



COURTESY SAMMY KALMOWICZ

University of South Florida Senate President Sammy Kalmowicz (inset) and fellow SG representatives eat cake for a Tampa Bay battered women's shelter fund-raiser in Spring 2000.

# Minoring In Leadership

## Florida schools focus on training leaders

By Eric Hastie

Can you learn to be a leader? Most definitely. While you can't major in leadership, you can earn a minor at some Florida colleges and universities. "It's just a great way to network and make connections with people all over campus," says Rosie Howard, an education major and office manager of the leadership center at the **University of South Florida**. "The people in your classes range from editor of the school paper to the president of SG." **An Accommodating Minor**

At the **University of West Florida**, the curriculum for the leadership communications minor isn't concrete, which allows students to take classes that support their interests.

Offered by the College of Arts and Sciences, the minor stresses leadership practice in real-world situations through community-service projects. "One group recently developed a program to assist female members of the community who had been released from jail," says Dr. Athena du Pré, assistant professor in the Communication Arts Department.

"We have the five core classes that they must take, but sometimes to meet the needs of a certain student, we can substitute one class for another," du Pré says. The classes, worth three credits each, include topics covering four types of communication: organizational, leadership, interpersonal, and group and team. The final class, Advanced

Presentation Strategies, pulls together what students learned in previous classes.

Contact du Pré at [adupre@uwf.edu](mailto:adupre@uwf.edu).

### Nothing Minor About It

At the University of South Florida, minoring in leadership means completing 18 credits—but you must teach. "Students also have to teach a class on leadership," Howard says. Many students give a presentation to a club they're already involved in, but participants can approach any group they wish and present an informative leadership tutorial. Students then evaluate their role as a leader and inform others about useful leadership skills.

USF's program started in January 1999, "due to student interest and also because some professors had taken leadership classes in graduate school and found them interesting," Howard says.

Required classes include leadership fundamentals, reading, and community practicum. These basic courses lay the foundation for the other four core classes. "In the practicum, you have to apply everything you learn," Howard says. "One group of students involved in the music department designed a forum for the school's music students to learn about getting a new building."

For collegians who can't fit in all six classes to complete the minor, USF also offers a Certificate of Leadership Studies for completion of the three core courses. "It shows that I've studied the different theories of leadership development and implementation and that I'm capable of figuring the best solution to group projects,"

says Sammy Kalmowicz, Student Government senate president.

One of the most unique aspects of USF's program is that instructors usually aren't professors. "We have people such as the director of student activities to the Greek Life advisor teach some of our classes," Howard says. "When a working professional with real-world knowledge commits to one of the classes, they become much more informative for the students."

Contact Howard at [rhoward3@soleil.acomp.usf.edu](mailto:rhoward3@soleil.acomp.usf.edu) and Kalmowicz at [skalmowicz@brill.acomp.usf.edu](mailto:skalmowicz@brill.acomp.usf.edu).

### A Minor with Major Aspirations

At the **University of Miami**, students get to know real leaders: they shadow prominent citizens for a semester. Dr. Susan Mullane, department of exercise and sport sciences assistant professor, gives the students a leadership profile project. "The students do everything from watching their leader in action to doing interviews and even working with the leader's colleagues," she says.

"I started a leadership class in 1989 and handpicked 10 leaders to participate," Mullane says. "The original class included two topics of interests: ethics and motivation." Ethics, motivation, and management skills now are the core courses.

In addition to the core three, students choose two more classes from a long list of alternates. "We like to specialize the minor to each area of study," she says. "We have students from all walks of life in the program, from music to business to pre-law and communications, so it's important to meet their specific needs."

Leaders also share their experiences with each other by writing essays. "They also keep a leadership journal in which they write daily entries about anything they learned or did that day," Mullane says.

The minor's reputation continues to grow every year, and Mullane currently visits club meetings in her free time to let them know about the classes. "I'm currently working on getting a major started, but that won't be for a while." 🐼

Contact Dr. Mullane at [Smullane98@aol.com](mailto:Smullane98@aol.com).

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### Leadership Lair

The University of South Florida Leadership House, located in Theta Hall, highlights the importance of sharing tasks to enhance leadership skills. The 39 residents live in the house for one year, where they participate in projects such as building a homecoming float or holding a holiday clothing and canned food drive. Completed without advisor or faculty supervision, each activity gives residents hands-on leadership experience. After the year, many students move out but stay active.

Each new year begins with team-building exercises and social activities. The main purpose of orientation, however, is to develop a community between new and existing members in hopes that everyone will show support for each other. Visit <http://infinity.reserv.usf.edu/~leadership/> or contact House Master Frank Hamilton at [fhamilto@coba.usf.edu](mailto:fhamilto@coba.usf.edu).