

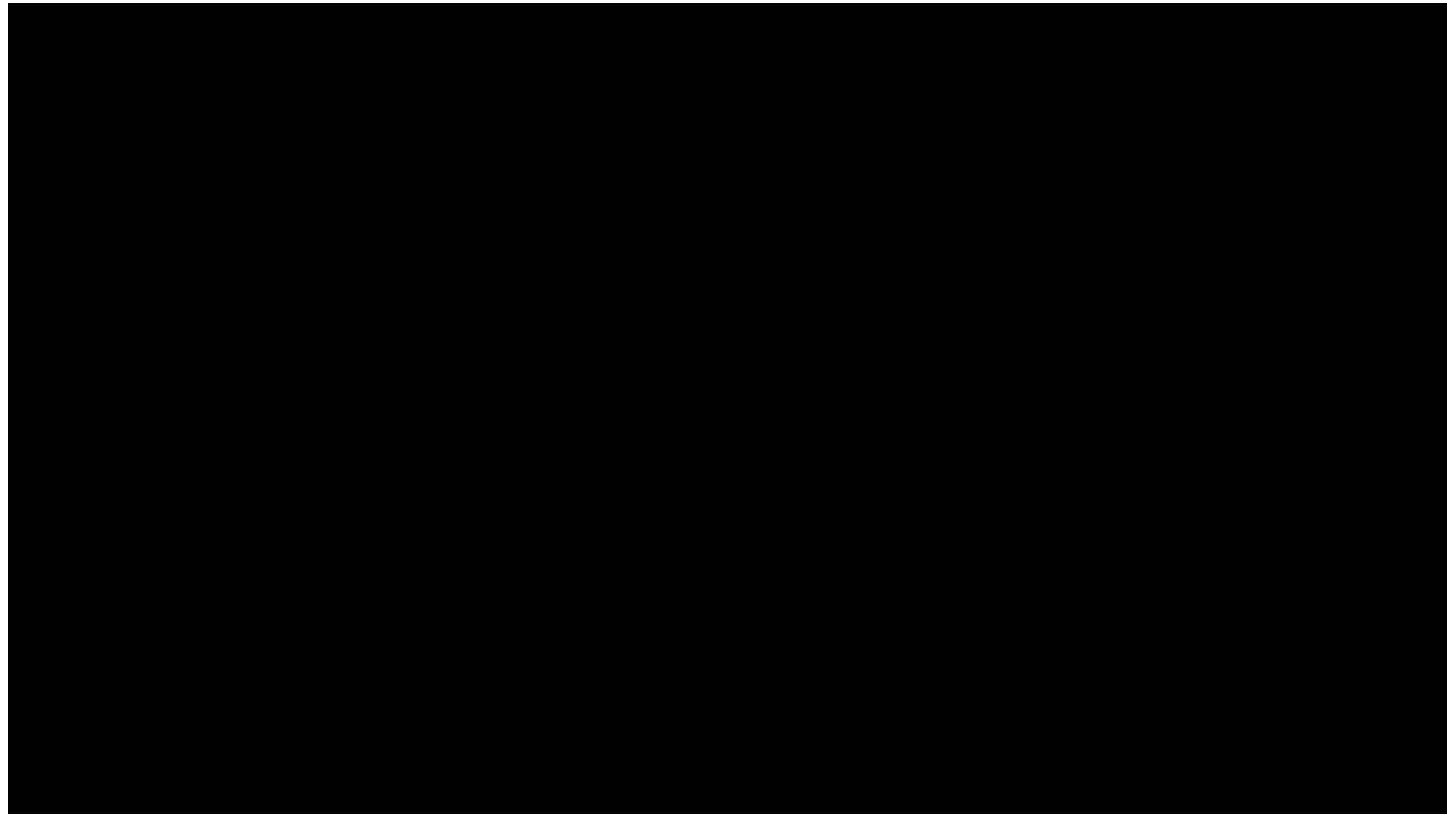
It Takes a Village: Intergenerational Engagement in Dementia Care



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Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures



<http://www.youtube.com/v/BXnZt5VMjZY>



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Research Findings: Intergenerational Interaction

- Cognitive level does not determine participation in Intergenerational Interaction
- Individuals with dementia who interact with young people:
 - Are more actively engaged
 - Demonstrate more positive affect
 - Benefit from the opportunity to serve as teachers/helpers to children
- Children and adults benefit most when the activity is structured for benefit of both parties

Clinical Interventions for Aging. Sep 2007; 2(3): 477–483. Effects of intergenerational Montessori-based activities programming on engagement of nursing home residents with dementia.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2685273/>



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PSU/Phoebe Experience

- Inspired by personal experience
- Evolved from a volunteer effort into a full year program
- Structured around an engineering design process for second year engineering students
- Augmented by training and support by dementia specialists and other academic resources
- Driven by regular interactions with residents with dementia and nursing home staff









Benefits for All

Students

- Service opportunity
- Learning opportunity
- Raised awareness of diverse needs
- Opening to new perspective
- Inspiration for efforts
- Challenges ageist biases
- Enjoyment of interactions
- Formation of relationships

Elders

- Infusion of youth and energy into daily experience
- Opportunity to share life stories and concerns
- Challenges and needs noticed and addressed
- Interprofessional collaboration resulted in creative resources for residents

Lessons Learned

- Importance of education about the disease and its manifestations before first interaction
- Peer mentoring among students to support comfort and confidence
- Provide clear tasks and a structure for interactions
- Remove expectations of “normal” interactions and encourage “being in the moment”
- Reinforce the priority of respect and dignity, while allowing for humor and sharing

Unanticipated Outcomes

- Resume builder
- Openness to new career directions
- Pride in project stemming from service focus
 - Kids and parents
- Entrepreneurial potential of creative projects
- Enthusiasm and attention generated by the project within various community

Next Steps for Project

- Expand upon interdisciplinary collaboration
- Name it – Penn State ECHO
- “Customer Needs Driven” focus



Small Group Questions

1. Please describe any personal experiences you have had with intergenerational programming for individuals with dementia.
2. Please share any examples of intergenerational programming for individuals with dementia you are aware of.
3. What are the benefits to elders and youth?
4. What are the challenges to the program?
5. Identify opportunities in our community for additional intergenerational programming.



Large Group Discussion

- Is there a best age for first exposure to dementia?
- Is there a gender difference in response to dementia?
- What are the best ways to engage young people with older adults with dementia?



What are our next steps as we prepare to create a Village for older adults with dementia?

