



Florida Leader Publisher W.H. "Butch" Oxendine, Jr. unveils the cover featuring Teresa Womble, 1998 Florida College Student of the Year.



♦ M-DCC's Teresa Womble ♦

Take This Advice

Wise Words From Florida's Top Campus Leaders

Compiled by Teresa Beard, assistant editor

Here's sound advice from fellow student body presidents, orientation coordinators, resident assistants, and other experienced campus leaders from across the state—all winners of the 1998 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

What's the biggest problem on your campus, and what are you doing about it?

“Ensuring safety for all students. With the largest campus police unit in the country, UF has created a safe environment, but there is always room for improvement. In spring of 1998, two rape incidents occurred on campus at night in areas that were not adequately lighted. Student Government chose to allocate \$1.5 million to the improvement of campus lighting, and a task force was launched to map out the areas which were in need.”

—Ian Lane, 1998-99 treasurer
Student Government
University of Florida
ilane@ufl.edu



♦ UF's Ian Lane ♦

“A lack of school spirit. As a resident assistant, I tried to get my residents involved in the Festival of Nations. Since it's primarily student-run and done on a budget generated by students, they want the most for their money. There's a commitment to do things well, because people want to tell about their country and what makes that place unique.”

—Carla Armorgan
1997-98 member
Campus Activities Board
Barry University
capa@mail.utexas.edu

“Because we're a small commuter campus, we don't have a lot of school spirit. When I was an ambassador, I always stressed to new students to get involved to make their college experience more fulfilling—sort of a one-on-one pep talk.”

—Christie Cohn
Travel and Tour Committee chairperson
Campus Activities Board
Barry University
cmcred@aol.com



♦ Barry's Christie Cohn ♦

“Fighting apathy is almost a never-ending battle. We've put up new electronic messaging boards. Students are more likely to see them than antiquated bulletin

boards that are cluttered. We also got plastic-sleeve sign holders for inside classroom doors to promote events and lease the space to other student groups.”
—Cristal Bruno, 1997-98 president
Student Government Association
Broward Community College-Central campus
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“The number of students who don't realize the value of helping others and never invest their time by getting involved. All of the organizations with which I'm involved have the potential to help students see the value of helping other people—whether it's the children affected by Dance Marathon or the people all over the country and in the Tallahassee community helped through Alternative Break Corps and other volunteer organizations on campus.”

—Dana Hill, 1997-98 vice president
Student Alumni Association
Florida State University
dmh1051@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

“The cost of tuition. I initiated a calculator loan program to provide calculators for required math classes. This removed the burden on students to purchase \$80 to \$130 calculators. With donations from teachers and students and calculators bought from pawn shops with money raised by selling carnations on Valentine's Day, we were able to loan out six to 10 calculators each semester.”

—Jeffrey Rogers, 1997-98 president
Mathematics Awareness and Assistance Club
Florida Community College
at Jacksonville-North campus
jeffr2000@aol.com



♦ FCCJ's Jeffrey Rogers ♦

“Students may not know what's out there. It's important to interact with students not necessarily even in the extracurricular setting, but in the classroom, telling someone, 'I'm involved in this. Why don't you come along, too?' If you're vocal about what you're involved in, hopefully the enthusiasm will be contagious enough that people will also want to partake.”

—Ingrid Lim, director
1997 Hunger and Homelessness
Awareness Week
University of Florida
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“A lot of students didn't want to get involved in community service, because they thought it was a waste of their time. They didn't see the immediate benefits. Yet most of them are going to professional

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schools such as medical school. In your resume, unless you have that volunteer experience, you won't get in even if you have really high grades. They want to know that you're a caring individual.

As president of the Chemical Society, I encouraged everyone to come to Habitat for Humanity in Jacksonville. I also worked as a peer advisor. I would help lead students in a

community service project with the Pace Women's Center.

We got their feet wet and introduced them to it. Some people were really complaining, but there were a lot of people who didn't think they would enjoy it, but they did."

—Celestine Mararac
1997-98 peer advisor
Jacksonville University
celestiann@hotmail.com

"All of the organizations with which I'm involved have the potential to help students see the value of helping other people..."

**— Dana Hill, 1997-98 Vice President
Student Alumni Association
Florida State University**

■ "Most of the people going to a community college work part-time and raise a family, so it's harder to get them involved. Working with Phi Theta Kappa, we did a variety of community service projects as well as campus projects, which gave a wider range of times and different projects that people would find interesting and make time for. We did environmental things like

road, beach, and campus clean-ups, and we also did a clothes drive for a women's crisis center and hosted an AIDS awareness night."

—Jodi Thomas
1997-98 chapter president
Phi Theta Kappa
Manatee Community College
jodiht@aol.com



■ "Involvement of the students. Our campus is so multicultural and diverse, but the different groups of people stay within themselves. Student leaders on our campus had to break those barriers and become more inclusive. We started having more political and social activities with forums or open panel discussions to allow people to speak freely and give their opinion. It's

allowed students to get to know each other and to realize that although they're from different backgrounds, they really are the same."

—Teresa Womble
1997 Phi Theta Kappa president
Miami-Dade Community
College-North campus
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■ "Getting all the different students involved—athletes, nontraditional students, and regular college-aged students. We had a student athlete become SG treasurer. We also created

a new campus organization called S.O.S.—Students Offering Support. It was basically a support group for nontraditional students. Sometimes nontraditionals have different needs than regular students. They worry about whether they'll fit in or do good in school after not going for so many years. S.O.S. also helps with carpooling or any other problem they might have."

—Matthew Yarber, 1997-98 student member
State Board of Community Colleges
Pasco-Hernando Community College



NOTE: For more information about the 20 recipients of the 1998 Florida College Student of the Year Award or to find out how to apply for the 1999 award, visit www.floridaleader.com/soty.