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University of Miami Student Named Finalist for the 2004 Florida College Student of the Year Award

Gainesville, Fla (04-04) – Jason Guercio, a senior in biology with a 3.94 GPA at the University of Miami, is one of seven finalists statewide for the 2004 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

Guercio and 19 other students from colleges and universities across Florida will share \$65,000 in scholarships and prizes and will be honored Friday, April 16 at an awards ceremony and press conference at the Capitol Building in Tallahassee.

Guercio was selected from 78 applicants in the annual scholarship program sponsored by *Florida Leader* magazine, SunTrust Education Loans, and Office Depot. The Florida College Student of the Year Award celebrates 17 years of recognizing outstanding Florida college students for their campus leadership, academic excellence, and financial self-reliance.

Guercio made an impact when he started UM's Medical Mentoring Program. "He took two different worlds—the undergraduate campus and the medical campus—and really meshed them together very well to leave a legacy that will last," says Richard Walker, assistant vice president for student affairs.

Guercio is involved in many organizations such as Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board, and Golden Key International Honour Society. He's also currently the second-ever undergraduate representative for Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity's National Ritual and Values Committee, headed by the National Chaplain.

Guercio is the only UM student to serve two terms as the undergraduate SG chief of staff. After college he hopes to become a hospital administrator. "I want to be a guy who's making big changes in the medical field," Guercio says.

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 21st year, Oxendine Publishing also produces the national leadership magazine *Student Leader*. See www.floridaleader.com/soty_for for more details on the annual scholarship program and other finalists.