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afa ORACLE
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1 SORORITY RITUAL PARTICIPATION AND SELF-EFFICACY

SYLVIA L. MENDEZ, PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS, PATTY WITKOWSKY, PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS, AMANDA ALLEE, PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS, BRYAN CHRISTENSEN, PH.D., UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL, AND COLLEEN STILES, PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

This qualitative research study utilized a phenomenological approach to explore the relationship between sorority ritual and self-efficacy. Guided by Social Cognitive Theory, data were collected through focus groups and one-on-one interviews. This study provided new insights into the role of ritual participation on perceived increases in self-efficacy in college women. Implications for future research and practice also are discussed.

20 SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF SORORITY WOMEN LIVING IN RESIDENCE HALLS

ROGER WESSEL, PH.D., BALL STATE UNIVERSITY AND MOLLY SALISBURY, MA, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

College students find a sense of belonging at institutions in multiple ways. For college women, the relationships they form through their campus involvements are important. The purpose of this study was to gain an understanding of the social integration experiences of sorority women living in residence halls. The researchers found sorority women had positive community experiences and enriched relationship opportunities through their involvement in sororities and residence halls. The women felt more connected to people through the relationships they formed because of sorority membership, whereas they felt more connected to campus as a whole because they lived in the halls.

32 **THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF SISTERHOOD WITHIN THE COLLEGIATE SORORITY: AN EXPLORATION**

SARAH COHEN, M.ED., INDIANA UNIVERSITY, GENTRY MCCREARY, PH.D., DYAD STRATEGIES, LLC, JOSHUA SCHUTTS, PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

The term “sisterhood” is one that has been used in a variety of ways to describe relationships among and between groups of women. Scholars have devoted little to no attention to the manner in which modern sorority members define and conceptualize their sisterhood experience. This study seeks to understand the various ways that collegiate sorority members define and experience the concept of sisterhood. The present study closely mirrors and extends the methodology and focus of the research on brotherhood conducted by McCreary and Schutts (2015).

49 **SORORITY WOMEN, DRINKING, AND CONTEXT: THE INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENT ON COLLEGE STUDENT DRINKING**

JILL RUSSETT, PH.D., CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

The purpose of this study was to explore college drinking from the perspective of sorority women, including delving further into situational or contextual conditions related to the environment where drinking occurs, and examining the extent to which gender influences associated behaviors and choices related to drinking. Data collection occurred through three focus groups; in all 25 undergraduate sorority women participated. In addition, six focus group participants volunteered to take part in individual follow up interviews. Findings illustrate the prevalence and influence of a male dominated drinking environment, specifically identified within fraternities, and highlight sorority women’s awareness of gender differences and subsequent choices. Implications for college administrators and health educators responsible for campus programming and prevention efforts are provided.

62 **LIVING MEMORY: WHAT IT PORTENDS WHEN THE FOUNDERS STILL LIVE**

ARI STILLMAN, FUEL CYCLE

What informs an organization’s identity? Older organizations have annals that record the history as its intended for posterity, but what of newer organizations? Their history has yet to be made and much of it is as open to negotiation as their future. To explore this contingency, I delve into one organization, a young fraternity, during an occasion in which memories are exchanged and organizational identity is expanded. What I discovered elucidates the power of living memory and the fecundity of an occasion such as a national convention for keeping it alive.

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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.

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