

## The Fall Insider's View

On Tuesday, October 12, the Dean's Leadership Circle kicked off the fall season with its Annual Insider's View event which brought together over 70 members and guests for an evening of fine food, wine and good company. Britta's Café provided the perfect fall setting with Britta Pulliam, the creator, owner, chef and entrepreneur extraordinaire of Britta's Cafe, personally greeting guests upon their arrival. As everyone entered, Britta's friendly staff greeted them with scrumptious hors d'oeuvres while providing a sampling of wines from around the world.

Each year the Insider's View event allows members to hear a current update on the Merage School. Members took their seat as Dean Policano began his report with a heartfelt thank you to all who make the Dean's Leadership Circle such a success. First, Greg Lai '88, Visionary, was awarded a token of appreciation and round of applause for his exceptional leadership as the immediate past chair of the DLC Advisory Board. Greg's dedication over the years has been greatly appreciated by Dean Policano and members of the Dean's Leadership Circle and especially in meeting the goal to create the Endowed Professorship. Dean Policano then introduced Dave Jones '93, Investor, who replaces Greg as the new Chair of the DLC Advisory Board. Dave talked about why he's passionate about the Dean's Leadership Circle and introduced members of the Advisory Board in attendance and shared some of the new initiatives the board plan to make to create more value for all members.

The Dean's report included an update on the current status of the economy and California state budget, new developments occurring such as the proposed new building; joint degree programs between Business and Law, Engineering and BioSci; he reported on the DLC Endowed Professorship which is currently under committee review; talked about the privatization effort that UCLA Anderson business school is undertaking; shared an update on the Merage undergraduate program and how this new major continues to be the most popular and draws a record number of applicants to the UCI campus. Overall, the Merage School continues to grow in rankings and prestige but needs the support of all alumni of the School. The Dean's Leadership Circle is the envy of all the other UC Irvine schools because of the tight knit network that has been formed over the years. The Dean charged members to continue to be advocates of the Dean's Leadership Circle and Merage School within the business community. After the Dean spoke, he was available for questions and guests continued to mingle.

A special gift and thanks was given to Britta for hosting this exceptional event and for her generosity and support of the UC Irvine community, and to all in attendance who helped to make the evening possible. For more info on Britta's Café please visit [www.brittascafe.com](http://www.brittascafe.com).