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# **Florida State University Student Named 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up for the 2002 Florida College Student of the Year Award**

Gainesville, Fla (04-02) – Stefanie McCormack, a senior in psychology with a 3.88 GPA at Florida State University, is first runner-up for the 2002 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

McCormack and 19 other students from colleges and universities across Florida will share \$55,000 in scholarships and prizes and will be honored Friday, April 12, at an awards ceremony and press conference at the Capitol Building in Tallahassee. She appears on the cover of *Florida Leader* magazine and is profiled at [www.floridaleader.com/soty](http://www.floridaleader.com/soty).

McCormack was selected from 144 applicants in the annual scholarship program sponsored by *Florida Leader*, SunTrust Education Loans, and Office Depot. The Florida College Student of the Year Award celebrates 15 years of recognizing outstanding Florida college students for their campus leadership, academic excellence, financial self-reliance, and campus and community service, something McCormack has done throughout her years at FSU, especially within her sorority.

McCormack currently serves as external vice president of Phi Mu sorority, where she has been instrumental in getting her sisters more involved in community service. "As a leader in Phi Mu, I coordinated a volunteer outreach project with America's Second Harvest Food Bank," she says. "This offered my sisters a chance to help a local agency, and our cumulative community service hours have increased threefold." She even got Tallahassee Mayor Scott Maddox to proclaim October 15, 2001 as Phi Mu National Philanthropy Day and organized a service project with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to go with the occasion. "We've never had so

much community service involvement until Stefanie came along," says Lori Mizell, advisor for the Alpha Epsilon chapter of Phi Mu. "Everything she's been asked to do or been responsible for in positions she's held, she's always followed through about 125 percent."

Other service projects that McCormack has been involved in, through her own advances and with the sorority, include Dance Marathon, Toys for Tots, Meals on Wheels, and working with the Student Disabilities Resource Center. In 1999, she was the representative for her sorority in the Emerging Leaders Program, for which she attended weekly leadership seminars and conferences, and this year, she moved up to mentor status, allowing her to mentor a new Emerging Leader candidate. "Different girls join for different reasons, but I really want all the girls to see how important it is to get out there," McCormack says.

McCormack is also involved with Alternative Break Corps (ABC) and has served in Philadelphia, New Orleans, and the Ukraine, helping battle the problems of homelessness, substance abuse, and poverty. In the Ukraine last year, McCormack was involved in projects at an orphanage, a mental disability center, and at local schools. Immediately following graduation, she is scheduled to go to Panama to help build a new schoolhouse in the former Canal Zone.

Among her other activities, McCormack is a member of the Seminole Ambassadors, serving as secretary last year. "During Preview Weekends, I served on the FSU Student Panel to answer questions about campus life," McCormack says. "Several students I met personally during Preview Weekends have come to study at Florida State." She was also directly involved in recruiting National Merit and National Hispanic Scholars and taking them on personalized campus tours.

She has served as chair of the banner competition for Homecoming and was nominated to the Homecoming Court. She works actively in the Student Alumni Association, helping in the president's skybox during home games, and she has kept score and worked PR for the men's tennis team through the Golden Ace Girls Spirit Group.

McCormack has also been involved in intramural sports. As captain of her sorority's basketball team, she led them to the league championship playoffs in 2001 and 2002, and to a first-place showing at the Theta Jam 3-on-3 Philanthropy Tournament in 2000.

#### **About Oxendine Publishing, Inc.**

In its 19th year, Oxendine Publishing produces three magazines, including *Florida Leader*, and sponsors the 13th annual "Best of Florida Schools" awards. Oxendine also publishes *Student Leader* and sponsors the 15th annual "Florida College Student of the Year Award" and the 5th annual "What Florida Students Think" survey. For more information and expanded coverage visit [www.floridaleader.com](http://www.floridaleader.com).

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