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Front Matter & Table of Contents

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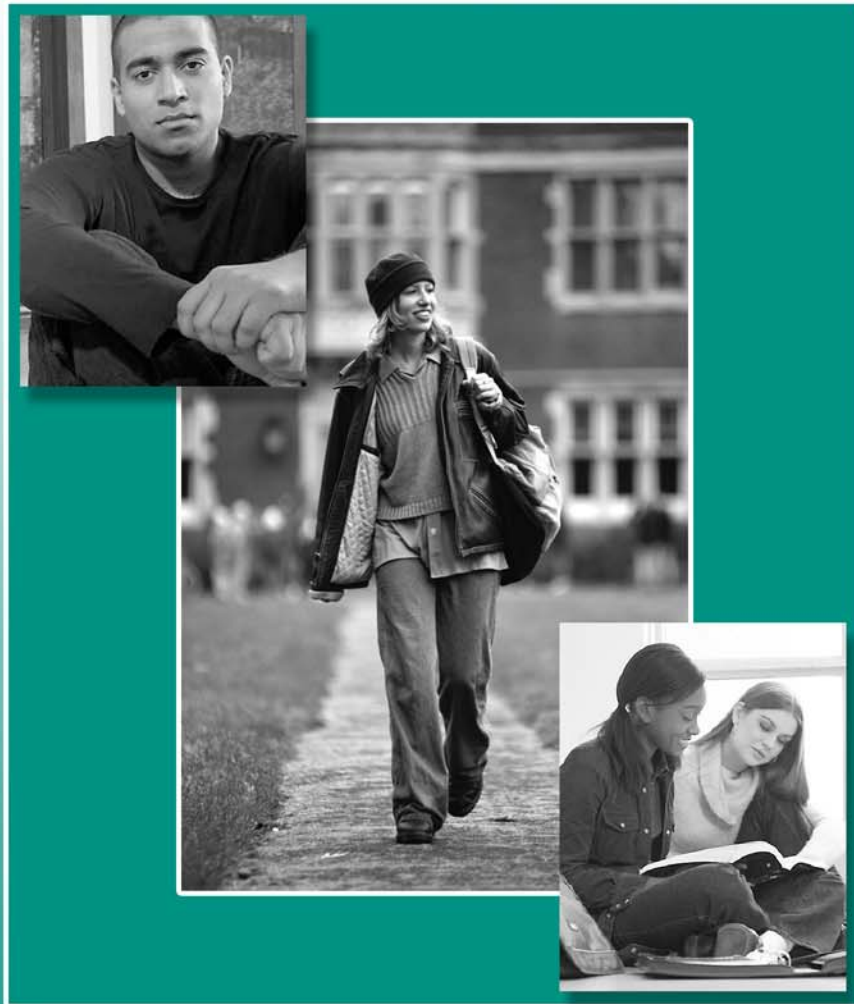
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ORACLE

*The Research Journal of the
Association of Fraternity Advisors*



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VOLUME 2 ✦ ISSUE 2 ✦ SEPTEMBER 2006

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Dennis C. Roberts, Ph.D. and Matthew Johnson
Started in 2002, the Fraternal Futures initiative offers students, staff, faculty, and general community members a new way to think about change in fraternities and sororities. The project models the National Issues Forum (NIF) deliberations, a process where participants are encouraged to engage in a different way of framing complex issues. Fraternal Futures deliberations offer participants a chance to discuss change strategies from various lenses, recognizing that a typical debate style of conversation often leaves many participants unhappy and does not address the intricacies that go along with tough decisions. With over 1,100 student participants at ten different colleges/universities, results from Fraternal Futures indicate that if serious change is to occur in fraternal life, it must begin by engaging students in authentic, meaningful conversations. Further results denote that students are not only willing to have these conversations, but many students become more informed, committed, and reflective in their actions as a outcome of their participation in the program.
- 81 [PERCEPTIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN UNDERGRADUATE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS](#)
P.D. Harms, Dustin Woods, Brent Roberts, Ph.D., Dan Bureau, and A. Michelle Green
An essential component of the culture and stated purpose of fraternities and sororities is their commitment to leadership. This is highly espoused as a prerequisite to joining and an outcome of membership. With this in mind, it is important to evaluate what leadership means in the context of a fraternity or sorority. This article concludes that leadership can be perceived as exercising power, holding formal positions, and serving as a positive role model for other members. Through understanding the multiple approaches to leadership, the culture and effectiveness of undergraduate fraternal organizations can be evaluated to verify the authenticity of claims of leadership development.

95 **ASSESSING STUDENT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN FRATERNITY AND SORORITY AFFAIRS**

Terrell L. Strayhorn, Ph.D. and Amy J. Colvin

Assessment in higher education has increased over the past several decades. Pressure from constituencies for colleges to demonstrate their effectiveness in measurable terms and loss of public trust in higher education drive the movement toward assessment. Presently, assessment is part of the accreditation process. Student affairs practitioners, including those working with fraternities and sororities, are not immune to these pressures. Yet, many student affairs professionals report feeling inadequately skilled in conducting assessment projects and need guidance in this area of their work. The purpose of this manuscript is to discuss the importance of assessment and how it relates to fraternity/sorority advising. In addition, the article highlights the ways in which assessment can be used to demonstrate student learning and development resulting from fraternity and sorority involvement.

108 **FRATERNITY AND SORORITY NEW MEMBERS' SELF-REGULATION OF ALCOHOL USE**

Andrew Wall, Ph.D., Janet Reis, Ph.D., and Dan Bureau

One hundred seventy three first year fraternity and sorority members completed an on-line survey on alcohol expectations, perceived capacity for regulating their alcohol intake (self-pacing), weekly consumption of alcohol, and perceived peer consumption. The 146 students who reported knowing how to self-pace planned to do so, were less susceptible to expectations to drink, drank less in a week and drank fewer days when compared to the 27 students reporting uncertainties in being able to self-pace. Opportunities for enhancing student's capacity for self-regulation are discussed.

117 **RESEARCH REVISITED: COGNITIVE EFFECTS OF GREEK AFFILIATION IN COLLEGE: ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE**

Ernest T. Pascarella, Ph.D., Lamont Flowers, Ph.D., and Elizabeth J. Whitt, Ph.D.

Previous research found broad based negative effects of fraternity/sorority affiliation on standardized measures of cognitive development after one year of college. Following the same sample, and employing essentially the same research design and analytic model, the present study found that the negative effects of fraternity/sorority affiliation were much less pronounced during the second or third years of college.

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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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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.

Visit <http://www.fraternityadvisors.org/Oracle.aspx> for more detailed submission guidelines.