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NEWS RELEASE

For Information:
Don Orlando, Director, Public Relations
Theresa Schwab, PR Associate
Phone 724 537-4560
FAX 724 537-4587
e-mail: pr@stvincent.edu
www.stvincent.edu

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FACULTY FELLOW NAMED BY ROGERS CENTER AT SAINT VINCENT

LATROBE, PA – Dr. Veronica Ent, chairperson of the Saint Vincent College Education Department and director of Graduate Programs in Education, has been named a Faculty Fellow by the Fred M. Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College.

In this capacity, Dr. Ent is collaboratively working with the Center in using materials from the Fred Rogers Archive in curriculum development for early childhood teacher education. She is working with Br. David Kelly, O.S.B., Rogers Center Archivist, and Hedda Sharapan, director of Early Childhood Initiatives, Family Communications, Inc., to link critical learning outcomes based on principles of child development and Pennsylvania’s teacher education standards with aspects of Fred Rogers’ work as reflected in his writings, clips and materials from his program, *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*, and other sources.

During the 2005-06 academic year, the project is integrating content and materials from the Archive into two gateway courses in the Saint Vincent early childhood teacher education program – Early Childhood Curriculum I and II. A new interdisciplinary course in children’s media will be identified for inclusion in the project. The three courses will be

piloted during the 2006-07 academic year.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education has provided a grant of \$99,200 to the Fred M. Rogers Center for the project that is demonstrating the potential of the Fred Rogers Archive as a curriculum resource for undergraduate, graduate and other professional development programs in early childhood education. Following the courses piloted at Saint Vincent, the Rogers Center will disseminate project information nationally for widespread adoption of Fred Rogers' approach to fostering the social-emotional-cognitive development of young children.

Serving on the group of expert advisers for the project are Dr. Doreen Boyce, president of the Buhl Foundation of Pittsburgh and chair of the Archives Committee of the Rogers Center's national Advisory Council; Dr. Jerry Campbell, dean of University Libraries, University of Southern California; Dr. Jerlean Daniel, deputy executive director, National Association for the Education of Young Children; Dr. Pamela Johnson, vice president for education and outreach, WNED Buffalo; and Dr. Margaret Mary Kimmel, professor and chair, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.

The role of Rogers Center Faculty Fellow represents an important opportunity for collaboration between the Center and the academic programs of the College, especially those programs based in the School of Social Sciences, Communication, and Education. As the Rogers Center proceeds with its initiatives in early learning and children's media, additional Faculty Fellows with interests in these areas will be named.

Dr. Ent, who earned a doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh, joined the Saint Vincent College faculty in 2002 and was named chair of the Education Department in July. She was the recipient in 2004 of the Quentin Schaut Faculty Award which recognized her leadership in the design of the new master's degree programs in education.

At Saint Vincent, Dr. Ent has served on several committees including Educational Policies, Graduate Studies, Teacher Education and Instructional Technology. Prior to

joining the faculty at Saint Vincent, she had served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and as an adjunct professor at both Duquesne University and LaRoche College. She also was a senior high school librarian and media specialist in the Greensburg Salem School District. She is a resident of Saltsburg.

Plans for the School of Social Sciences, Communication and Education at Saint Vincent College call for the introduction of a new interdisciplinary major in children's media, expanded undergraduate and graduate programs in early childhood education, and short courses and other training opportunities in early learning and children's media.