



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Student earns award for outstanding achievement in Advanced Placement courses**

**SASKATOON, November 2, 2007** – A recent graduate of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has earned the “College Board AP Scholar with Honor” award for her exceptional achievement on the university-level exams she tackled while still in high school.

Nicole Mak, a 2007 graduate of Holy Cross High School, participated in the school division’s Advanced Placement (AP) program. AP allows motivated and academically talented students to take university-level classes and receive credit for them before they become full-fledged university students.

“It seemed like it would be a good challenge to push my limits and see how far I could go,” said Mak, who is now studying arts and sciences at the University of Saskatchewan.

Mak qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor award by earning an average grade of 3.25 or higher on a 5-point scale on each AP exam that she took **and** grades of 3 or higher on four or more on these exams. In fact, Mak scored a grade of 5 in the following AP exams: Calculus AB, English Literature and Composition, French Language, and Music Theory.

Mak is the first Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools student to earn the AP Scholar with Honor Award in the 10 years the AP program has been in place at the division. She says she enjoyed the challenge of the exams, which prepared her well for university. “Even if I didn’t get this award it was all worth it. It was a tremendous learning experience.”

Mak is also an accomplished pianist and violinist, winning awards at local and provincial music festivals. She also does volunteer work, playing music for patients in hospitals and acting as a teaching assistant in the Suzuki Summer String Experience for the past two summers. As well, Mak fundraises for non-profit organizations and churches and has had her creative writing published in *Golden Taffy*, a publication of the English language arts teachers of Saskatchewan.

Advanced Placement courses are designed to enhance and enrich the regular Saskatchewan curriculum. In 2006, there were 360 students enrolled in pre-AP and AP classes at Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. The College Board is a not-for-profit association based in the United States composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations. Among its best-known programs are the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program.

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