Fred Rogers, the host of the children's television program Mister Roger's Neighborhood, wrote hundreds of letters to hundreds of pen pals, his friends, during his lifetime. One of his pen pals was Westminster College adjunct professor Todd Cole. Cole is known widely across Motherfair as our own Mister Rogers. He teaches, sings, writes books for children, and almost always wears the signature Mister Rogers-esque sweater. Cole is a member of the WC class of 1983 for his Bachelor’s Degree, and class of 1991 for his Master’s degree. After graduating from WC, Cole taught for 34 years at Laurel Elementary School in New Castle, PA. Of his 34 years of teaching the next generation, he spent 25 instructing First Grade and nine instructing Fourth Grade.

Cole first became acquainted with Rogers during his stint in First Grade. He assigned his students to write letters to Rogers throughout each school year. Rogers would write back to each of the kids, beginning the cycle of ongoing communication and relationship between Rogers and Cole.

“I don’t think he knew me [specifically] until an event in my life,” Cole said, “One of my students died of meningitis and [Rogers] caught wind of it. He left a message on my machine telling me how special it was that [the student] had me in his class. I wrote back and we started a lifelong friendship from then on through written communication but also through his Land of Make Believe.”

Cole wrote to Cole on stationery personalized with an image of the trolley car that moved through his Land of Make Believe.

The two wrote to each other about everything.

“There was a time I told him I longed to be married and have children. He very quickly wrote back and said some of his favorite neighbors were unmarried and had very fulfilling lives. He wrote, ‘I felt that was something you needed to hear,’” said Cole.

Cole got to help with the taping of Mister Roger’s Neighborhood on some occasions. On one such occasion, after taping, Rogers found a dime lost in the chair Cole had sat in. He taped the dime to the inside of a letter, and mailed it to Cole, returning it.

On another occasion, Rogers mailed a feather to Cole. Both Rogers and Cole loved the ocean. While walking along the beach one day, Rogers found the feather and felt “it wanted to be with [Cole].”

Rogers first began his television program because he didn’t like the manner in which television was being used to connect to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children. He did not find guns or physical comedy humorous or constructive. Instead, he felt the need for TV to communicate to children.

“Rogers even wore a pin of Rogers’s iconic trolley.”

Rogers, reading to kids, and instructing a craft project.

Wrote hundreds of letters to his pen-pals was Westminster College adjunct professor Todd Cole. Cole is a member of the WC class of 1983 for his Bachelor’s Degree, and class of 1991 for his Master’s degree. After graduating from WC, Cole taught for 34 years at Laurel Elementary School in New Castle, PA. Of his 34 years of teaching the next generation, he spent 25 instructing First Grade and nine instructing Fourth Grade.

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Westminster College adjunct professor Todd Cole and children’s television host Fred Rogers were pen-pals with one another for years, writing over 100 letters to one another. Credit: Photo of photo by Charlotte E. Shunk, Original Credit Unknown

**MORE PHOTOS ON A4**

**Quote of the Week:**

“Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don’t quit.” — Conrad Hilton
Letters must be free of offensive language, personal attacks and libelous or potentially libelous statements.

Letters will be edited when factually incorrect or in need of contextual clarification.

Letters must be less than 400 words, typed and include the author’s name.

No letter will be published across the desert from Babylon to Bethlehem just to remarkab...
Scott Wins 200th Career Game as Women’s Basketball has Hot Start
Mason Flanigan

The Westminster College women’s basketball team defeated non-conference opponent, Penn State Beaver, by a score of 66-48 on November 30th. After downing the Lions, 18th year Head Coach Rosanne Scott won her 200th career game at the helm of the Titans. Coach Scott is the only coach in program history to accomplish this feat.

A 6-0 run to start the season has been the best start since the Titans did so in the beginning of the 1989-90 season. The Titans matched up with a batch of undefeated teams on Wednesday night on the road against Chatham for the Titans first conference matchup of the 2019-2020 season. Both sides of the matchup featured all of the PAC weekly award winners so far in the season. Kaitlyn Fertig recently tabbed player of the week honors for the Cougars, after her teammate Emily Ondo taken the first two. For Westminster, First-Year Camden Hergenrother has become a key addition to the Titan team snagging back-to-back PAC Rookie of the Week honors, as Chatham’s Riley Tyus claimed the title on Nov. 18th. Full results of this game can be found at athletics.westminster.edu

Senior Forward Emily Fromknecht continues to ascend towards becoming the eighth player in program history to score over 1000 career points, recently bringing herself within fifty points of the mark on Wednesday.

Westminster in London: London Bridge Terrorist Attack
Tori Lisbon

The word terrorist is scary, but combined with attack it becomes your worst nightmare. At least that is what you think it should have felt like. I learned about the attack a few hours after it had happened. At first I was under the assumption, along with a few others, that there had been a shooting at the London Bridge. With London Bridge only 5 miles away, as well as a place where many of us had already been to, you would think we would have been afraid. Afraid I was no longer safer, or afraid it could have been me. I wasn’t though, and neither has anyone else I encountered. We still felt safe.

As more news rolled in about the attack, things were cleared up. The attack was an act of terrorism. The man responsible had recently been released from prison. His previous offenses were planning to bomb the London Stock Exchange and intentions to make a terrorist training camp. The attack was not a shooting but a stabbing, which resulted in police shooting the terrorist because he was wearing a bomb vest. Afterwards, the vest was discovered to be a fake. During the stabbing two people were killed, now known to be Jack Merritt, 25, and Saskia Jones, 23, as they attempted to stop the terrorist who held two knives, one of which was taped to his wrist. The attack started at Fishmongers’ Hall after the terrorist attended a prisoner rehabilitation event. After becoming outnumbered the terrorist fled towards London Bridge. There, other members of the public were able to subdue him until the police arrived. There are a lot more nuances to this event, with the acts of heroism shown by the people at the event and on the street. There are also odd details as well, such as the man who used a narwhal horn as a weapon.

Once the full story had come to light everyone still felt safe, and nobody changed their plans and went about their lives as normal. A lot of people from back home were more worried about it than we were. Apparently what had happened was all over the news. I took some time to watch a few news clips from CNN and Fox News on Youtube, which made me understand why people would be that concerned. One very concerning thing that came to light was in the comments. Many of the top ones were excessive concern shown, but the response towards innocent people that had not monsters. The UK’s knife violence is equivalent to America’s gun violence to some extent. Yet so much of the importance of the issue was never raised and even felt here.

I really wish I could have gone with my original plan of having my final Westminster in London article be a compilation of everyone’s conversations. After living in London for four months I strongly disagree. London has a large Muslim population. Everyday I see Muslim and Middle Eastern people in public going about their day, buying groceries with their families and pushing around their babies in strollers. I have seen many people find scary back home. Here, it is a normal everyday thing. Nobody feels threatened and I have met some very nice people whose treatment back home I dread to think about. We talked about this in class, during which a lot of us agreed that the people we have encountered here are people not terrorists. Another thing we talked about was how safe we felt here. The London Bridge Terrorist Attack has been the first major act of violence we have encountered here, while back home there have been at least four public and echoed shootings. It is bizarre that we felt safer in a foreign country 5 miles away from a terrorist attack than we do back home. Another thing, what I would call disturbing, is that a day before the stabbing we were approached by a group raising awareness for the many stabbings that happen in poor and minority communities. The UK’s knife violence is equivalent to America’s gun violence to some extent. Yet so much of the importance of the issue was never raised and even felt here. The man being a terrorist, similarly to how many people view the news using mental illness as a scapegoat to productive gun violence conversations.

I really wish I could have gone with my original plan of having my final Westminster in London article be a compilation of everyone’s favorite experience, but I feel that this is a more important topic. Being on the side where an event happened and then seeing a knee jerk reaction from people who were not there needs to be addressed. It is not for the excessive concern shown, but the response towards innocent people that is troublesome. To everyone out there reading this: we found people here, not monsters.
A Beautiful Soul in the Neighborhood

Children who attended Cole’s storytime Nov. 21 learned the positive messages Fred Rogers shared on his television show, Mister Rogers’s Neighborhood.

Dear Todd,

    Thank you very much for your nice letter AND the beautiful calligraphy greeting for “Make A Difference Day.” You have so many talents.

    Mr. Rogers says that on the greatest problems our day is that human beings are very deep and are preoccupied with lifestyle. Obviously, you, Todd, recognize the great value of silence (you talked about drinking and thinking, trying the time to think). I’m wondering how you can help children discover that important part of their being can help them understand the power of their souls through that searching. Their dreams is a very important... very deep thing to do! ?

    Thank you so much for your sharing your new window!

    Again, thank you for your great things.

    Sincerely,

Fred Rogers

This is one of over one hundred letters written by children’s television host Fred Rogers to Westminster College adjunct professor Todd Cole.

Credit: Todd Cole

Credit: Charlotte E. Shunk