

Talent Tells Tale of New Era in OC

It can be hard to recognize an era while it's happening. Keep that in mind and ponder whether OC has entered a new era of bolstering its professional and intellectual depth in ways that hit squarely upon or cross paths with the community of business here. A squadron of talent has arrived in OC lately, starting with the return of **Finbarr O'Neill**, who led Fountain Valley-based **Hyundai Motor America** from



also-ran to up-and-comer a decade ago. O'Neill recently became boss of **J.D. Power and Associates**,

which now keeps its HQ in the South Coast Metro district ... **UCI's** law school chipped in with a quartet of decorated professors recruited from **Harvard**, **NYU**, the **University of Michigan** and **Yeshiva University** ... It helps to have some carrots to dangle when recruiting top talent, and **Paul and Marybelle Musco** will make sure **Chapman U** has a big one to offer candidates for its top job—starting with **Daniele Struppa**, newly inaugurated president of the school in Orange. The Muscos are the benefactors set to donate a home in Big Canyon as a presidential residence for the school in perpetuity ... The **Diocese of Or-**

ange, meanwhile, appointed **Pia de Solenni**—who graduated summa cum laude with a doctorate in sacred theology from the **Pontifical University of the Holy Cross** in Rome—as its first theological consultant ... The trend toward deeper talent pools grows outward from OC, too—the Insider hears that Costa Mesa-based law firm **Greenberg Gross** will launch an office in downtown L.A., with recently hired securities trial lawyer **Howard Privette** as managing partner. **Aluyah Imoisili**, a star litigator whose victories include a \$40 million jury verdict, more recently left a spot with white-shoe **Milbank Tweed** for a partner’s slot with Greenberg Gross in L.A. ... Plenty of depth when **Asian Women Entrepreneurs** gathered last month for the group’s annual scholarship luncheon at **Anaheim White House Restaurant**. AWE scored with emcee **Marissa Pei**, a Seal Beach resident who’s gaining a reputation as the “**Asian Oprah**” and showed why while handing out scholarships to local college students, and **Lotus Awards** to **Ouyen Tu**, founder of **B Corp Law Center** in



Pei: growing rep as “Asian Oprah”

Anaheim, and **Tina Guilder Chen**, CEO of **Virtrus Pharmaceuticals Inc.** ... The Insider hears the OC sports scene could add some depth if the **Big West Conference** decides to complement its post-season basketball tournaments at the **Honda Center** with something similar for other sports at the \$250 million

worth of fields and facilities under development by **FivePoint Holdings** at **Great Park** in Irvine ... The San Clemente-based **Hispanic 100** showed how to recognize talent and flex some sociopolitical muscle at last week's annual gala at the **Balboa Bay Resort**, when it gave a **Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Lou Diamond Phillips**, a helping hand to a handful of hardworking youngsters, and a chance for much of OC's political class to pay respects ... The event also showed that even the most talented among us can benefit from a home-field advantage—an autographed baseball from **Angels** slugger **Albert Pujols** went from \$75 to \$100 as the silent-auction bidding came to a close, while one from **Dodgers** rookie sensation **Corey Seager** went from \$25 to \$35. ... Turn to page 1 for **Deirdre Newman**'s report on how **Steve Craig** scouts promising rookies of the retail and restaurant world for a pipeline of talent that stretches from Missouri to OC.