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Best of Issue

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF



ORACLE

THE RESEARCH JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRATERNITY | SORORITY ADVISORS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

iv EDITORIAL TEAM

v GENERAL INFORMATION

vi LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

vii INVITED EDITORIAL

1 **THE EFFECTS OF FRATERNITY/SORORITY MEMBERSHIP ON COLLEGE EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES: A PORTRAIT OF COMPLEXITY**

ASHLEY M. ASEL, TRICIA A. SEIFERT, AND ERNEST T. PASCARELLA

From Volume 4, Issue 2, September 2009. This study estimated the effects of fraternity/sorority membership on a wide range of college experiences and outcomes for first-year and senior college students at a large, public, Midwestern university. The findings suggest a complex portrait of the relationships between affiliation, engagement, and learning outcomes. Fraternity/sorority membership appeared to facilitate social involvement during college but may have limited the diversity of relationships. It was associated with higher levels of community service, but also increased the odds of excessive alcohol use. In the presence of controls for important, confounding influences, being a fraternity/sorority member had little consistent influence on grades or perceived impact of college. There was little support for gender differences in the impact of affiliation. Finally, implications for student affairs professionals in their work with undergraduate fraternity/sorority leaders and members were considered.

13 **A VALUES-BASED LEARNING MODEL TO IMPACT MATURATIONAL CHANGE: THE COLLEGE FRATERNITY AS DEVELOPMENT CRUCIBLE**

TIMOTHY REUTER, ELGAN BAKER, MICHAEL HERNANDEZ, AND DANIEL BUREAU

From Volume 7, Issue 2, Fall 2012. The period of late adolescence and early adulthood is a critical time during which individual identity is developed. One fraternity recently implemented a developmental process that facilitated identity maturation within its members by emphasizing self-awareness and reflection. Utilizing a learning model as the core component of all aspects of its programming, the fraternity conducted research to determine the impact of its learning model on the development of self-awareness. This article provides data from three years of implementation that documents significant increases in this critical developmental competency.

31 **AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL FRATERNITY AND SORORITY MEMBERS REVISITED**

DOUGLAS N. CASE, GRAHAEME A. HESP, AND CHARLES G. EBERLY

From Volume 1, Issue 1, August 2005. 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.

47 **DIFFERENCES IN SELF-AWARENESS RELATED MEASURES AMONG CULTURALLY BASED FRATERNITY, SOCIAL FRATERNITY, AND NON-AFFILIATED COLLEGE MEN**

TRICIA R. SHALKA AND SUSAN R. JONES

From Volume 1, Issue 5, June 2010. This study examined differences among men affiliated with culturally based fraternities, men affiliated with social fraternities, and non-affiliated men on measures of consciousness of self and congruence. Data were collected in the spring of 2006 from 1,698 undergraduates, representing 46 different higher education institutions, as part of the Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership (MSL). Analysis of data was conducted using MANCOVA to compare independent variable group differences across the two dependent variables, while taking quasi pre-test measures for both items into account as covariates. Significant differences among culturally based fraternity men, social fraternity men, and non-affiliated men were found on the combination of dependent variables. Further analyses revealed culturally based fraternity men scored lower than social fraternity men and non-affiliated men on both consciousness of self and congruence.

56 **TOWARDS A TYPOLOGY OF FRATERNITY/SORORITY PROGRAMS: A CONTENT ANALYSIS**

PIETRO A. SASSO

From Volume 7, Issue 1, June Spring 2012. Fraternity/sorority standards have been represented as the answer to the Call for Values Congruence authored by the Franklin Squared Group (2003). The outcome of this document was a proliferation of various styles and models of standards programs utilized to establish community practices with the overarching goal of facilitating values-based fraternity and sorority campus communities. However, fraternity/sorority standards programs answering this call have established higher standards through different methods. This study solicited standards programs from institutions from across the United States. Data from 31 standards programs were collected, cataloged, and analyzed through qualitative inquiry with the use of a rubric developed to establish a typology. Five categories resulted from analysis: evaluation, minimum standards, accreditation, awards, and comprehensive. Implications of the study are included along with future directions for research.

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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 www.afa1976.org for more detailed submission guidelines.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

GEORGIANNA L. MARTIN, PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Happy 10 Year Anniversary *Oracle*! I am thrilled to be serving as Editor for *Oracle: The Research Journal for the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors* at such a pivotal a time in our publication's history. It is hard to believe just 10 short years ago, *Oracle* came to be from the energy, creative and collaborative thinking, and hard work of many folks - some of who are included in this celebratory issue. This milestone in our journal's history presents a valuable opportunity for us to reflect on where we've come as a journal, where the state of research on fraternity/sorority life has come, and where we are as a field. It also presents the opportunity to look toward where we are headed using research to guide our practice and thought.

This 10th Anniversary Special Issue includes five articles that have previously appeared in *Oracle* and that have been honored with the Oracle Article of the Year Award. These five articles were selected with input from past Editors and Associate Editors of the journal and members of the current Editorial Board. Each represents an important contribution to the research on fraternities and sororities. Introducing these five articles is an invited contribution reflecting on the process of developing *Oracle*, and where we've come co-authored by Dr. Dan Bureau, *Oracle's* first Associate Editor and Dr. Grahaeme Hesp, the first Editor of *Oracle*. Bureau and Hesp's retrospective offers insight and a great opportunity for critical reflective practice. Let's celebrate this important 10 year milestone as we look forward to what the next 10 years brings for *Oracle*, fraternity/sorority research, and fraternity/sorority advising.