

Message from the Executive Director

It's been a very busy time at the Fred Rogers Center, with two large events taking place in a two week period. So I want to start off by thanking our team: Junlei Li, Michael Robb, Karen Struble Myers, Tanya B. Smith, Emily Uhrin, Cindy Scarpo and Theresa Noel. The amount of energy and effort they put into making these events successful was outstanding and I am very grateful.

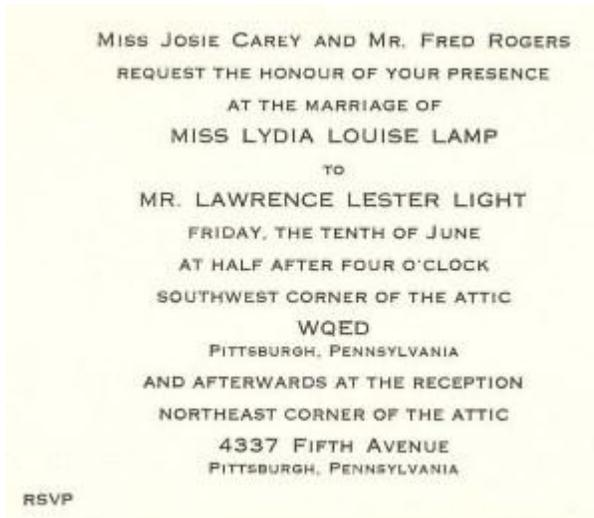
Our first event was the Fred Rogers Legacy Award honoring Yo-Yo Ma. It was a huge success, and an evening many of our attendees said they will never forget. Yo-Yo Ma's acceptance of the award was tremendously moving and we cannot thank him enough for all the great work he has done. The second gathering, which took place the following weekend, was the *Fred Forward Conference*. It was not only our highest attended conference to date (a 30% increase over 2012), but it also had our most diverse audience yet, with researchers, content creators, students, and practitioners joining us. This led to some interesting conversations, debates, and discoveries that really enriched the conference experience. The initial feedback has been positive and I ask those of you who attended to please fill out the questionnaire that you were given to share your thoughts.

At *Fred Forward*, we also introduced our newest cohort of Early Career Fellows. They are Brian Puerling from Illinois, who will design a mobile app that supports the visual arts and self-expression for children ages 3 to 5; Anna Ly from New York, who will develop a media-based project to support social-emotional development among children birth to age 8; and our first Early Career Fellows research partnership, James Alex Bonus and Alanna Peebles from Wisconsin. They will research how digital media and technology tools can be used to support social-emotional development among children birth to age 8. We are excited to work with such a talented group.

As we wind down our anniversary year, I want you to know how much we appreciate your support over this past decade. Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

-Rick Fernandes

In the Archive...



In June 1955, two of Fred Rogers' lesser known puppets, Lydia Lamp and Lester Light, were united in marriage. Lydia and Lester resided in The Attic, a special section of *The Children's Corner*, Fred's first children's television program. The Attic was inhabited by talking gramophones, books, toys, and other funny characters. Although Fred voiced a few of The Attic puppets, none of them went on to appear on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.

New Blog Post Poses Six Questions



In the Center's most recent blog post, "[Six Questions for the EdTech Field to Think About When Designing for the 0 to 8 Set](#)," Shelley Pasnik, Director of the Center for Children and Technology, says that, when studying media for early learning, researchers must keep equity at the forefront.

Rogers Center App Featured in Common Sense Media's Summer Learning Guide



The Fred Rogers Center is proud to have our iOS App, "[Alien Assignment](#)," featured in Common Sense Media's annual [Summer Learning Guide](#) for kids. Only 82 apps, handpicked by the editors at Common Sense Media as the best digital tools for learning while doing this summer were included!



FredChats at FredForward



"Always look for the helpers" was Fred's advice of hope in times of crisis and tragedy. How do we make it practical and relevant today? As one of five FredChat speakers at the 2014 *Fred Forward Conference*, junior psychology student Julia Hlavacik from our lab, Incubator 143, describes how the advice had resonated with her personal experiences and guided her research work. As the term project in the Research Methods course taught by Center faculty Junlei Li, Julia and her team conducted experiments to understand how fundraising stories focused on helpers, victims, or both connected with donors on behalf of causes like hunger and childhood cancer. The experiments were part of the larger cross-disciplinary program at the Center where students learn and grow by serving partners like the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation.

We are very happy to have more new content from some great partners:

- From the Carnegie Science Center: Learn more about [hands-on exploration](#) and help your children make [playdough](#).
- From ReadyRosie: Have fun counting the number of items in the car, such as windows, doors, and wheels, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- From The Mother Company: Listen to children talk about what it feels like in their bodies [when they're frustrated](#), and ask your children about their strong feelings.



Words of Wisdom



"We speak with more than our mouths. We listen with more than our ears."

-Fred Rogers

Connect with **Ele!**  

Carrying the Legacy Forward-

Just as Fred Rogers understood the importance of community, we know that it takes advocates, collaborators, donors, and so many other friends, to help achieve our mission.

The Fred Rogers Center is a beacon for early childhood providers and parents on how to use technology in our classrooms and homes to promote learning and the fact that it can happen anywhere. The resources at the Center have helped me become a better educator for my students as well as my community. I am now able to teach parents and community stakeholders how to utilize the technology in our environments and promote quality use of technology with children. Just as Fred used television, I think technology can be used to extend children's interests both inside and outside of the classroom.

*-Shimira Williams
Pittsburgh, PA*