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CHRIS BOULDIN/ The Pine Log

## Memorial held in Lovings' honor

*Friends, family show up to remember Iota Phi Theta chapter co-founder*

By Colleen Martin  
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The memorial service for Narada Michael Lovings, Houston junior and co-founder of SFA's Delta Xi Chapter of Iota Phi Theta, was held Thursday evening in Turner

Auditorium following a candlelight vigil at the Social Work Building.

Julius Johnson, Nacogdoches sophomore and vice president of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, gave the opening remarks.

"Narada is the reason our fraternity is on this campus. Me and all the other brothers owe him everything," Johnson said.

He spoke of the goals and inspiration of Lovings.

"In memory of my brother, let's think of some way to lift our campus and take steps to make it happen," Johnson said.

Candice Bush, Longview Junior and Iota Phi Theta sweetheart, also spoke.

"This is not a day of mourning...it's a day of celebration," Bush said.

She said the last memory she has of Narada was Friday night after the steps show. He was upset because he didn't get to sing the song they had practiced.

Brandi Lovings, Narada's wife, spoke at the ceremony.

"He was one of the few people I ever trusted other than my father," she said. "He was an Iota man and he wore his letters proudly. He was generous, honest and sweet."

She told the congregation to value the lives of your loved ones.

"Life can be gone in the blink of an eye," she said. "If you love someone and you know you love them, you need to tell them. Life is too short."

She ended with words of advice.

"Be careful," she said. "When your driving and it's wet...slow down. If you're late, you're late."

The congregation was given the opportunity to speak.

"Any one who has something to say is welcome to speak," Michael

Smith, Dallas sophomore and Iota member, said.

The room was filled with people who had some connection to Lovings and wanted to share their thoughts.

"I had one encounter with Narada," Quince Easter, Texarkana sophomore, said. "We met at a Iota interest meeting."

Easter said it took a man to come to a school with established organizations and start something no one has heard of. He said Lovings was an inspiration and a good man.



Lovings worked at Branch-Patton Cingular for the past two years.

"He was always laid back," Josh Bryon, Woodville junior and coworker, said. "We used to sing together. We would laugh and talk all of the time."

Family and friends of Lovings started the Narada Lovings Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donations can be made at the Web site in honor of his life at [NaradaLovings.com](http://NaradaLovings.com). It also includes a photo gallery and information about Lovings' life.

Lovings graduated from Humble High School in 1998. He served as the vice president of NAACP and a member of the Good News Gospel Choir when he attended University of Houston.

He transferred to SFA in Spring of 2002 and was named the Southern Regional Sweetheart Laison of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity in Spring of 2004.

Lovings was studying social work and gender studies.

He is survived by his wife, Brandy Nicole Lovings, and their unborn child, his parents, family, fraternity brothers and friends.