburton in 1989 and has worked in a variety of Human Resources areas, to include corporate, field operations and two international assignments with her family. Her work in streamlining and implementing HR processes has contributed overwhelmingly to the success of the HR team in the Eastern Hemisphere where she most recently spent the last 5 years in both Cairo and Dubai as Director of Eastern Hemisphere HR. This role included oversight and responsibility of over 22,000 employees in approx. 70 countries across Asia-Pacific, Russia, Caspian, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Cindy holds a master's degree in Global Human Resources Mgmt. from the University of Liverpool in the U.K., and she brings more than 20 years of HR experience. Cindy is a member of the Society of Human Resource Management, Halliburton's Educational Advisory Board, Member of Women In Energy and Cambridge Who's Who, and member of Diversity Board for LSU-Baton Rouge. She also serves as program director for Halliburton's Executive Leadership Development Programs and the President's Leadership Excellence Program within Halliburton Corporation.

Olan McKinney

*Transportation Finance & Performance Analysis, Phillips66*

Olan is currently the Transportation F&PA at Phillips66. He was formerly the Global Marketing F&PA Consolidations.

Sandra Becket

*Recruiting Strategy Manager, BP*

Sandra Beckett is the Recruiting Strategy Manager for BP US University Relations in Houston. In this role, Sandra provides leadership, design, development and execution of an effective Recruiting/Resourcing strategy in the US. Prior, Sandra was the Program Manager of College Recruiting at Raytheon Company headquartered in Waltham, MA. In this role, Sandra was responsible for establishing and driving enterprise strategy, infrastructure, and processes for recruiting. Sandra has served in various human resource and talent acquisition leadership positions with The Boeing Company, Microchip Technology, and Talent Tree Staffing in Arizona.



*Keynote Address:*

**“Terra Incognita: a Continuity of Energy Surprises”**

Christopher E. Ross

*Executive Professor, C. T. Bauer College of Business*

Mr. Ross is Executive Professor of Finance at the University of Houston and a Senior Consultant with Charles River Associates, where he previously led the firm’s Houston Petroleum Practice and was responsible for the firm-wide natural gas initiative. With 40 years of worldwide petroleum industry experience, he has developed global expertise on best practices in performance improvement, change management, and strategy development for the energy industry.

He has authored a number of articles providing insights on important changes in energy business models, including the advent of the global natural gas industry, virtualization, social responsibility, end-use technology developments, and the “postmodern” oil company series. He is co-author of a book on energy industry leadership entitled Terra Incognita: A Navigation Aid for Energy, which has also been translated into Chinese.



*Moderated Company Panel:*

**“What the industry needs from MBA programs”**

**Moderator:**

Christopher E. Ross

*Executive Professor, C. T. Bauer College of Business*

**Panelists:**

Starlet Agrella

*Global Controller's Knowledge Manager, ExxonMobil*

Starlet Agrella is the Global Controller's Knowledge Manager for Exxon Mobil Corporation. In this role, she manages people, processes, and technology initiatives to help ensure the right person is in the right job with the right knowledge across the 4,200 Controller's population. She was named to her current position in December, 2011. Since joining ExxonMobil in 1986, Starlet has held various Controller's and Treasurer's assignments in the Upstream, Downstream, Chemical and Corporate businesses, both domestically and internationally. She has worked in Houston, Dallas, where she was the Audit Practices and Standards Coordinator for the Corporation, and Brussels, Belgium, where she was the Area Audit Manager for Europe, Africa, and the Middle East and the Fuels Marketing Controller.

Roger Burks

*President/Managing Director, Willis Group Consulting*

Roger Burks is the President/Managing Director and Board Member at Willis Group Consulting (WGC). Currently, Mr. Burks is a CPA with over 30 years of business experience, including over 20 years with Deloitte & Touche and 10 years of experience as a senior executive in the energy industry. Mr. Burks' experience further stems from serving on Boards, funding new ventures, and starting two management consulting firms.

David Mordy

*Manager Strategic Planning & Market Analysis, CenterPoint Energy*

David Mordy is the Manager of Strategic Planning at CenterPoint Energy in Houston where he manages the corporate strategic planning team responsible for MBA recruiting, facilitation of executive strategic discussions, market fundamentals research and business development efforts. Prior to working at CenterPoint, Mr. Mordy also worked as a Service Analyst for First Data Corporation in Omaha, NE. He holds an MBA from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University and a BA from Connecticut College in History and Government.

