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**University of Central Florida Student Named Finalist for
the 2005 Florida College Student of the Year Award**

Gainesville, Fla. (03-28) – Marianne Howe, a senior in business management at the University of Central Florida with a 3.83 GPA, is one of seven finalists for the 2005 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

Howe 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.

Howe 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.

Environmentally conscious, Howe founded Recycle USF in 2003 and continues to serve as president. The group spread the word about the already existing recycling program, but also

managed to start a campus newspaper recycling program, which has collected approximately 25,000 pounds of newspaper since its establishment.

Howe was also active in the LEAD Scholars program, for which she created the public relations director position and mentored 10 first-year students. She also reconstructed the Alumni Council, whose membership, commitment, and communication had been waning during the past year. “We now have the capabilities to maintain contact with many of our successful student alumni members instead of losing touch with them as they graduate,” Howe 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 22nd 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 other finalists.