Digital storytelling project: a creative collaboration

UOW’s Faculty of Creative Arts and the Australasian Occupational Science Centre (AOSC) have formed a unique collaboration to promote the health benefits of older people participating in community activity programs.

AOSC commissioned third year graphic design students at the School of Art and Design, the Faculty of Creative Arts to develop digital stories featuring community activity programs for older people in the Illawarra.

Students developed digital stories on six community programs: Berry Men’s Shed, Bomaderry Bowling Club, Shellharbour Dolphins, the Ulysses Club, Migration Heritage Project and the Macedonian Aged Group.

The digital stories will be used by AOSC in presentations to promote an occupational perspective of health and in submissions for funding new activity programs for older people.

Dr Alison Wicks, AOSC Director, says she is extremely pleased with the project outcomes.

“The students have designed some really interesting and stimulating pieces. They have demonstrated their skills in the use of animation, video and audio. I look forward to presenting their work at conferences in Taiwan and Kentucky later this year”.

The students experienced the challenges of working to a client brief and the pleasure of engaging with older people. They also observed the importance of older people keeping active and involved in the community.

“I now appreciate there is much more to a game of bingo than winning”, said one student.

Not only did the people in the community programs enjoy their interaction with the students, they were pleased to contribute to the promotion of community activity programs. A member of the Berry Men’s Shed said, “It is good to spread the message about the value of these programs for men who have recently retired”.

The student works were presented to the program participants and invited guests on Wednesday June 18th at the School of Art and Design, University of Wollongong.

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