Art to Life

Art to Life is a service learning initiative which pairs students with Alzheimer’s patients to connect through art therapy. Students create a life story video project to preserve precious memories and learn to restore quality of life through their purposeful, cross-generational relationships. Ultimately, students learn from inspirational community members while participants unconventionally communicate their incredible stories, facilitating a dignifying experience for everyone involved.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP
Outside of art sessions, students have weekly lectures and community visits that aid in the understanding of the disease, therapeutic techniques, caregiving, and film making.

RESEARCH ELEMENT
Art to Life has initiated a research protocol to investigate the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral effects of art therapy with life story preservation, an area yet to be explored.

INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION
Currently, students in the Department of Telecommunications and Film are working under Dr. Rachel Raimist to produce documentary material for the course as well as facilitating the life story videos.

MODEL FOR REPLICATION
In the future, we hope to expand Art to Life as an initiative at institutions nation-wide; as such, Art to Life coordinators are developing an organizational manual for implementation.