



Theta Nu Xi nationally recognized

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(Daily Utah Chronicle) (U-WIRE) SALT LAKE CITY -- The University of Utah's Theta Nu Xi multicultural sorority was recently awarded Undergraduate Chapter of the Year at the 2004 National Convention in Arizona.

Five members from the Iota Chapter made their way down to the convention in high spirits knowing they had a chance at receiving an award, Vice President Ester Kim said.

"I expected Iota to be recognized for the hard work we put into the fall 2003-spring 2004 year," she said. "Honestly, our bids were spectacular because we had so much to show for our year."

In order to receive the award the chapter had to show excellence in organization, service and recruitment, according to Greek Adviser Lori McDonald.

"The chapter exemplified what the organization wanted," she said.

Theta Nu Xi officially became a national sorority in 1999 after Melissa Jo Muchison, a biracial woman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, decided there needed to be a multicultural sorority because she didn't feel comfortable joining a white or a black sorority on her campus.

As the only sorority of its kind at the university, Theta Nu Xi takes a unique stance on the acceptance of cultures, university chapter President Camille Washington said.

In the past, Theta Nu Xi members have worked on projects aimed at bringing out and embracing individual differences to help unify the campus, Washington said.

"It is important to have a sorority that celebrates and respects all cultures," she said. "We try to incorporate everyone's ideas and cultures in our service projects."

Though Theta Nu Xi chooses not to become a member of the Panhellenic Council at the university, the sorority continues to participate in events within the Greek system, but is not able to vote on issues concerning other chapters on campus.

"Normally, [Theta Nu Xi] sits on the Multicultural Greek Council if the council is on campus," Kim said. "Since the U does not have [such a council], we participate as associate members of the Panhellenic Council."

Chapter members said they will spend more time on service this year, and hope to increase the U's awareness of diversity.

"We are planning on really putting ourselves out there," Kim said.

"I think that this year will be devoted to strengthening our chapter and becoming more solid."

The chapter said they will participate in several projects including World AIDS Day, the Take Back the Night Rally and a Fund raiser for the National Conference of Community and Justice, the chapter's National Philanthropy.

"Theta Nu Xi is excellent," Washington said. "Greek life did not appeal to me at first, and being in this sorority opened my eyes and helped me see how important the Greek council is to service and the community."

Chapter members are looking forward to meeting future pledges at their interest meetings Nov. 6 to 7 and are determined to keep the chapter's membership small.

"I can't imagine having more than 10 members at one time," Kim said. "We work so closely together and our numbers make us accountable for our actions creating a great deal of trust."

Kim believes that Theta Nu Xi members have a major effect on the community because

of their acceptance of different cultures and willingness to serve others.

"This organization is changing the world right now," she said. "I am so proud to be part of such a sisterhood."

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