



For Members of the Phi Delta Theta Alumni Club of Central Florida

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Dr. Gary Miller, the Senior Medical Director for VITAS in Central Florida, was our guest speaker at our January luncheon. Dr. Miller started as a family practitioner in Orlando in 1972. Dr. Miller joined VITAS in 1998. VITAS Innovative Hospice Care is the nation's largest provider of end-of-life care. VITAS mission is "to preserve the quality of life for those who have a limited time to live". VITAS has over 10,000 patients across the country, and over 800 here in Central Florida.



Dr. Miller focused his talk on dementia and Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is a progressive and fatal brain disease. More than 5 million Americans now have Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's destroys brain cells, causing problems with memory, thinking and behavior severe enough to affect work, lifelong hobbies or social life. Alzheimer's gets worse over time, and it is fatal. Today it is the seventh-leading cause of death in the United States.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, a general term for the loss of memory and other intellectual abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life. Vascular dementia, another common type of dementia, is caused by reduced blood flow to parts of the brain. In mixed dementia, Alzheimer's and vascular dementia occur together.

There is no current cure. But, treatments for symptoms, combined with the right services and support, can make life better for the millions of Americans living with Alzheimer's. Approximately 10% of the US population has some form of Alzheimer's at age 65. By age 75, it's up to 25%, and at age 85, 50% suffer from some form of the disease.

Dr. Miller predicts that the cause will be found within the next 5 years, which means that work on a cure or possibly a vaccine can then occur. You can find out more about VITAS on the internet at <http://www.vitas.com>.

Next Luncheon is February 5th

Our next luncheon is Tuesday, February 5th at noon. The speaker had not been confirmed as of press time. The luncheons are \$15 (\$10 for actives at UCF & Rollins). This price includes the meeting room, the meal, tax, tip, gratuity, and parking. The University Club is located on the corner of Rosalind and Central, directly across the street from the main library. Parking during the meetings is available in the lot right next to the club – just pull up to the gate and the gate will open.

Random Notes

- Brothers Graham Barr (Florida '47) and Tom Hand (Florida '57) are the latest members to renew. We now have 45 paid members for the 2007 – 2008 year.
- Our Founders Day Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st starting at 5:30pm. It will be held at the University Club, and will take the place of our April luncheon. Details will be coming in the next newsletter, but mark your calendars now.
- The Florida Iota (UCF) chapter just finished its most successful spring rush ever. The Beta Delta pledge class has 27 Phikeias. Combined with the active brother membership of 78, this brings the chapter up to 105 members. The chapter is also planning an alumni BBQ to be held at the chapter house at the end of March. Details will be included in next months newsletter.
- We are in need of speakers for the upcoming monthly luncheons and Founders Day. If you know of a good speaker, please contact brother Dabney Davis at (321) 636-4676 or brother Bob Serros at (407) 582-9866.
- Brother Justice Mitchell, past president of our club, has moved to Birmingham Alabama to become the V.P. of Interactive and New Media for the Luckie Company. Best of luck in your new job Justice. You will be missed in Orlando.



Contacts



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