

Student Artist Honored in Nation's Capital

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Contact: Kimberly Allen, (202) 226-8364; (202) 420-1524 [cell]

Bergen County Academies Artist Is Honored in the Nation's Capital

Pictured (L-R): Bergen County Academies teacher of fine/visual arts, JoAnn Onnembo, Rep. Steve Rothman, Yuri Ku and her mom, Jennifer Noh

(Washington, DC)—On June 28, 2007, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) honored Yuri Ku of Ridgely, NJ, at a series of events celebrating winners of the 2007 Congressional Art Competition. Ku, a student at the Bergen County Academies, earned first prize in the 9th Congressional District art contest this year, which Rothman hosted at the Williams Art Center in April. Judges reviewed art submissions by students from 16 high schools in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic counties before announcing that Ku had won.

"Yuri is an exceptionally talented young artist who has had the good fortune of seeing her skills nurtured by a caring mother and an outstanding school arts program. I believe the annual Congressional Art Competition celebrates one of the great features of American society — namely, that we encourage creativity and imagination in young people like Yuri," said Rothman.

Ku's mother, Jennifer Noh, told Rothman that her daughter has been creating art since she was a baby and beamed with pride upon seeing Ku's winning artwork hung in the U.S. Capitol. The piece, a marker on vellum rendering of a girl in a sunlit room titled "Revealed by the Sun," will be on display in the Capitol building for the next year.

"The Visual Arts Program at Bergen County Academies is a challenging one, rooted in strong foundation skills which can be applied to traditional as well as electronic media," said Ku's teacher of fine arts, JoAnn Onnembo. "In our program and beyond, Yuri exudes excellence. Every exercise, artwork and effort is always her very best. Her strong compositional ability and attention to detail serve as 'eye candy' for her peers and are at a level that many aspire to. It is Yuri's passion and dedication that bring her success and her humility that makes those successes so meaningful to those who know her. Expect greatness; Yuri's artistic brilliance is just beginning to glow."

After their meeting in his office, Rothman escorted Ku, along with her mom and teacher of fine arts, JoAnn Onnembo, to the Cannon Caucus Room for a special afternoon ceremony and reception. Rothman hosts a Congressional Art Competition for high school students in the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey each year.

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