Saint Vincent College inducted five freshmen as Fred Rogers Scholars at the fourth annual dinner and program hosted by Br. Norman W. Hipps, O.S.B., president, and Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., chancellor, at the Fred M. Rogers Center Oct. 16.

The inductees are Lauren Campbell, a biology major from Hollywood, Maryland; Joshua Centore, a biochemistry major from Cecil; Jennifer Haseleu, an occupational therapy major from Coraopolis; Noah Keys, a history major from Latrobe; and Marla Turk, an economics, finance and mathematics triple major from LeRoy, Ohio.

As a Fred Rogers Scholar, each student receives a renewable $2,500 scholarship and opportunities to network with scholars and industry leaders in early learning and children’s media.

The Scholars Program, designed for students interested in pursuing careers involving children, early learning and media for young children, will introduce the students to the Fred Rogers Archive and its research capabilities, encourage them to participate in regional and national internships, work on service-learning projects, develop a senior research project and have the opportunity to travel to local and national centers of research and media outlets.

Richard Fernandes, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center, and Dr. Melissa A. Cook, associate professor of communication and director of the Fred Rogers Scholars Program, welcomed the new Scholars.

Keynote address was given by Dr. Alice Wilder, senior fellow at the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media. She is an educational advisor responsible for developing the Amazon Originals curriculum for kids and is helping implement Amazon’s unique educational point of view.
into the development of a new series. She also serves as the chief content officer for Speakaboos, a kid-centric, cross-publisher literacy platform and is the co-creator and executive producer of Cha-Ching Money Smart Kids, the “School House Rock” of financial literacy for 7-12 year olds, airing in Asia on the Cartoon Network. Her work also includes being the co-creator and head of research and education for Super Why! On PBS Kids and a producer and director of research and development for Nick Jr.’s Blue’s Clues.

Dr. Mary Beth Spore, dean of the Saint Vincent College School of Social Sciences, Communication and Education, gave the closing remarks and prayer.

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Photo: Dr. Melissa Cook, right, associate professor of communication and director of the Fred Rogers Scholars Program, welcomed the new freshman Fred Rogers Scholars inductees at a dinner and program on Oct. 16. They are, from left, Lauren Campbell, Noah Keys, Joshua Centore and Marla Turk. Absent from photo is Jennifer Haseleu.

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