

NEWS RELEASE

March 2, 2016

Sky over Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Planetarium Show

**SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE ROGERS CENTER
TO CELEBRATE 'FRED FEST' MARCH 14-19**

LATROBE, PA – In honor of the 88th anniversary of the late Fred Rogers' birthday on March 20, Saint Vincent College students and faculty will be celebrating his legacy with a series of events called Fred Fest during the week of March 14 to 19. Area residents, especially children, have been invited to participate as all events and activities are free and open to the public.

Brad Montague, the creator of Kid President, the popular web series featured on Rainn Wilson's Soulpancake Youtube channel that has been viewed more than 16 million times, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 14, at the Fred M. Rogers Center. With a passion for helping foster creativity and compassion in young people, he is also the director of GO! Camp, an experience for teenagers who want to change the world, and co-founder of Love In Stereo, a collective of artists striving to create work that matters. He lives and works in Tennessee with his wife, Kristi, son, Miles, and daughter Matilda.

A documentary about Fred Rogers, "America's Favorite Neighbor," will be screened twice beginning at 12 noon in the Robert S. Carey Student Center Lounge on Tuesday, March 15.

An Evening with WQED Multimedia producer Rick Sebak will be hosted at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, in the Luparello Lecture Hall in the Sis and Herman Dupré Science Pavilion. Sebak is nationally known as a producer who makes unusual television programs and slightly wacky documentaries that celebrate various aspects of modern American life and the unexpected charms of Pittsburgh. Audiences have learned to recognize his friendly narrative style and the unusual topics that he obviously loves. In October 2005, his program celebrating American burial places titled "A Cemetery Special" premiered on PBS stations across the country. In 2004, Sebak put together a Pittsburgh program called "It's the Neighborhoods," full of unexpected stories about various aspects of a few neighborhoods in southwestern Pennsylvania. As usual, the stories are told primarily through the voices of the people involved. In 2003, after the death of Mister Rogers, Sebak rewrote an earlier documentary he had made into a new program titled "Fred Rogers: America's Favorite Neighbor." For his work on this new program, Sebak was nominated for two Primetime Emmy Awards: one for Outstanding Writing for Nonfiction Programming, and another for his work as one of the producers of this Outstanding Nonfiction Special. He has a way of quickly capturing the essence of a place and its people. His documentary "Sandwiches That You Will Like" delighted viewers, tempted their taste buds and, in the process, convinced them to contribute to public television. PBS stations around the country often rebroadcast Sebak's programs because audiences respond so favorably to the quirky blend of Americana, places and personalities.

On Wednesday, March 16, selected pieces from the extensive collection of Fred Rogers work and memorabilia in the Rogers Archive will be open at 4 p.m. followed by a talk by Dr. Junlei Li, associate professor of early learning and children's media and co-director of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at 4:30 p.m. with a reception to follow.

The Latrobe Art Center will bring its Puzzle Art Installation to the Fred Rogers Center where students will paint puzzle pieces at 3 and 6 p.m. as part of an international collaborative project organized by artist Tim Kelly of Brooklyn, New York. The theme of the project is “143 ways to say I love you.” Thirty persons may participate in each session. For details, visit www.latrobeartcenter.org.

In honor of the anniversary of Fred’s 88th birthday on Friday, March 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Carey Center lounge visitors can enjoy specially-decorated desserts.

The week’s festivities will conclude at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, with a special show in the Angelo J. Taiani Planetarium and Astronaut Exhibit in the Sis and Herman Dupré Science Pavilion featuring the Sky Over Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood. Families with young children are encouraged to attend the showing with an activities and crafts fair to follow for the children.

Throughout the week collection boxes will be located in Prep Hall and the Carey Center for new or gently used sweaters to be donated to local charities in Fred’s honor.

The celebration is a collaborative event sponsored by the Fred Rogers Scholars and Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media.

Photos: *Brad Montague, Rick Sebak*

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