



Maxine “Max” Shelly Turner

Maxine “Max” Shelly Turner was an honors student from Vienna, Va., ready to graduate with a degree in chemical engineering. She was brilliant, beautiful, and talented and excelled at everything she committed herself to, including swing dancing, Tae Kwon Do, schoolwork, violin, and her favorite video game, *Zelda*.

She talked to herself while playing video games, stuck her tongue out for photographs, and sang aloud while doing homework with her headphones on. She often could be found in her pajamas and bunny slippers, sitting on the living room floor and watching cartoons, particularly *Spongebob*, while doing chemical engineering work. These endearing quirks are a large part of what made Max so loveable.

She was also motivated and ambitious. At Virginia Tech, she saw the need for a professional sorority for female engineers and helped found a chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon, serving as chair of both community outreach and professional life.

She was also in the Hypatia class that encouraged the university to expand Hypatia—the Women in Engineering Learning Community—from a one-year to a two-year program, and she volunteered for the Relay for Life, the Big Event, and the animal shelter.

Max loved her family and was famous among her peers for actually talking to her parents practically every day—and enjoying it! She regaled her friends with tales of her younger brother, Anthony, and his many accomplishments.

Fiercely independent, she earned her own money and helped with all of her expenses.

Everyone who knew Max will miss her greatly, but sadder still is the fact that those who didn't know her will never have the pleasure of doing so. She was an exceptional person.



Nicole Regina White

Nicole Regina White, the daughter of Mike and Tricia White, was born Aug. 23, 1986. A graduate of Smithfield High School, she had one brother, Evan.

A junior at Virginia Tech, Nicole was majoring in international studies with a minor in political science.

Nicole was a giving person who, even in high school, completed emergency medical training and served as a volunteer with the Smithfield, Va., Volunteer Rescue Squad. She was active in the YMCA and worked as a lifeguard as well as a swimming instructor. While at Virginia Tech, she was an active volunteer at both the local animal shelter and the battered women's shelter.

Nicole loved her friends and her friends loved her. She was the type of person who would not judge a person by his or her outward appearance but looked at the person's heart. She wanted to know people as they really were, not as they appeared.

While living in Smithfield, Nicole faithfully attended Nansmond River Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va., and worked in the outreach program, taking the message of the Gospel and Christ's love to people in the local area.

“Her family wants everyone to know that Nicole loved the Lord, loved people, and loved working with children. They have suffered a tremendous loss,” says the Rev. Tim Piland, senior pastor of her church.



These brief biographies were prepared by or in conjunction with the families. For additional biographical information, go to www.vt.edu/tragedy.