

Checking Inn

By Christopher Cole

Hyatt Regency Houston completed a \$40 million transformation including the renovation of all 947 guest rooms, a redesigned LobiBar, and 64,000 square feet of meeting space. The project included the opening of Texas' first Shula's Steak House. The meeting space was refreshed with new carpet, wall coverings, artwork and lighting.

The biggest change can be seen in Window Box, an event space overlooking the hotel's atrium lobby, where lighting was added to the newly expanded venue. A second point of entry and registration area were also added to the redesigned space.

Travelers to Tempe, Ariz., have a new Earth-friendly hotel destination at **Aloft Tempe**, the new urban hotel brand by Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

The five-story, 136-room Aloft Tempe is a vision of Starwood's luxury boutique brand W hotels. The hotel has numerous eco-friendly features, for example, starting inside the hotel's guest rooms, packaging-free dispensers for shower products reduce plastic waste and heating and cooling systems are synched to operate only in rooms that are reserved and occupied to help eliminate excess energy consumption.

Such features continue into the hotel's communal spaces with natural daylight in 75 percent of public areas to reduce electricity use and into the hotel's operations, where reports that are traditionally printed each day are saved in a digital filing system to reduce paper consumption.

Brett Magnan's tenure as executive vice president of **Tulalip Resort Casino** won rec-

ognition from the Economic Development Council of Snohomish County.

The award follows his management of the resort while promoting the Tulalip Tribe's culture. With a large role in the planning and construction of the \$130 million resort, Magnan was honored based on his career success, community involvement, positive attitude and inspirational role for others.

The new 62-room **Country Inn & Suites** By Carlson Doswell, Va. opened. So did the **Country Inn & Suites West Knoxville At Cedar Bluff**, an 89-room hotel offering new radio frequency identification guest room locks to provide safety and security.

The Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County recognized State College, Pa.-based hotel owner and operator **Shaner Corp.** with the 2008 Corporate Philanthropy Award for its continuous demonstration of financial support, donations and in-house volunteer efforts for area non-profit organizations.

InterContinental Hotels & Resorts said Robert Watson, chef concierge of Willard InterContinental Washington D.C., was named international president of Les Clefs d'Or International, the professional society of hotel concierges. In his new role, Watson will lead the global efforts of the association, first founded in 1929 in Paris and today represented in over 50 countries by more than 3,000 members.

NYLO Providence/Warwick received Green Hospitality Certification from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

The 163-room, urban loft hotel was honored for its conservation and recycling programs. The hotel runs on 100 percent renewable energy. Through

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