



THE MAGAZINE of ORANGE COUNTY

# Orange Coast

YEARS

PLUS: GOLDEN FASHIONS  
AND A GETAWAY TO JACUMBA





**OrangeCoast**  
MAGAZINE

# MEN OF MERIT 2024

*Orange Coast* magazine  
introduces the men of influence  
and merit in Orange County



From left: James Kraly, Juan Chavez, Erwin Carino and Jon Moore





## UCI HEALTH

**James Kraly** | Radiation Therapy Supervisor

**Juan Chavez** | Director, Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center Business Operations

**Erwin Carino** | Ambulatory Patient Care Manager

**Jon Moore, RN, BSN** | Manager, Operating Room

UCI Health has embarked on a historic expansion of access to state-of-the-art cancer treatment rooted in academic medicine with the summer 2024 opening of the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building on the \$1.3 billion UCI Health — Irvine campus.

The steadfast leadership and vision of four individuals were essential in bringing the most advanced cancer center on the West Coast to life, providing residents of coastal and south Orange County access to the latest treatments and technologies, including radiation oncology and imaging. The five-story, 225,000-square-foot facility also features eight outpatient surgical suites, 52 private exam rooms, an expansive infusion center and a state-of-the-art women's health center.

The new center triples the capacity to care for patients with all types of cancer at the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center based in Orange County. It also expands the space for research focused on developing new and better approaches to preventing, diagnosing and treating cancer.

We are proud to celebrate them and recognize their achievements.

James Kraly, radiation therapy supervisor, spearheaded efforts to prepare radiation oncology operations for

state licensing and to deliver the most advanced treatments and patient-centered care in a "one-stop shop." This initiative gives patients access to a multidisciplinary team of experts in their disease, along with diagnostic and associated services in a single visit.

Juan Chavez, director of business operations for the cancer center, developed the first same-day access program for Orange County cancer patients to ensure that no one has to wait to begin their fight against cancer. His leadership has enabled UCI Health to care for more cancer patients and offer more clinical trials than any other provider in the region.

Erwin Carino, ambulatory patient care manager, is instrumental in leading outpatient services. His work to integrate and elevate patient care is one of the reasons UCI Health was recently recognized by Vizient Inc. as one of the top five outpatient networks in the U.S.

Jon Moore, RN, BSN, operating room manager, played a pivotal role in driving improvements and innovations to ensure that every patient receives safe, high-quality surgical care that exceeds national standards. Such efforts have positioned UCI Health as a nationally recognized leader in patient safety, honored by organizations such as Leapfrog and Vizient Inc.



# CASEY LESHER

Real Estate Professional

**Casey Leshner Group | Christie's International  
Real Estate – Southern California**

Casey Leshner stands as a defining figure in Corona del Mar's real estate scene, redefining both the client experience and property valuation. His unmatched instinct and seasoned experience have navigated clients through diverse market conditions over 18 years,

proving his prowess in selling properties deemed challenging by others. Leshner thrives in creating connections for every property, finding satisfaction in overcoming sales hurdles. Rather than speculate on market trends, Leshner relies on his sharp instincts, honed over hundreds of transactions, including in complex markets, to guide clients to successful outcomes. As Corona del Mar's top agent for nearly ten consecutive years in sales volume and units, his reputation extends statewide and nationally, emphasizing his influence and expertise.

Although Casey continues to sell property and represent clients throughout Orange County, his commitment and dedication to Corona del Mar is reflected in his abiding contribution of resources and personal time to organizations supporting innovation and





encouragement in the community he serves. He is a longtime fixture and lead corporate sponsor of the Corona del Mar Christmas Walk; the headlining sponsor for the Corona del Mar 5K; provides ongoing aide to the local schools and next generation business leaders; and works closely with Harvesters and The Second Harvest Food Bank Orange County.

Lesher's office in Corona del Mar, established in February 2021, houses his support staff, allowing him more time to engage directly with clients and the community. His approach to real estate is

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## DANIEL S. YANNI, MD, FAANS

Neurosurgeon

**Disc Comfort, Inc.**

Dr. Daniel S. Yanni, MD is the bridge between pain and comfort. The Board-Certified, Spine Fellowship-trained neurosurgeon specializes in spinal surgeries, helping people get back on their feet and thrive.

"He was the hands of God working in my back," said patient Stephen Busch, who had been told by two other physicians that he would never walk again. After a marathon 10-hour surgery, Yanni proved them wrong.

"[Busch] was an FBI agent, and he was involved [in a mission where] his spine was ripped in half," Yanni. "Surgeons told him it would take multiple surgeries, and then render him paralyzed. No more legs. Well, I don't know how they hunted me down. But they got him transferred to me."

Yanni uses a variety of methods in surgery, most significantly minimally invasive procedure involving key-hole-sized incisions that allow for a quick recovery time. He said that the majority of his clients, however, don't end up needing surgery at all.

"Anybody with neck pain and back pain, we're the best shot," Yanni explained. "Because we're incredibly conservative. I will tell you that over 80% of the patients that show up in our office do not get surgery. I will refer them out to avoid the operating room."

His fascination with anatomy began in high school, and his concentration quickly focused on the spine. He went to UCLA for neuroscience, and he later received his medical degree from UC San Diego. His interest led to a career where he has the unique opportunity to make people feel whole again.

"I was impressed by the anatomy and the wiring in the brain and spine – how electric signals are translated into motion, sensation, memories and speech," he recalled.

Yanni also ushers the next generation of physicians, initially by imparting his wisdom for several years as a professor at UC Irvine, and now by teaching physician assistant and medical assistant students in his private practice. He also serves as the Co-Director of Development for the Lumber Spine Research Society.

"I enjoy teaching surgeons techniques and troubleshooting, and I mentor younger, recent graduated surgeons," he explained.

Yanni said that, ultimately, he hopes to use his talents to help patients find their own zen.

"We want happy patients," he said. "Happy patients ... that makes me happy."





## BRYAN AND MARK BURKHART

Boutique Home Builders  
**Burkhart Brothers Construction**

**Q: Can you tell us a bit about your background and how it shaped who you are today?**

**A:** Our father was always a big influence in our lives. We lost him when we were in our thirties. You don't realize how much you needed and relied on someone until they are gone. However, we came to learn that even though he wasn't with us anymore, everything he taught us provided the best foundation for us to build upon.

**Q: What advice would you give to younger generations who look up to you as a role model?**

**A:** Be a good person. No matter what happens in life, you always have yourself. You need to love and respect who you are. Work hard, and good things will come to you. Be happy and content with what you achieve. There is always more to strive for but appreciate what you've accomplished so far. Recognize what you NEED in life, not just what you WANT. They are not the same.

**Q: What core values guide your decisions and actions in both your professional and personal life?**

**A:** Do what you say you're going to do. If you're not going to do it, don't say it.

You have to make decisions every day—some big, some small. If you make the best decision based on the information you have at the time, you're never really wrong. Being wrong comes from either not making a decision at all or second-guessing a choice because of new information you learn afterward.

Accomplishments are best when shared with others. Build a team in both your work and home lives. Create an environment that fosters success in both areas. Achievements will come more easily and will be more enjoyable.





# DREW D'ANGELO

CEO & Founder  
**SkySail Coastal Estates**

**Q: Can you tell us a bit about your background and how it shaped who you are today?**

**A:** I was born in California and had the privilege of being raised by two wonderful families who poured their best into me. From a young age, I was immersed in the beautiful culture of California, where I developed a passion for surfing and tennis—activities that have been a constant source of joy and discipline in my life.

The values of hard work and business acumen were introduced to me early on, but it was becoming a father that truly gave these lessons profound meaning. Fatherhood brought a new depth to my life, instilling in me a sense of responsibility, dedication, and purpose that has driven both my personal and professional endeavors.

I am blessed to be a devoted husband to the woman of my dreams, and together we have four wonderful children who continually inspire me. My faith plays a central role in my life, providing guidance and strength.

**Q: What advice would you give to younger generations who look up to you as a role model?**

**A:** Pursue your passion, embrace learning, persevere through challenges, maintain integrity, value relationships, be humble and grateful, take calculated risks, give back, stay true to yourself, and balance work and life.

**Q: What core values guide your decisions and actions in both your professional and personal life?**

**A:** The core values that guide my decisions and actions in both my professional and personal life are deeply rooted in integrity, compassion, and faith. I believe in doing the right thing for the right reason for the right people, and this principle is central to everything I do. Treating others as I would want to be treated is a cornerstone of my approach, ensuring fairness and respect in all interactions.

My faith serves as my compass, guiding me to make decisions that align with godly principles and values. This spiritual foundation helps me navigate both personal and professional challenges with a sense of purpose and moral clarity.







## MIKE HEM

Outside Sales:  
Designer & Builder Division  
**Ferguson Bath Kitchen  
& Lighting Gallery**

**Q: Can you tell us a bit about your background and how it shaped who you are today?**

**A:** Competing in the Decathlon during College taught me discipline, resilience, and the importance of hard work. My Father's professional advice—Be the best in your position, and everyone will notice—has driven me to give 100% in everything I do. These values shape my leadership and commitment to excellence in both life and business.

**Q: What advice would you give to younger generations who look up to you as a role model?**

**A:** Take care of the customer and they will take care of you. Focus on being the best in whatever role you find yourself in, and trust that others will notice. Consistency and a strong work ethic will set you apart, both in your personal and professional life. Do the hard things others are unwilling to do.

**Q: What core values guide your decisions and actions in both your professional and personal life?**

**A:** Nothing in life is free; you have to earn it. Integrity, discipline, and resilience are essential qualities on that journey.

