Whimsical, thoughtful art showcases a lifetime of work by longtime PBCC professor

(July 7, 2004 – Palm Beach Gardens) Summer visitors to The Art Gallery at Eissey Campus in Palm Beach Gardens will be surprised to learn the variety of works on display are all created by one artist. Over 40 thought-provoking and often humorous drawings, paintings, photographs, sculptures and ceramics comprise the “W. Patrick Slatery: Retrospective” exhibit.

Slatery has been an art professor at Palm Beach Community College for 36 years. He plans to retire in December.

The gallery will host an artist’s reception Aug. 31 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The Art Gallery at Eissey Campus is located in the BB Building, Room 113, at Palm Beach Community College, 3160 PGA Blvd. Both the exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

The often whimsical, playful figures in Professor Slatery’s paintings and sculpture border on pop art, taken from images in both advertising and real life. For example, in “Zig Zag Windbag,” a mixed media painting, the figures walk their dogs in unison, absorbed in their cell phone conversations. In “Larry Atwirloff,” comical cowboys with Zorro-like black masks over their eyes spin lassos over their heads and hold their hats in their hands, looking ridiculously spiffy in black, high-heeled cowboy boots.

Having spent decades teaching photography to Palm Beach County residents, Professor Slatery displays photos developed with unusual techniques, such as gum bichromate prints which were popular in the 1930s. Perhaps the most intriguing piece in the exhibit is a brass, welded sculpture entitled “Homage to Barry Tuckwell,” an English musician. The sculpture portrays a seated man made from parts of musical instruments, a French horn emerging at the top.
Professor Slatery also works in blown glass and fiberglass. His eclectic display stems from his numerous art teachers, he said. “I’ve been very fortunate to have many teachers over the years who were famous artists or became famous. That’s why I’m interested in different media.”

For more information, contact Adrian Wilcox, gallery manager, at (561) 207-5015. To see a sampling of Professor Slatery’s works on exhibit, go to:

http://www.pbcc.edu/crm/releasepics/slatery/bicycleracer.jpg (mixed media, 44H x 66W in.)

http://www.pbcc.edu/crm/releasepics/slatery/etruscansoldier.jpg (steel sculpture, 2H x 3W x 8D ft.)

http://www.pbcc.edu/crm/releasepics/slatery/LarryAtwirloff.jpg (graphite and acrylic, 45H x 40W in.)

http://www.pbcc.edu/crm/releasepics/slatery/zigzagwindbag.jpg (mixed media, 38H x 58.5W in.)

Media contact:
Toni Wolf
College Relations and Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3129