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v LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

1 THE PERSISTENCE AND ETHNIC IDENTITY OF LATINO FRATERNITY MEMBERS AT PREDOMINATELY WHITE INSTITUTIONS IN GEORGIA
CHRISTIAN BELLO ESCOBAR, ED.D., JAMIE L. WORKMAN, PH.D., JAMES MARTINEZ, PH.D., REGINA L. SURIEL, PH.D.

We explored how Latino fraternity members at predominately White institutions in Georgia perceive their affiliation affects their collegiate persistence and ethnic identity development through an interpretive qualitative research design. Torres's Bicultural Orientation Model served as the theoretical framework. Our findings indicate that participants strengthened and solidified their ethnic identity during their college years. Fraternal interactions and their college environment enhanced or helped them solidify their ethnic identity. Latino fraternity members perceived their involvement enhanced their academic persistence through various aspects of brotherhood and academic expectations. Implications for practice and future research are discussed.

23 BEYOND JUNE: (RE)VISITING SORORITY/FRATERNITY MESSAGES ABOUT LGBTQ+ IDENTITIES AND ISSUES FROM 2020-2021

MICHAEL A. GOODMAN, PH.D., AARON GEORGE, SARAH SIMI COHEN, LORAE V. BONAMY-LOHVE

In this critical discourse analysis (CDA), we examine 140 inter/national social sorority and fraternity organizations and their messages—and lack thereof—regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) identities and issues. Just 1.24% (507) of total posts (40,778) during 2020-2021 were about LGBTQ+ identities and issues. Despite the immense increase in LGBTQ+ recognition for most sororities and fraternities during Pride Month (June), CDA allowed us a criticality of these messages, both within and outside of Pride Month. Recommendations include being explicit about “LGBTQ+” framing, and also call for continued research to understand how organizations and members engage online.

41 RECONCEPTUALIZING INDIGENEITY WITHIN THE FRATERNITY AND SORORITY COMMUNITY

ROBIN ZAPE-TAH-HOL-AH MINTHORN, PH.D., NATALIE ROSE YOUNGBULL, PH.D.,
JAMES D. WAGNON, AMBER SILVERHORN-WOLFE

The purpose of this article provides fraternity and sorority communities with an understanding of the impact of a Native American sisterhood on the cultivation in how it conceptualized itself, its centering an Indigenous structure, and how it affirms the women who join through building relationality. Through the first research inquiry of a Native American sisterhood, the findings reveal/highlight how the sisterhood has centered Indigeneity in its conception to how it lives today. Fraternity and sorority communities need to shift their culture to honor Indigenous ways of being.

51 ADDRESSING RACISM THROUGH ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENTS: EXAMINING NPC SORORITIES WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

ERICKA ROLAND, PH.D., COURTNEY MATTHEWS, PH.D.

NPC sororities (inter)national organizations posted countless messages to websites and social media platforms against racism following the summer of 2020 racial protests. The purpose of this study was to conduct a critical content analysis of the twenty-six NPC (inter)national organizations' websites and Facebook pages to evaluate the messages about racism following the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Three findings were identified: naming systemic racism, acknowledging the organization's history and values related to racism, and calling for individual and organizational action. Findings suggest NPC sororities' must communicate explicitly about their values and action in addressing racism in society and organization to move towards racial equity.

65 BOOK REVIEW: GARCIA, C. & DURAN, A. (2021). MOVING CULTRALLY-BASED SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES FORWARD. PETER LANG.

REVIEWED BY SHELISSA NEWBALL

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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.

Visit www.afa1976.org or <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/oracle/> for more detailed submission guidelines.

ADAM M. MCCREADY, PH.D.

In the first issue of *Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors*¹ (*Oracle*), Hesp (2005) stated that he and others who played a role in founding the journal hoped it would "... become the primary source of wise counsel and responses to specific lines of inquiry related to all aspects of the fraternal word" (p. iv). While I contend that the *Oracle* editors and contributing authors are mere mortals prone to offering occasionally unwise advice (e.g., I suspect that not all recommendations for practice within this journal have stood the test of time), I find it fitting that the final issue of the journal using the *Oracle* moniker aligns with the founders' aspirations to broaden and diversify the scholarship on sororities and fraternities.

Within this issue, Minthorn and colleagues (2022) argued, "It is essential we give voice to the experiences of all [sorority and fraternity] members and be open to our own growth and development. This could provide a pathway to understanding how to evolve as a fraternal movement" (p. 51). For far too long *Oracle* has centered historically white sororities and fraternities or Western ways of knowing. I am excited that the scholarship in this issue either centers or explores the experiences of sorority and fraternity members with minoritized racial or ethnic identities (see Bello Escobar et al. 2022; Minthorn et al., 2022), or critically examines the discourse of international sorority and fraternity organizations related to racism (see Roland & Matthews, 2022) or LGBTQ+ identities (see Goodman et al., 2022). By raising the voices of sorority or fraternity members with oppressed identities and critiquing the discourse of the fraternal word, it is my hope that this scholarship causes practitioners and scholars to critically reflect on and interrogate the structures and forces within the sorority and fraternity movement that hinder its advancement.

In addition to the four empirical articles, this issue also includes a review by Newball (2022) of Garcia and Duran's (2021) edited book, *Moving Culturally-based Sororities and Fraternities Forward*. Newball commended Garcia and Duran for their editorial efforts, and noted that more work remains to advance culturally-based organizations.

On the eve of journal's transition to the *Journal of Sorority and Fraternity Life Research and Practice* in 2023, it is also my hope that the content of this issue serves as a beacon to scholars who aim to examine and explore the assumptions underlying the sorority and fraternity movement, uplift the voices of members and other constituents with marginalized identities and experiences, or challenge the oppressive contexts within and external to these organizations. Your scholarship is welcomed by the editorial leadership team as we continue to champion "... lines of inquiry related to all aspects of the fraternal world" (Hesp, 2005, p. iv).

¹ The original name of the journal was actually "*Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors*," because the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors membership did not amend the Association name until 2009 (see Whittier, 2009). The name of the journal was revised subsequent to this amendment.

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