

John Hosman

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As a leader, Johnathan Hosman says he's the one who usually gets the pat on the back for positive achievements, but he can't take all the credit. "People can make decisions just as well as I can," he says. "I listen to everyone's opinion and use the best option—it helps everybody reach their goals."

Florida Leader magazine, SunTrust Education Loans, and Publix Super Markets proudly recognize Johnathan Hosman, a senior in marketing at the University of West Florida, as the first runner-up for the 2000 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

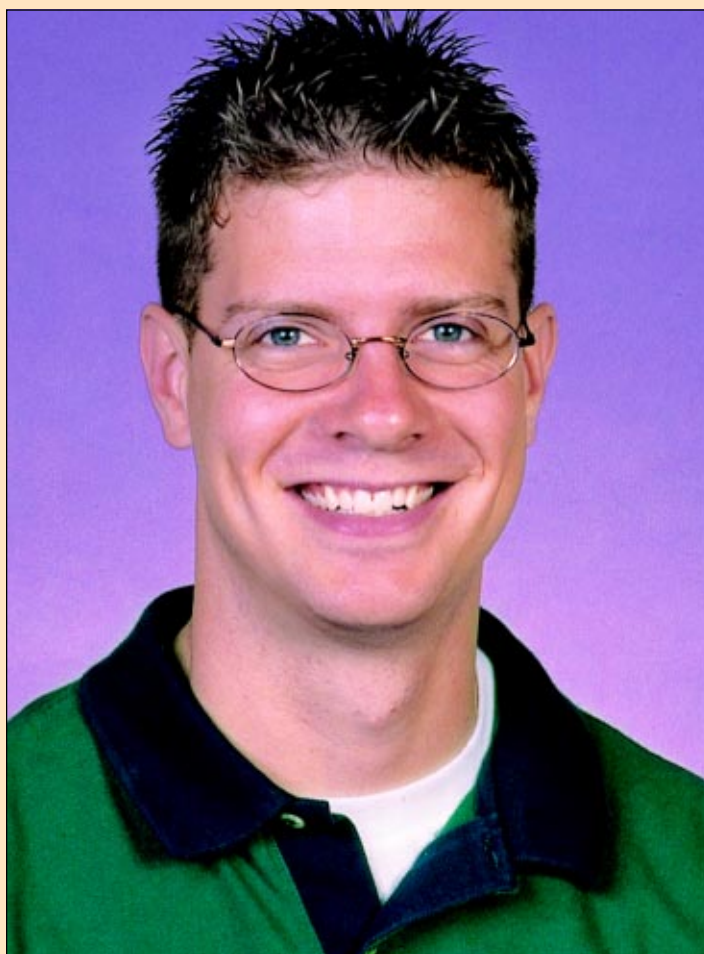
A perfect example of the two-term Student Government Association president's ability to make one person's dream a reality is the Big Argos/Little Argos program. During a Florida Student Association meeting, a leader from another institution suggested a mentor program bringing high-risk elementary school children to universities. Hosman, the current president of FSA, the umbrella group for the 10 Student Governments in the State University System, immediately started the program at UWF in November 1999.

Through Big Argos/Little Argos, fifth-graders can build lifelong friendships through campus visits, letters, and outings every semester with college leaders and athletes, so they have someone to look up to for motivation and guidance. "Just because an idea is someone else's vision, doesn't mean it won't work on our campus after it's been modified a little," he says. Big Argos/Little Argos became the program

Hosman is most proud of for many reasons such as the way the plan is now being implemented at other schools statewide.

Hosman, 21, also revived UWF's Awareness-Grievance Day, during which students discuss how they can better UWF and their college experiences by working together. "It was also a time when students could voice their opinions on the changes they would like to see take place on our campus," he says. "The only difference between me and others that have been in the same positions previously, is that I have taken advantage of the opportunities."

His participation in the Residence Hall Association as a resident advisor since 1997 is another of Hosman's daily responsibilities. "I try to establish a mutual respect with the residents and myself—we're there for the same reasons, so we all work together to make it a nice living environment," he says. Hosman, who avoids TV and enjoys socializing with friends in his spare time, balances his position



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as a confidante and as a rule-regulator by treating the residents as his equal. "We're all adults. I try to emphasize common-sense things such as not playing music loud to show respect for others," he says. This role, combined with his job as a Student Activities events crewmember and a scholarship, mainly fund his education.

Hosman says time conflicts, such as instances when he can't mount educational posters in the dorm because he's out of town for a conference, make his job as a leader difficult. "You're involved in a lot of things,

and you can't put one thing more important than another," he says. "One of the most challenging things is trying to find an equal balance, so you don't lack in one area."

When his life gets hectic, Hosman thinks about the rewards his involvement offers him. "The feeling that I've helped out others improves my self-worth, and if someone's in a bad mood, I like to watch them get into a good mood," he says. "I play kickball with elementary school kids in my free time, and they can't wait for you to come back—I'm someone they think cares about them."

Hosman says periodic downtime keeps his energy level high. "One week I'm really productive, and the next week I will relax, which motivates me for the next week," says Hosman, who organized Martin Luther King Jr. "Day On," an event in which students do service projects on King's birthday, which is usually an "off" day. "I never get stressed out—you can get it all done sooner or later. I take one day at a time. I'm always in a positive mood.

"Not one individual can accomplish everything themselves. They're only as good as the people they surround themselves with," he says. "I have been fortunate to have quality people around me." Hosman says the "quality people" surrounding him include his older brother James, who influences him to become really involved, and his parents, who instilled his work ethic, values, and morals. Hosman credits the lessons from his family for helping him manage all his duties and roles such as his Greek positions. In addition to being Interfraternity Council vice president, he also serves as fundraising chair and community service chair for his fraternity Kappa Alpha, leading the Epsilon Sigma chapter to accumulate 1,040 volunteer hours. Currently, Hosman is the organization's ritualist and changed the group's image of being "a bunch of rednecks." "Many people have the impression that we're racist, because our founders were Southerners," he explains. At a Diversity Council conference, Hosman spoke out against this stereotype and says he knew he

made a difference when a former member thanked him for having the courage to speak.

While Hosman achieves many of his goals such as getting SGA involved at the state level with FSA, some of his dreams are just a little out of reach for now. "I'd like to go to heaven—think of all the people you would get to meet," he says. In the meantime, he'll work toward another vision. "I'd like to be remembered as someone who made a difference in SG and the community—someone who cared about others and helped people feel good." 🐾