

# CU Institute for Engaged Aging Dementia Care Research and Services

CCADMR Seminar Series  
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# Dementia Research/Support

- Establishment of two dementia day programs
- Provision of dementia caregiving education and support
  - Resources to Enhance Alzheimer's Caregivers Health (REACH)
  - Development of **Group REACH - Caitlin Torrence**
  - **VR simulation of dementia experience - Dr. Kapil Madathil**
- Provision of support for caregiver/care recipient dyad
  - **Mindset - Dr. Kathleen Valentine**, implementation in Spring 2020
- Provision of community programming for those with dementia
  - **Brain Health Club** in collaboration with Pickens County Meals on Wheels, City of Central
  - **Creative Arts Studio** in collaboration with Clemson Downs continuing care - **Dr. Stephanie Pangborn**



# Dementia Research

- CCADMR scientist – Dr. Nicole Davis, doctoral student Caitlin Torrence
- Dissertation research – Caitlin Torrence



# Dementia Day Programs

Since Spring 2014 (10 semesters), approximately 100 CU students and 3 IEA Faculty Associates and 3 Post-Docs and doctoral students have used best practice strategies to enhance cognitive functioning of those with early to mid-stage dementia and to reduce stress of their caregivers.

Five prior sites including GHS, churches, retirement communities. Currently two sites – Golden Corner Respite Care at Church of the Ascension in Seneca (Thursday afternoons) and IEA Brain Health Club (Monday and Wednesday afternoons)



# IEA Brain Health Club

The IEA Brain Health Club provides best-practice activities for persons with early to mid-stage dementia. Cognitively and socially stimulating activities are tailored to participant specific needs and interests using a Montessori Approach

Caitlin Torrence , DPHS doctoral student, worked with PCMOW and IEA Director to develop and submit the PIP proposal and another proposal to the Alzheimer's Resources Coordination Center. Caitlin served as Director of the new IEA Brain Health Club from 9- 24- 2018 to 7-15-2019. She trained and supervised Creative Inquiry students to deliver activities.







# Memory Bridge, Creative Studio

Dr. Stephanie Pangborn, is a certified Memory Bridge Ambassador dedicated to pursuing creative ways to serve and enrich the lives of individuals living with dementia.

Dr. Pangborn collaborated with Clemson Downs continuing care retirement community to develop a formal partnership presenting a variety of service learning opportunities for Clemson University students. This collaboration resulted in the establishment of the Creative Studio which integrates collaborate arts activities led by CU student in the new Clemson Downs Memory Care facility.



# An Investigation into Information Sought by Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients using a Content Analysis of ALZConnected.org

Scharett, E., Chalil Madathil, K., Lopes, S., Rogers, H., Agnisarman, S., Narasimha, S. & Dye, C. An investigation of the information sought by caregivers of Alzheimer's patients on online peer support groups. Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking. 20(10), 640-657, 2017.

**INTRODUCTION:** Caregivers of Alzheimer's patients find respite in online communities for solutions and emotional support.

**METHODS:** A content analysis was conducted on 2,500 randomly selected posts and 4,219 responses to those posts based on a classification tool derived from initial analyses of 750 posts and related responses.

**RESULTS:** The results showed that most posts (26%) related to queries about Alzheimer's symptoms, and the highest percentage of responses (45.56%) pertained to caregiver well-being. The LIWC analyses generated an average tone rating of 27.27 for the posts and 65.17 for their responses.

**DISCUSSION:** The ALZConnected.org website has the potential of being an emotionally supportive tool for caregivers; however, a more user-friendly interface should be developed to accommodate the age of most caregivers and their technological skills. Solutions offered on the website cannot be considered professional or comprehensive; further research on educating caregivers is necessary.



# Caregiver Empathy for Alzheimer's Patients: Virtual Dementia Tour

- Users assume the role of an Alzheimer's patient in an immersive virtual environment
- Goal is to increase empathy for informal caregivers by simulating symptoms
- Asked to do simple manipulation tasks including setting the table, picking out medicine, doing the dishes, etc.
- Simulated symptoms include: disorienting audio, disappearing objects, macular degeneration

