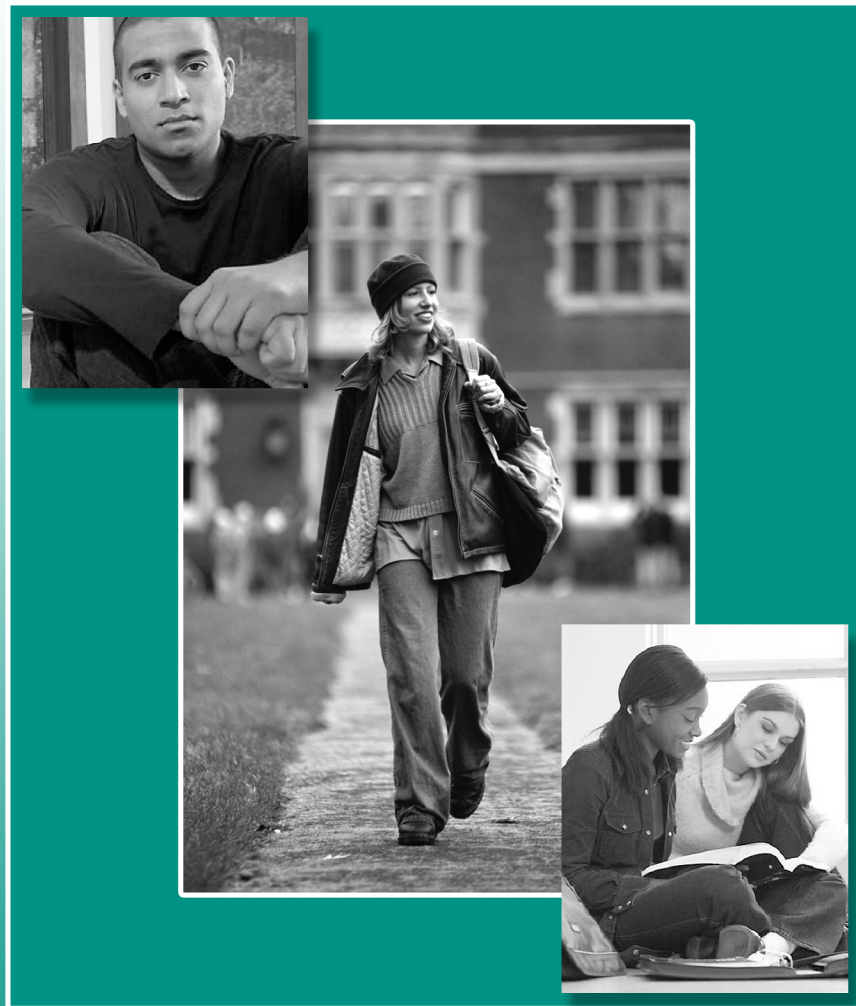


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*The Research Journal of the
Association of Fraternity Advisors*



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- iii [EDITORIAL TEAM](#)
- iv [GENERAL INFORMATION](#)
- v [EDITORIAL: THE SECRET TO ADDING ARTICLE WRITING TO YOUR LIFE](#)
J. Patrick Biddix, Ph.D.
- 1 [“STEP UP AND DO IT”: FRATERNITY AND SORORITY MEMBERS’ BELIEFS ABOUT CITIZENSHIP](#)
Amie Jackson and Susan V. Iverson, Ed.D.
This qualitative study sought to investigate fraternity and sorority members’ beliefs about citizenship and how students’ involvement in fraternities and sororities contributed to shaping their views on citizenship. Through focus groups and individual interviews with fraternity and sorority members at one private, research university in the Midwest, this study revealed students’ opinions on how their involvement in fraternities and sororities raised their awareness about social concerns, shaped their values, and modeled the necessity to take action in their community. Following a discussion of these findings, the authors propose suggestions for student affairs administrators to develop the role fraternities and sororities must play in fostering members’ citizenship development.
- 17 [THE IMPACT OF VISION STANDARDS ON FRATERNAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS](#)
Sarah E. Schoper
At the University of Maryland, four governing councils oversee 57 chapters within the fraternal community. For over 10 years, each chapter has been obligated to fulfill Vision Standards, set by the University, to be considered in “good standing” status. The influence of the Vision Standards on a chapter beyond “good standing” status is unknown. This preliminary study uses discriminant function analysis to document the impact of the Vision Standards on chapters’ learning environments. Exploring the impact of the Vision Standards on chapters’ learning environments is consistent with the value of scholarship held by fraternal organizations and would allow chapter environments to be intentionally structured for academic success. Finally, understanding the impact of the Vision Standards on chapters’ learning environments would allow the fraternal community to articulate how it contributes to a positive learning environment.
- 29 [LIVING IN YOUR LETTERS: ASSESSING CONGRUENCE BETWEEN ESPOUSED AND ENACTED VALUES OF ONE FRATERNITY/SORORITY COMMUNITY](#)
Heather Matthews, Leigh Featherstone, Lisa Bluder, Allison J. Gerling, Sarah Loge, and Rachel B. Messenger
Fraternity and sorority members have long been charged with fulfilling the espoused values of their organizations. Although several studies have explored the gap between the actions and values of undergraduate fraternal members and their institutions, few have

examined the degree to which the publicly stated values of fraternal organizations are enacted by members. Using qualitative methodology, researchers compared the creeds and mission statements of undergraduate fraternal organizations to member actions observed on the campus transit system. Results indicated that while there is some congruence between organizational and institutional values and member actions, there are also areas of disconnect for members related to their values.

42 **SORORITY MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES OF CHAPTER RACIAL INTEGRATION**

Jennifer T. Edwards

The survival of social fraternal organizations may depend on whether or not members understand the importance of increasing the racial/ethnic diversity of their membership (Boschini & Thompson, 1998). Higher education institutions can emphasize the importance of diversity through university culture, vision, and support systems. A qualitative study was conducted to identify and compare the perceptions of members of historically Black and White sororities regarding racial diversity within their chapters. The purpose of this study was to explore the level of openness towards racial integration among members of both historically Black and White sororities. Findings suggest members of sororities may not support the recruitment of racially diverse members.

55 **ESTABLISHING BLACK IDENTITY AT A PREDOMINANTLY WHITE INSTITUTION: THE INFLUENCE OF A HYBRID PLEDGE/INTAKE PROCESS UTILIZING NGUZO SABA PRINCIPLES**

Katherine D. Lloyd

Racial identity is a critical aspect of individual identity (Chavez & Guido-DiBrito, 1999). Using a case study approach, the author investigated what influence a hybrid pledge/intake program that utilized Nguzo Saba, a set of seven African principles, had on Black identity development. Four Black males¹ who attended a predominantly White institution (PWI) participated in an interview about their new member process. Findings showed that the hybrid pledge/intake process paralleled Nguzo Saba, and that this process may have positively influenced their racial identity (Howard-Hamilton, 1997). Therefore, student affairs professionals could seek to use the Nguzo Saba principles as a framework in their practice with Black students to support their racial identity development.

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Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity 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 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 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 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://www.fraternityadvisors.org/Oracle.aspx> for more detailed submission guidelines.