

August 3, 2009

FRED ROGERS CENTER NAMES SIX FELLOWS FOR CREATIVE CURIOSITY, NEW MEDIA, AND LEARNING



***Photo:** Three of the Fred Rogers Fellows for Creative Curiosity, New Media, and Learning during a recent visit to the Fred Rogers Center, from left, Ian Ingram, Heather White and Younghyun Chung.*

LATROBE, PA – The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College has named six Fred Rogers Fellows for Creative Curiosity, New Media, and Learning, according to an announcement by Maxwell King, executive director of the Center.

Named were Younghyun Chung of Pittsburgh, an interdisciplinary artist and engineer; Kristen Frame and Sarah White of Pittsburgh, first grade teachers at the Propel Montour Charter School; Ian Ingram of Pittsburgh, sculptor and roboticist; Heather White of Pittsburgh, artist and printmaker; and Gregory Witt of Pittsburgh, sculptor.

They were among a group of emerging and aspiring artists, technologists, media producers, researchers and educators from the southwestern Pennsylvania region who were nominated, applied and were selected by a committee to participate in a new program of the Fred Rogers Center which is designed to support early-career producers of media for young children.

Through this group of Fellows, the Fred Rogers Center will foster regional talent and leadership for the specific purpose of advancing the potential of technology and new

media for stimulating young children's natural curiosity and their capacity for creativity and learning.

The Fellows program is designed to emulate the late Fred Rogers' own, ingenious ability to connect creativity and learning through the arts with the cutting-edge technology of his day.

Each of the Fellows will complete a project which will be presented at the Fred Forward National Conference on Creative Curiosity, New Media, and Learning in 2010 to be attended by national experts in children's media, technology and new media, and early childhood education. It will focus on the importance and the potential for developing creativity and curiosity in young children through innovative applications of technology and new media.

Mr. Younghun Chung is an interdisciplinary artist and engineer based in New York. He studied computer science at Seoul National University, Korea. More recently, he studied the intersection of art and technologies at the Interactive Telecommunications Program at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. He will continue his study at the Department of Rehabilitation of Science and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Chung's project as a Fred Rogers Fellow will develop an assistive art expression system for young children with disabilities.

Ms. Kristen Frame is a graduate of Slippery Rock University where she received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education with a minor in dance. She has been a first grade teacher with Propel Montour Charter School in Robinson Township since 2005. Ms. Sarah White earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Eastern University. She has been a first grade teacher with Propel since 2007. Working as a team of Fellows, Ms. Frame and Ms. White will develop a standards-based, first-grade curriculum in character education that will integrate Fred Rogers' vision and themes, new media and technology, literature, and art.

Mr. Ian Ingram is an artist-in-residence and senior research associate at the Carnegie Mellon Robotics Institute and an adjunct professor at CMU. He earned a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master of fine arts degree from CMU. He is a Pittsburgh-based maker of behavioral sculpture who has exhibited his work around the U.S. Mr. Ingram's Rogers Center project will conduct nature walks in Pittsburgh city parks using a small robotic creature to engage young children and their parents in learning and storytelling about different natural habitats and processes.

Ms. Heather White attended Seton Hill University and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and a master of arts and master of fine arts in printmaking from the University of Wisconsin. She is currently an artist educator at the Andy Warhol Museum and an education specialist at the Carnegie Museum of Art. Ms. White's Fellow's project will work with young children to create a

video blog in conjunction with “Fifteen,” the new, user-generated website of the Andy Warhol Museum.

Mr. Gregory Witt attended Purdue University and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Indiana University, Bloomington. He is currently completing a master of fine arts degree from Carnegie Mellon. He specializes in making electromechanical sculptures using robotic technology. Mr. Witt’s Fred Rogers Fellow project will create an interactive sculpture, for display at the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, to encourage open-ended exploration by young children.

Support for the 2010 Fred Rogers Fellows for Creative Curiosity, New Media, and Learning includes a grant from The Grable Foundation.

For Information:

Don Orlando, *Director, Public Relations*

Saint Vincent College, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

Phone 724 805-2010, FAX 724 805-2019, pr@stvincent.edu, www.stvincent.edu

PR2009-611