

UCIRVINE | THE PAUL MERAGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

DEAN'S LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The Dean's Leadership Circle Summer Reception at Renaissance ClubSport by Marriott

Alumni Katie Bianchi '96 and Kyle van Hoften '97 provided their fellow Dean's Leadership Circle members with a business overview of Marriott International's unique and innovative brands along with a grand opening tour of the newly completed Renaissance ClubSport by Marriott. On July 16, 2008 in Aliso Viejo guests arrived at 5:30 p.m. to mingle, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a signature beverage created by the ClubSport resort especially for the Dean's Leadership Circle. The drink was a hit and so was the program.

Kyle van Hoften, Director of Marketing, Global CTI Group and fitness instructor at Renaissance ClubSport (and Equinox too), made the opening remarks and helped introduce 2008-2009 DLC Executive Committee members including DLC Chair Greg Lai '88, who greeted the group and invited participation on the DLC's three working committees: membership, marketing & event programming. Kyle then introduced Katie Bianchi, Vice President Human Resources Western Region who has been with Marriott for twelve years and oversees human resources for all Marriott brands in Southern California, Colorado, Oklahoma and Nebraska, representing over \$1 billion in revenue annually. Katie impressed the group with an overview of Marriott International's history and an introduction to the 16 unique brands of Marriott.

Renaissance ClubSport is the most recent innovative business model in which a hotel, fitness center and day spa are combined into one luxurious resort with a private club atmosphere. After the presentation, guests were treated to a raffle of exciting giveaways and a tour of the resort along with complimentary day passes for themselves and family members. Lowell Kessell '08 was the winner of a complimentary weekend stay, Tony Padilla '87 won dinner for two at the resort, Chris Meyer '08 won a one month free pass to the fitness club, and Jon Tran '08 walked away with a \$500 gift certificate to the spa. The evening ended with DLC members looking forward to more events similar to this one that combine networking with a new concept or business strategy. The next DLC event will be the Classroom Naming Dedication on the afternoon of Friday, September 12.