

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Palm Beach Community College music student wins in statewide competition

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Feb. 9, 2009) A Palm Beach Community College student who began taking piano lessons when she was 6 years old has won a statewide music competition and a \$2,000 scholarship.

Sun-Young Park won the Student Artist Competition in the classical piano category after wowing judges with her performance of “Polonaise in D Minor, Opus 71, No. 1” composed by Frédéric François Chopin and the J.S. Bach “Prelude and Fugue No. 15 in G Major” from the Well-Tempered Clavier Book 1, during the Florida Community College Winter Music Symposium Jan. 29-31.



“It was the best emotion I’ve gotten since I came to the United States,” said Park, a Korean who about three years ago moved with her family to Boca Raton. She completed her junior and senior years at Olympic Heights High School, and after graduating last year she enrolled at PBCC in the fall.

Park was among 300 students from around the state who participated in the symposium at the University of North Florida. Fifty competed in the Student Artist Contest, sponsored by the Florida Community College Activities Association and the Florida Association of Schools of Music, in the categories of voice, guitar, strings, keyboard (or piano), brass, woodwind, percussion and jazz performance. All the categories, except jazz performance, require students to perform classical music.

This was the first time a PBCC student won in the piano category, although others in the past have won in the classical guitar, brass and jazz performance categories. For her win, Park will receive a \$1,000 a year scholarship for two years to continue her music studies at a Florida university after completing her Associate in Arts degree at PBCC.

Park, who also plays the violin, said she’s been taking piano lessons off and on since she was 6 years old, but she never expected to play continuously. She plans to pursue her interests in music as well as other areas.

(more)

“I just don’t want to be only a pianist. I want to study many more things than music,” like science or psychology, she said, “but, I love music.”

About Palm Beach Community College: Serving more than 46,000 students annually, Palm Beach Community College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing the bachelor’s degree, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Florida's first public community college, PBCC offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

Editor’s note: Please contact the Office of College Relations and Marketing for a high resolution photo of Sun-Young Park.

Media contact:

Tabatha B. McDonald
College Relations and Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3127