



## New multicultural sorority greeted at Virginia Tech

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(The Collegiate Times) (U-WIRE) BLACKSBURG, Va. -- An alternative to conventional greek sororities has arrived at Virginia Tech.

Yesterday, Theta Nu Xi, a new multicultural sorority, held a meeting to acquaint the university community with the new organization.

Michelle Manocchio, a senior communication studies major, said the sorority is spreading to universities nationwide.

The Eta colony of Theta Nu Xi was founded Feb. 25, 2001, she said.

The sorority consists of a diverse group of six women who intend to promote diversity and bring cultural awareness to Tech.

"This session today is just a meet and greet for people to come by and meet the sisters (so we can) introduce ourselves formally to this campus," said Zohra Atmar, a sophomore political science major and Theta Nu Xi member.

Other Theta Nu Xi's members had similar reasons for beginning and joining the sorority.

"I grew up in a very diverse community and then coming here I just saw how segregated everyone was," said Nahid Haidari, a junior marketing management major. "Being non-black and non-white, I didn't fit into any little cliques."

Haidari said she fits in with the new sorority.

"I never thought of myself as a sorority sister because I never felt I fit the stereotype," she said. "And I realize now the stereotype is just that -- it's very false."

Atmar said she wanted to make a difference by joining the sorority.

"I didn't like how Virginia Tech's campus is so self-segregated and I didn't want to contribute to that," Atmar said. "I felt like it was limiting myself and my experiences, and I want to contribute to other peoples' education."

A number of people attended the meet-and-greet session, including other greek members.

"I'm impressed with the diversity and how (the sorority members) don't discriminate against any person regardless of cultural background," said Clinton Edwards, a junior family financial management major and a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

He said the backgrounds of the students should be a strength of the sorority.

"They're going to be able to bring different ideas because of their different backgrounds and the way they were raised," Edwards said.

Kristina Bacon, a senior marketing management major and member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, said Theta Nu Xi is an alternative for people who want to get involved with a new organization that does not already have a lot of background.

"Now there's an option for those who don't want to join a historically black or a historically white (sorority)," she said.

Haidari said Tech's Theta Nu Xi colony is the first established at any educational institution in Virginia, and the sorority intends to help begin colonies at different Virginia universities.

"We want to carry the mission of the organization to other schools," she said.

Theta Nu Xi members said they think the Tech community has been open minded in welcoming them.

"We are really excited about the response we got tonight and I think it's a good representation of how accepted we're going to be by other organizations and individuals," Haidari said.

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