Message from the Executive Director

I often tell visitors to the Center that our greatest asset is having the Fred Rogers Archive. The Archive is what guides us in everything we develop, and how we approach complex issues before us. Our other tremendous strength is being based at a small liberal arts institution, Saint Vincent College, with students who are actively engaged and interested in carrying on Fred’s legacy through their future career paths.

In this newsletter you will read about a new seminar, "What Would Fred Rogers Do?" taught by the Fred Rogers Center's Co-Director, Dr. Junlei Li. This seminar is an example of our two strongest assets joining forces--research from the Archive and enthusiastic young minds. These students will become advocates for Fred's deep and simple message, and creators of social change improving the lives of children.

This is one of many exciting things underway here at the Center, and I look forward to sharing several new initiatives with you in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day rooted in Fred's legacy of love,

Rick Fernandes

In the Archive

Love is a theme that viewers closely associate with *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*, and it is a prevalent subject in the
Fred Rogers Archive. Sometimes Fred wrote specifically about love, and other times he demonstrated it through his compassionate, caring correspondence with his television neighbors. This particular newspaper clipping is not about Mister Rogers, but features one of his quotes as advice to parents on how to convey their love for their children: “I like you just the way you are.”

It's almost Valentine's Day and here is one of the things we love this month on Ele.

From the preschool science show, PEEP and the Big Wide World, you can explore shades of red while making Valentines—or bead a necklace with patterned units for a special someone. PEEP just launched a fully bilingual website with a wealth of year-round STEM ideas.

Share your experience by showing us your creations on Ele’s Facebook page. We would love to see your Valentines.

Connect with Ele!  

Carrying the Legacy Forward

We were thrilled to host Duk sung Women’s University of South Korea for an evening at the Center. Below is an excerpt from a thank you letter from their Practicum Director.

Our two-week practicum experience with early childhood education majors from Duk sung Women’s University finished yesterday and, by all accounts, was a fantastic success... In particular, during our formal reflections and informal conversations with the students, we learned that they enjoyed learning about Fred Rogers, touring the Fred Rogers Center, feasting together, and learning from Junlei’s presentation. They were particularly impressed with the ways that Junlei wove data regarding the photos in the Duk sung Kindergarten’s 30th anniversary book into his presentation, as well as his use of their own videotapes as examples. We very much appreciate the welcome you provided to the students, their chaperones, and their driver. Your discussion of the importance of interactions, and your consistent modeling of them at the Fred Rogers Center, has given these international visitors a chance to develop a broader vision for developing more intentional interactions with the children in their care. Thank you very much for your support as we seek to challenge these future educators to purposefully design their educational environments to promote engaging interactions.

-Dr. Sharon Carver, Carnegie Mellon University

In the Classroom

The spring semester is here and with it the launch of "What Would Fred Rogers Do?,” an interdisciplinary course drawing from the disciplines of psychology, education, public health, media, and communication. Throughout the course students explore the central question, "How do we change the world and make it a better place for children?” The work and legacy of Fred Rogers is the organizing theme of this seminar, which has 12 undergraduates currently enrolled who are discussing ideas across multiple fields, analyzing case studies, and developing and critiquing social change concepts.

Upcoming Webinars

Fred Rogers Center Director of Digital Education and Research, Dr. Michael Robb, and Program Coordinator Tanya Smith, will co-present in a series of webinars available through the Early Childhood Center of Professional Development. To learn more about these sessions, click here.

Words of Wisdom

"Every human being needs to be loved and
needs to be able to love in return. That is what allows us to be human.”

-Fred Rogers