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Outgoing Editor's Notes

Georgianna L. Martin
Loyola University

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Martin: Outgoing Editor's Notes
OUTGOING EDITOR'S NOTES
GEORGIANNA L. MARTIN, PH.D., ORACLE EDITOR

After four years of serving as *Oracle* Editor, I am pleased to be passing the baton to my colleague and friend Dr. Jim Barber of the College of William and Mary. Jim is a familiar face to AFA and brings with him a wealth of experience with *Oracle* including serving as an Associate Editor for the last four years and serving as an Editorial Board member for nine years prior to his editorial term. My excitement for the future of *Oracle* is palpable; I have no doubt that Jim will continue to serve *Oracle* and the Association well. Perhaps most importantly, I have faith in Jim's ability to continue to strive for high standards in fraternity/sorority research; this is a charge that has driven *Oracle*, and the scholars who have worked with it, since its inception.

Over the four years that I have served as Editor for *Oracle* and during the three years prior to that when I served as an Associate Editor for the journal, I have watched our young journal increase in the number of submissions we receive, increase in the quality of the research being conducted, and increase in the diversity of research methods and topics explored. For example, over the last 11 years, *Oracle* has published research employing a variety of qualitative and quantitative methodologies and methods, research using historical methods, a variety of content analysis studies, and mixed methods research. In fact, the current issue includes mixed methods research, document analysis, and quantitative research. At times we have lamented that we needed more rigorous quantitative research; I'm happy to say that in this issue we have three quality quantitative studies! Of course, the high quality qualitative studies we've published over the years have added a depth of understanding to the fraternal experience that we simply haven't had in prior decades. Although issues such as alcohol misuse and hazing remain important areas of research and practice, we are no longer a field that only produces research on these topics. The diversity of topics researched and published in *Oracle* has come a long way. And yet, we still have room to grow!

In this issue of *Oracle*, we have five original research articles that challenge us to reconsider preconceived notions, think outside the box, and continue asking thought-provoking questions to further advance the quality of the fraternal experience for its members. First, Ashley Tull and Andrew Shaw's article titled *Universally Espoused Fraternal Values on College and University Campuses: Commonplace or Coincidence?* uses a document analysis approach to explore the types of espoused values predominantly White fraternities hold and how these values can be classified along a continuum of universal values. Their study offers a rich look at the purported values of 75 fraternal organizations. Next, Daniela Véliz-Calderón and Elizabeth J. Allan use a mixed-methods approach in their article *Defining Hazing: Gender Differences*. In this study, they explore the ways in which study participants provide self-definitions of hazing and gender patterns and differences across these definitions. This study offers a solid example of mixed-methods research and its utility in practice. In *Devising and Testing a Measure of Fraternal Sisterhood*, Joshua Schutts, Gentry McCreary, and Sarah Cohen explore the construct of sisterhood through creating and testing their own instrument. This type of research is particularly rare and exciting due to the time, energy, and skillset required to devise and test one's own instrument. *Devising and Testing* extends Cohen, McCreary, and Schutts' (2017) article published last summer in *Oracle*. These authors' two articles taken together leave an important mark on our field in understanding and measuring the often amorphous concept of sisterhood. Next, Donald Mitchell, Jr., John Gipson, JaKia Maria, and Tiffany Steele's article titled *Intersectional Value? A Pilot Study Exploring Educational Outcomes for African American Women in Historically Black Sororities Versus Non-Historically Black*

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Sororities responds to the growing body of literature in the field on the “value-added” component of fraternal organizations by exploring educational outcomes. Their article also adds to the limited body of research exploring the experiences of African American women in historically Black sororities. Finally, Rebecca Ortiz and Bailey Thompson’s article titled *Risky Recruitment: How Rape Myth Acceptance among Potential New Sorority Members is Related to Their Efficacy to Prevent Sexual Assault and Perceptions of University Sexual Assault Reporting* is both timely and relevant. This study explores how sorority new members’ perceptions of rape myths influence their efficacy and challenges campus professionals to dispel dangerous rape myths and clarify institutional reporting procedures for new students. Congratulations to all of our authors in this Issue for their high quality and impactful research!