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Nova Southeastern University Student Named Finalist for 2002 Florida College Student of the Year

Gainesville, Fla. (4-02) – Leyda Su Ham, a senior triple majoring in biology, psychology, and global studies at Nova Southeastern University with a 3.76 GPA, is one of only seven finalists statewide for the 2002 Florida College Student of the Year Award. Su Ham and 19 other students from universities and colleges 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.

Su Ham and six other finalists were selected from 144 applicants in the annual scholarship program sponsored by *Florida Leader* magazine, SunTrust, and Office Depot. The Florida College Student of the Year Award celebrates its 15th year of recognizing outstanding Florida college students for their campus leadership, academic excellence, and financial self-reliance.

One of 40 active Presidential Knights at Nova, Su Ham, 23, was selected as a student ambassador of NSU. “There are a lot of students who compete for a position as a Presidential Knight, and just to say she’s made that is wonderful in itself,” says Terry Morrow, assistant director of student activities and leadership development. Presidential Knights are chosen to represent the best and the brightest at NSU.

Apart from her work as a Presidential Knight, Su Ham is also the president of the Pre-Medical Society and N.A.T.U.R.E (NSU’s Advancement Toward Understanding and Researching the Environment), the

Commuter Senator in NSU's Student Government Association, and is the founding member of TriBeta, the biology honor society. "She's quite a dynamo but in a really interesting manner, says Dr. Brad Williams, dean of student affairs. "Leyda exemplifies servant leadership in a very strong way. There's a quiet resourcefulness about her that's very refreshing."

The crossover of her interests has served NSU well. In starting TriBeta, members relied on her knowledge of the university and SGA to complete the application process for successfully chartering the organization on both the university and national level. "She's very responsible and reliable," Morrow says. "She stays on top of each step of a project."

Su Ham has demonstrated her commitment to improving not only NSU but also the surrounding community. She began the annual event know as the "Small World Festival" to provide lunches for geriatric residents; she began a toy drive where over 100 toys were collected for the Children's AIDS Foundation; and she participates in the Holiday Food Drive for the Cooperative Feeding Program.

Among her other activities, Su Ham works as a teaching assistant and research assistant for a professor in organic chemistry, has been an orientation leader at NSU, and has interned at both Bank Atlantic and the Office of Human Resources.

Students at 86 colleges and nearly 550 high schools throughout Florida read *Florida Leader*, founding sponsor of the "Florida College Student of the Year Award." Now in its 19th year, Oxendine Publishing also produces the national leadership magazine *Student Leader*. See www.floridaleader.com/soty for more details on the annual scholarship program and this year's winners.

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