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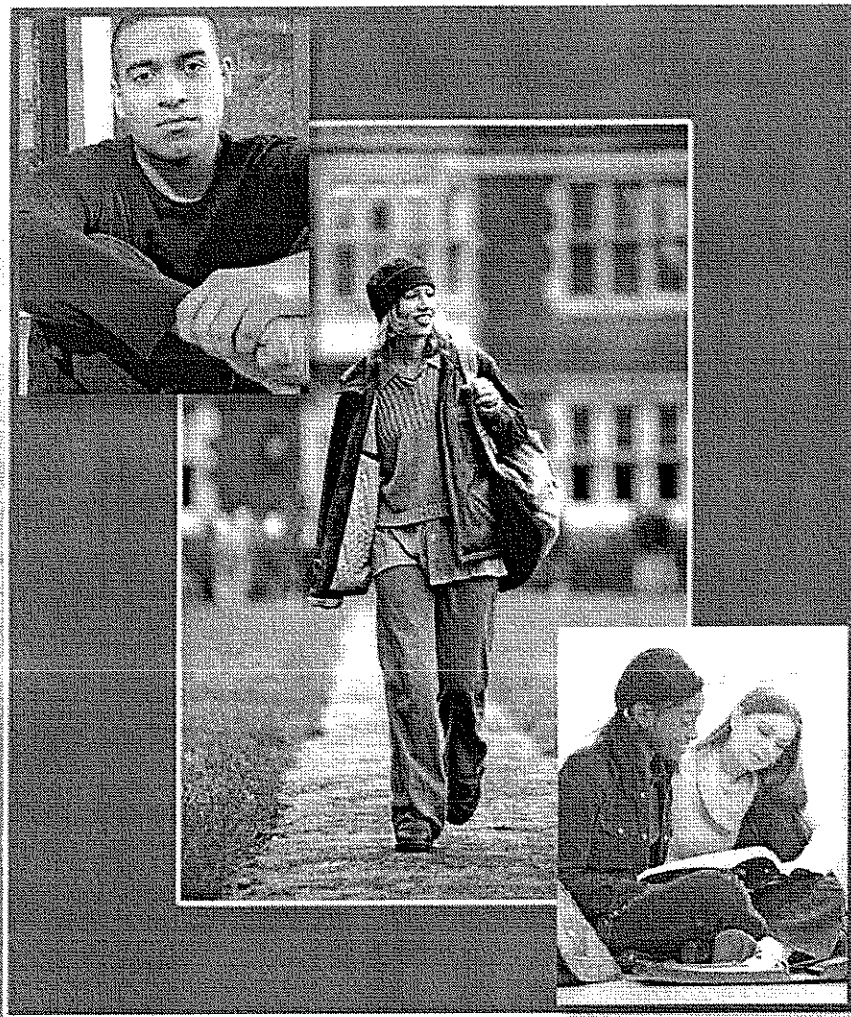
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ORACLE

*The Research Journal of the
Association of Fraternity Advisors*



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VOLUME I + ISSUE I + AUGUST 2005

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William R. Molasso
The author used content analysis research methodologies to investigate the discourse on fraternities/sororities in the two primary journals of the student affairs profession, the Journal of College Student Development and the NASPA Journal. In research published in these student affairs journals over the last decade, fraternities/sororities were underrepresented. Additionally, the published research was of insufficient depth, and focused on narrow issues. This content analysis allows us to understand better the nature and scope of fraternity/sorority research in the primary student affairs literature over the last decade.
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The author presents basic concepts of research methods for a non research-focused audience and a rationale for supporting credible research on the college fraternity/sorority experience.
- 15 **AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE EXPERIENCES OF GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL FRATERNITY AND SORORITY MEMBERS REVISITED**
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The lead author questioned over 500 self-identified gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) fraternity and sorority members to assess their reasons for joining; how their membership affected their sexual identity development and intimate relationships; the degree of homophobia and heterosexism encountered; how sexual orientation affected the quality of their fraternal experiences; and the level of acceptance or rejection they faced. Many respondents were in the early phases of sexual identity development at the time they joined, and most chose to conceal their sexual orientation from their fellow members. This study details the reactions from fellow members, assesses satisfaction with the fraternity or sorority experience, and reports the level of involvement of GLB students in their fraternities or sororities.
- 32 **HELPING FRATERNITY AND SORORITY MEMBERS UNDERSTAND RITUAL**
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This study addresses the role of fraternity/sorority rituals in the lives of undergraduate members and is based upon a qualitative study that asked the following question: "Does ritual have an impact on the values and behavior of contemporary sorority women?" Addressing this question requires an understanding of the role ritual ceremonies play in the fraternity/sorority experience. This research primarily examined the impact of ritual ceremonies as it related to individual behavior.

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Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors advances the study of college fraternities and sororities through a peer reviewed academic journal promoting scholarly discourse among partners invested in the college fraternal movement. The vision of *Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors* is to serve as the premier forum for academic discourse and scholarly inquiry regarding the college fraternity and sorority movement.

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Submissions:

Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors accepts submissions focused on articulating research involving fraternity and sorority members at the collegiate, alumni, inter/national organization, and volunteer advisory levels. Manuscripts should be written for the student affairs generalist who has broad responsibility for educational leadership, policy, staff development, and management. Articles on specialized topics should provide the generalist with an understanding of the importance of the program to student affairs overall and fraternity/sorority advising specifically.

Research articles for *Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors* should stress the underlying issues or problems that stimulated the research; treat the methodology concisely; and, most importantly, offer a full discussion of results, implications, and conclusions. In the belief that AFA readers have much to learn from one another, we also encourage the submission of thoughtful, documented essays or historical perspectives.

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