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Professor who teaches anatomy to nurses and other health professionals is a finalist for statewide Professor of the Year

Roger Ramsammy, Ph.D., left medical research to teach

(Lake Worth, FL – May 14, 2003) The innovative and visual teaching techniques of Palm Beach Community College Biology Professor Roger Ramsammy have earned him a spot as one of three finalists for the Florida Association of Community College's (FACC) Professor of the Year Award. FACC is the major state lobbying and professional development organization for community college staff.

Professor Ramsammy holds a bachelor's in pre-medicine from the University of D.C., a master's in molecular genetics from Howard University and a Ph.D. in molecular endocrinology from Howard and Georgetown universities. While teaching and doing post-doctoral work at Georgetown, he turned down an offer to do medical research at the Mayo Clinic, but accepted one to teach at PBCC.

One of the most sought after instructors at the college, Prof. Ramsammy teaches anatomy, physiology, microbiology and biology classes primarily to students seeking degrees in nursing and other health professions. He videotapes each lecture, posts the "streaming video" digital version online for students to replay, and spends hours creating interactive quizzes and online animated illustrations that explain complex physiological and biochemical processes.

"He's innovative, he's interesting and he goes to great extremes to help students understand difficult subjects," said Patrick Haney, D.D.S, associate dean of academic affairs, who nominated Prof. Ramsammy for the award.

Dr. Haney said Prof. Ramsammy's classes fill up quickly each term because of his teaching style and his ability to reach students at all learning levels. "He's so imaginative and creative in the classroom. He's always trying to think of new ways to deliver certain subjects."

His classes are "intense," Prof. Ramsammy admits. "I take all the information on a subject matter and deliver the story as if I'm on stage. Then we go through the processes together, shouting out the answers. We stay at any given point until we all get it. Students have the opportunity to replay the lectures, and the Web site is so organized that you can follow a subject all the way through. How can they miss?"

Prof. Ramsammy, who is entering his 10th year of teaching at PBCC, was selected as a finalist after he and five other semi-finalists each taught a 15-minute lesson to judges from the FACC Faculty Commission earlier this year. The three finalists will teach another lesson during the

FACC convention in October, when the Professor of the Year will be named. The other two will be named Distinguished Professors of the Year.

The judges evaluated the candidates in a variety of areas including control of the audience, clarity, suitability of the presentation and the effectiveness of the teaching.

“Every year it’s a tough decision coming up with three finalists,” said Byron Todd, vice chairman of the Faculty Commission and a professor at Tallahassee Community College. “It’s very close. All of them are winners. We don’t have any losers.”

Prof. Ramsammy also received this year the Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology Award from the Center for Advancement of Teaching and Learning at Florida Community College at Jacksonville. In addition to his full-time teaching position at PBCC, he teaches virology and medical bacteriology to pre-med students at Florida Atlantic University.

