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**Photo Gallery: [First Look Sculpture Photos](#)**

**ROLLINS COLLEGE CELEBRATES FRED ROGERS' BIRTHDAY  
WITH FIRST LOOK PHOTOS OF NEW SCULPTURE**

**WINTER PARK, Fla. (Mar. 18, 2021)** – Rollins College today celebrates the early birthday of influential alumnus, Fred McFeely Rogers '51 (born March 20, 1928), by releasing first look photos of a new sculpture in his likeness which will be permanently installed on campus later this year. Titled “A Beautiful Day for a Neighbor”, the sculpture was commissioned to honor Rogers’ legacy and was designed by Paul Day, a British artist renowned for his public monuments.

“Fred Rogers remains a model for generations, personifying empathy, acceptance and kindness,” said President Grant H. Cornwell, Ph.D. “At Rollins, his influence continues to be felt both in the spirit of service to others, as well as in physical reminders along the self-guided [Mister Rogers Walking Tour](#). Paul Day’s new sculpture will be the latest and most significant salute to our iconic graduate in his collegiate neighborhood.”

In the first look photos, Day’s clay 360° sculpture model depicts Rogers in his iconic sweater and sneakers surrounded by children. Hand puppets from “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” adorn the back of the statue, and lyrics from the series’ theme song are commemorated in script along the base. The finished sculpture, cast in bronze, will stand over 7 feet tall and weigh more than 3,000 pounds.

“After researching Fred Rogers’ life and speaking with people about his legacy, it was important that this sculpture honor his enduring impact in the field of childhood development,” said sculptor Paul Day. “Sculpting a posthumous portrait of Fred surrounded by children, to whom he dedicated his life, has been both challenging and inspiring. I hope that, once installed, this memorial sculpture will bring joy and inspiration to many people.”

Day is creating “A Beautiful Day for a Neighbor” in his country studio near Dijon in Burgundy, France. The sculpture will be completed this spring and publicly unveiled on the Rollins College campus in October 2021.

Paul Day has four major monuments in London including memorials to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, the Battle of Britain and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as a 30' tall statue dedicated to romantic love called "The Meeting Place" in London's St. Pancras Station. Her Majesty The Queen has unveiled three of his public works and His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales has shown support for Day's career throughout his professional life, notably unveiling his first monument and writing the foreword to a book on his work. Day is currently preparing two new public sculptures for Great Britain: a memorial to Submariners for the Royal Navy and a tribute to Dame Vera Lynn. To learn more about Day's work please visit the artist's [website](#), or connect via [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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**About Rollins College:**

*Founded in 1885, Rollins College is Florida's oldest college. Located in Winter Park, near Orlando, Rollins is consistently ranked as one of the top regional universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report. In addition to full-time undergraduate programs in the College of Liberal Arts, Rollins offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs for working adults through its evening program at the Hamilton Holt School and graduate business degree programs through its Crummer Graduate School of Business, which has been ranked a top MBA program by Forbes and Bloomberg Businessweek. Rollins serves approximately 3,200 degree-seeking students annually. For more information, visit [www.rollins.edu](http://www.rollins.edu). "Like" Rollins on Facebook and follow on [Twitter@RollinsCollege](#).*

**About Paul Day:**

*Paul Day is a British born artist who has been living and working in Burgundy, France for the past 30 years. Paul studied Fine Art in Cheltenham, England, graduating in 1991. He received a grant from the Prince's Youth Business Trust in the same year that enabled him to set up his first studio and go from school into professional practice. His first solo exhibitions in Paris were in 1995 and 1997. His work was noticed by Jean Dethier, then curator of Architecture at the Pompidou Centre, who introduced Day into architectural circles in Bruxelles, from where came his first major commission: "Bruxelles, an Urban Comedy" for the Galleries Royales Saint Hubert. Day has since won numerous competitions for monuments, notably in Great Britain.*

*For further information on Paul Day and his artwork, please visit [www.pauldaysculpture.com](http://www.pauldaysculpture.com) or connect via [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).*