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Moving Beyond an Exclusive Past Toward an Inclusive Future

Georgianna L. Martin
Loyola University

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority 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/Sorority 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/Sorority 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/Sorority 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://afa1976.org> for more detailed submission guidelines.

MOVING BEYOND AN EXCLUSIVE PAST TOWARD AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

GEORGIANNA L. MARTIN, ORACLE EDITOR

In this issue of Oracle, readers will find four articles that challenge us to think about the founding values of fraternal organizations and the patterns of exclusion that have emerged over time in our organizations. It is not often that we take the opportunity to engage in critical reflective practice about the complexities of the fraternity/sorority experience and the diversity inherent across organizations yet this collection of articles calls us to do just that.

We begin this issue with Chad Ahren, Dan Bureau, Helen Grace Ryan, and Vasti Torres's article titled *First to Go to College and First to "Go Greek": Engagement in Academically Oriented Activities by Senior-Year First-Generation Students Who are Fraternity/Sorority Members*. Although educators often struggle with effective strategies to engage first-generation students in meaningful ways inside and outside of the classroom, in this piece the authors find a positive association between membership in a fraternity/sorority for first-generation students and engagement on campus suggesting that membership may have a positive influence on first-generation students' success. In *Does Gender Matter in Black Greek-Lettered Organizations?*, Donald Mitchell's findings highlight the important role that gender appears to play for Black women in NPHC organizations suggesting a nuanced perspective on students' experiences in BGLOs. Next, Josh Schutts and Kyna Shelley call professionals to consider the ways in which fraternity/sorority members use the language of values to justify unethical behavior under the guise of being committed to their organization in their article titled *Modeling a Values-Congruence Framework to Predict Organizational Constructs in Fraternities and Sororities*. Finally, Ryan Barone challenges us to take a critical look at the history of fraternal organizations and their role in creating exclusive communities in his article titled *White Clauses in Two Historically White Fraternities: Documenting the Past and Exploring Future Implications*. Barone's work reminds us not to forget the past even though we are charged with keeping a watchful eye on the future.

Taken together, the articles presented in this issue challenge educators who work with fraternity/sorority members to consider where we've been as organizations, where are now, and what the future might hold if we strive to become who we could and *should* be. It remains important to acknowledge the ways in which our organizations have perpetuated and been complicit in exclusionary practices over time. Moving forward, it is perhaps more important to recognize ways that our organizations can enhance all students' opportunities for success in college and beyond through inclusive practices and high ethical standards.

