



Ideas for *Intergenerational Living*

Penn State Intergenerational Initiatives Advisory Group

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Newsletter Production
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From the Editor:

This is a very exciting time for the intergenerational field. Here are a few reasons why:

- The recent Generations United bi-annual conference (October 14-18, 2003) drew a record number of participants, including representatives from 12 countries.
- In recent weeks, full scale stories on intergenerational programs and practices have been appearing in high profile media like the Wall Street Journal and National Public Radio.
- Increased public concern about kinship care (e.g., grandparents caring for grandchildren) is galvanizing legislation and new programs at the state and national levels.
- With EPA sponsorship, Generations United, Penn State University, and a handful of other organizations are collaborating on a new initiative to draw attention to intergenerational approaches for addressing environmental health issues.

In this issue of the newsletter, we'll provide an update of the Penn State Intergenerational Program, note progress being made in the kinship care arena, and highlight new intergenerational resources such as *Sages for the Ages*, developed by the University of Maryland.

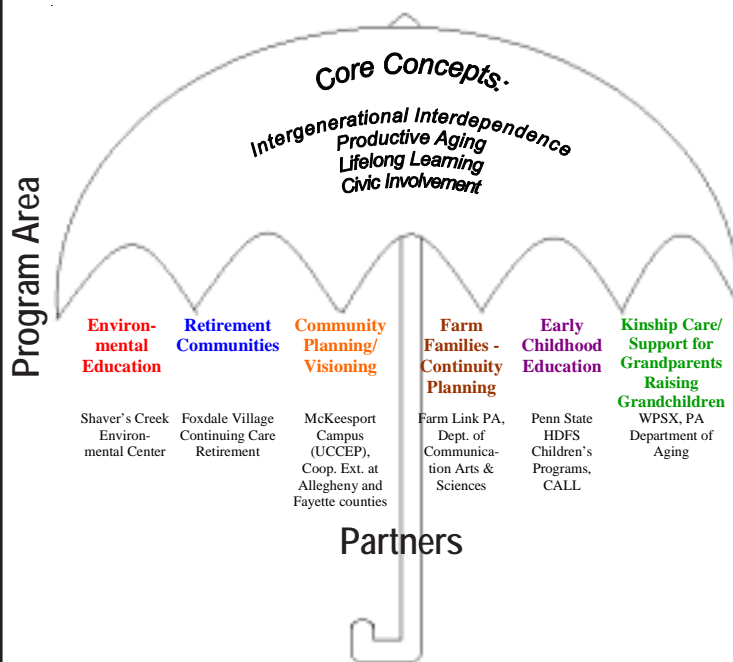
Matt Kaplan, Associate Professor
Intergenerational Programs & Aging
Penn State University

What's New with the Penn State Intergenerational Program?

The Penn State Intergenerational Program, rooted in Penn State Cooperative Extension, is "coming of age." We have steadily been adding instructional materials and other content to our Website, including a listing of over 1,000 intergenerational references. The Website also has a new look and simpler organization. If you haven't seen the site in awhile, check it out at: <http://intergenerational.cas.psu.edu>.

Here are some other highlights:

Major Program Areas: The Program "Umbrella"



In each of these areas, there is a research component and an outreach component. The research involves developing and piloting new approaches for bringing the generations together. Research results inform the outreach agenda. The ultimate goal is to bring effective intergenerational strategies to bear on some of the vital problems in the state of PA and beyond.

(What's New continued on page 3)

New Course on Intergenerational Programming

Course Title: *Together We Thrive: Intergenerational Programs and Possibilities*

Duration: 9-12 hours

Course Objectives:

- To provide participants with a fun, hands-on introduction to the world of “intergenerational programming.”
- To motivate participants to explore and begin experimenting with intergenerational models that are appropriate for the settings in which they live/work.

Course Description:

This two-day course is a hands-on introduction to the world of “intergenerational programming,” i.e., programs and activities aimed at bringing different generations together for mutual benefit. Through videos, exercises, fieldwork experiences, and discussion, participants are provided with basic ideas and resources to support their ventures into the intergenerational arena. Emphasis is placed on learning how to develop program strategies that address organizational goals and objectives, meet local needs, and utilize local resources. To help participants get started with their own programming efforts, they will receive a hands-on introduction to five intergenerational program packages available through Penn State Cooperative Extension. These are accessible, easy to use resources designed to promote intergenerational communication activities in a range of community facilities.

The course itself is conducted as an intergenerational experience; college students, older adult volunteers, and “lifelong learners” are invited to join professionals working in educational, human service, and environmental settings for this shared learning experience.

Presentation overheads and handouts for all sessions are put on CD.

Instructor:

Matt Kaplan, Ph.D. Associate Professor
Intergenerational Programs and Aging
Penn State University

Background:

This course was piloted twice during the spring of 2003:

1. A six-session course (1 ½ hours each session), conducted from March-April, 2003, was jointly sponsored by Penn State University and the Community Academy for Lifelong Learning, a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven organization in Centre County that provides mature adults with an array of educational programs and recreational experiences. Course participants consisted of 12 senior adults and 8 young people (mostly undergraduate and graduate students).
2. An intensive two-day course was offered by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, June 4-5, 2003. The 40 people who took part in this statewide training program consisted of family and consumer science educators and their colleagues in the fields of aging, volunteerism, and community development.

To find out more about how to offer a “Together We Thrive” course in your area, contact Matt Kaplan, Intergenerational Programs and Aging specialist at Penn State University: (814) 863-7871; E-mail: msk15@psu.edu.

Penn State Research Highlighted in Testimony Submitted to EPA

Generations United, a national membership organization focused on intergenerational policies and programs, was recently invited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide testimony at a public listening session for developing the National Agenda on the Environment and the Aging. In their testimony, they highlighted preliminary results from the dissertation research of Nike Liu, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, a formal evaluation study which indicates the value and effectiveness of an intergenerational environmental education program. The title of Nike’s dissertation is: “Effectiveness of an Intergenerational Approach for Enhancing Knowledge and Promoting Positive Attitudes about the Environment.”

To see a copy of the full testimony from GU, go to: <http://intergenerational.cas.psu.edu/EnvEd.html>.

(What’s New continued on page 4)

New Program Resources



College of Agricultural Sciences

A Guidebook for Early Childhood Practitioners



Developing an Intergenerational Program

in Your

Early Childhood Care and Education Center

Easy to use information on effective practices for finding, training, and involving senior adult volunteers in early childhood programs.

Additional materials available online at www.intergenerational.cas.psu.edu/earlychildhood.html.

Developed by Matthew Kaplan, Associate Professor, Intergenerational Programs and Aging; Linda Duerr, Director of the Child Development Lab; Wendy Whitesell, Director of the Bennett Family Center; Linda Merchant, Community Academy for Lifelong Learning; Dana Davis, Program Coordinator, Penn State Early Childhood Education Intergenerational Program; and Elizabeth Larkin, Associate Professor, University of South Florida.

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in Your

Early Childhood Care and Education Center
AGRS-89

\$10.00 per Guidebook plus \$5.00 S & H (per order)

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(What's New continued on page 5)

Update on Kinship Caregiving

Press Release from the U.S. Census Bureau

Dave McMahon CB03-CN.70
Public Information Office
(301) 763-3691 or 763-3620 (fax)
(301) 457-1037 (TDD) [Multimedia Page](#)
E-mail: pio@census.gov
[Audio News Release](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2003)

"Skipped Generation" Households

One-Third of Grandparents Who Care for Grandchildren Live in Households With No Parents Present

ALEXANDRIA, VA — One-third of grandparent caregivers lived in "skipped generation" households where neither parent of the grandchild was present, according to a U.S. Census Bureau report released today. The report is based on Census 2000 data.

Today at the 12th Generations United International Conference, the Census Bureau released a report on nearly six million grandparents who lived with their grandchildren under age 18 in 2000. Of the grandparents living with their grandchildren, more than 40 percent were the grandchildren's primary caregivers.

The report, [Grandparents Living With Grandchildren: 2000](#) (pdf), shows the geographic distribution of grandparents living with grandchildren and serving as caregivers, as well as the length of time the grandparents cared for the grandchildren. The percentage of grandparent caregivers who lived in poverty also is shown.

Some highlights from the report:

- Almost all grandparents responsible for grandchildren were either the householder or the householder's spouse (94 percent).
- Coresident grandparents younger than 60 were more likely to be grandparent caregivers than were grandparents age 60 and over — 50 percent and 31 percent, respectively.
- Racial and ethnic differences in grandparent coresidence and caregiving were prominent. Although the majority of grandparents living with grandchildren were non-Hispanic white (2.7 million), they comprised only 2 percent of the non-Hispanic white population age 30 and over. By comparison, 6 percent to 10 percent of other racial and ethnic groups lived with their grandchildren.

- While 8 percent each of the black, American Indian, and Alaska native and Hispanic populations age 30 and over lived with grandchildren, Hispanics were less likely than blacks or American Indians and Alaska natives to be caregivers for these grandchildren: 35 percent versus 52 percent and 56 percent, respectively.
- Just over six percent of Asians age 30 and over were grandparents living with grandchildren, but only 20 percent of them were primary caregivers.
- Nineteen percent of grandparent caregivers were living in poverty in 1999. The highest proportion of grandparent caregivers in poverty was in the South (21 percent), and the lowest proportions were in the West and the Midwest (16 percent and 15 percent, respectively).

The data are based on responses from the sample of households that received the census long form, about 1-in-6 nationally, and are subject to sampling and nonsampling error.

Press Release (October 16, 2003)

CONTACT: Kate Philips (717-783-1116)

Governor Rendell (PA) Praises Bill to Assist Kinship Caregivers in Foster Care System



HARRISBURG, PA — At a ceremonial bill signing today praising kinship caregivers for their positive impact on the lives of children, Governor Edward G. Rendell showed his continuing commitment to the children of Pennsylvania.

"Kinship caregivers provide safe and nurturing homes that provide a wide range of benefits for our children," said Governor Rendell. "Kinship care preserves family connections by placing children in a familiar setting, around people who have a better understanding of their physical and emotional needs. And for children who cannot be reunited with their families, it expeditiously provides them with permanency, creating less disruption in their lives."

"This legislation lets Pennsylvania's kinship caregivers know that we value the positive impact that they are making in the lives of our children."

(Continued on page 7)

The Kinship Care Program mandates that a child placed in foster care should be placed in the care of a relative if possible and, if placement with a relative is not possible, the county must document why such placement was not possible. The new law, which is effective in six months, also ensures that children under the care of kin other than their parents are provided the same benefits as children cared for by foster parents.

Governor Rendell, joined by Public Welfare Secretary Estelle Richman and Lance Simmens, Executive Director of the Governor’s Cabinet on Children and Families, conducted a ceremonial signing of the legislation, House Bill 297, at the Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg. The legislation, sponsored by state Rep. Rosita Youngblood (D-Philadelphia) was signed into law by Governor Rendell on September 30.



For children in the foster care system, the bill:

- Requires that caseworkers must consider family members first when trying to place a child into a home.
- Ensures that a kin caring for a child will be paid the same amount as any other foster parent.
- Ensures that payments to a kin providing care would not be taken into consideration when evaluating eligibility for other social services.

Governor Rendell said the legislation supports the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act, which requires that “fit and willing” relatives receive first consideration when placing children. Today, about 4,000 Pennsylvania children - or 20 percent of all children in foster care - live with relatives.



Sages of the Ages: Stories that Touch and Teach

A New Program from the University of Maryland

Sages of the Ages: Stories that Touch and Teach is a collaborative project of the University of Maryland, the College of Health and Human Performance, the Department of Family Studies, Maryland Cooperative Extension, and the Maryland Family Community Education organization. **Sages of the Ages** benefits youth, adults in their middle years, and older adults by fostering a variety of experiences, including storytelling, project leadership, and community engagement.

The goals of **Sages of the Ages** are:

- To build resilience capacity through intergenerational storytelling
- To foster the development of important life skills
- To encourage community involvement and help teens make a difference in the lives of other people
- To promote interaction between teens and older adults

As noted in the Website describing the program, <http://www.hhp.umd.edu/FMST/Sages/home.htm>:

“As older adults look back on their lives, with the benefit of the passage of time for perspective, they can recall many stories of such times. Embedded in those stories are lessons on life which can be shared with others-- youths filled with energy and a seemingly unending future--adults filled with experience and a future coming to an end. These youths and adults can learn from each other and in so doing strengthen their individual lives and the life of society in general. Gathering and sharing those stories is the intent of **Sages of the Ages: Stories that Touch and Teach**. Themes for the stories in **Sages of the Ages** are based on resiliency research, which tells us that individuals and families can develop protective and recovery factors that get them through the challenges of life.”

Sages of the Ages is designed and developed by:
Bonnie Braun, Ph.D., Program Director
Stephanie Grutzmacher, Graduate Research Assistant
Laura Hoard, Graduate Research Assistant
Lindsey Jones, Administrative Assistant
Annette Dow, Graphic Designer

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**June 3-5, 2004: Save These Dates for
International Conference at the University of Victoria (Canada)**



**The International Consortium for
Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP)
will hold its second biennial conference on
June 3-5, 2004
at the University of Victoria,
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada**

Themes:

- ***Viewing Participants as Resources for One Another, Communities and Societies: Intergenerational Solidarity Toward a Better World***
- ***Research, Practice, Policy: Interrelated Dimensions of a Developing Field***
- ***Intergenerational Programmes, Poverty and HIV/AIDS***
- ***The Impact of Economic Policies on Intergenerational Relationships Around the World***



Please check the conference Website for more information about:

- ***International keynote presenters***
- ***Call for proposals and papers - (DUE November 15, 2003)***
- ***Registration and housing***

<http://web.uvic.ca/cyc/icip>

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**For more information on the Penn State Intergenerational Program, visit our Website:
<http://intergenerational.cas.psu.edu>**

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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