



**CONTACT:**

Chelsea Greenwood or Butch Oxendine  
(352) 373-6907  
info@studentleader.com  
www.floridaleader.com/soty

## **Florida A&M Student Named Finalist for the 2005 Florida College Student of the Year Award**

Gainesville, Fla. (03-28) – Darius Graham, a senior in political science at Florida A&M University with a 3.95 GPA, is one of seven finalists for the 2005 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

Graham and 19 other students from colleges and universities across Florida will share \$65,000 in scholarships and prizes and will be honored Friday, April 8 at an awards ceremony and press conference at the Capitol Building in Tallahassee.

Graham 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 18 years of recognizing outstanding Florida college students for their campus leadership, academic excellence, and financial self-reliance.

Graham's touch can turn anything to gold, even when it seems there's not a chance for success. When Graham heard that "In the Know," a campus news and public affairs radio show,

was to be taken off the air, he decided it was time for a new direction. Competing against dozens of students who presented ideas for hip-hop and other music-based shows, Graham presented his idea: an outlet to inform students of important issues and to hear firsthand from influential people. As always, Graham stood apart from the competition. His show has hosted Sen. Barack Obama and Cate Edwards, daughter of former Sen. John Edwards.

Last summer, the Institute of Responsible Citizenship rewarded Graham for being one of the top male, minority college students in the country. The prize was an internship with the U.S. Department of State and a chance to study at Georgetown University. During his summer internship, he worked primarily on humanitarian efforts for Southeast Asia.

“Darius cares much about his community, and he has a good understanding of the scope and nature of the problems facing America's communities,” says Dr. Gary R. Paul of FAMU's political science department.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> year, Oxendine Publishing also produces the national leadership magazine *Student Leader*. See [www.floridaleader.com/soty](http://www.floridaleader.com/soty) for more details on the annual scholarship program and other finalists.