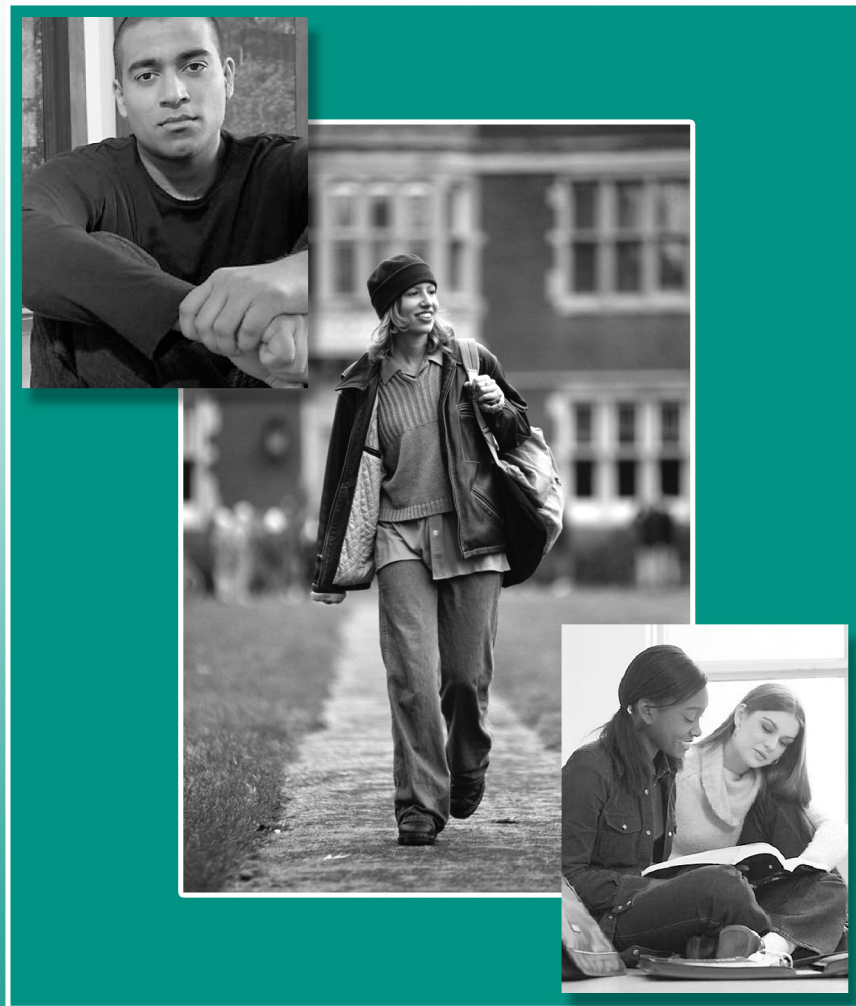


ORACLE

*The Research Journal of the
Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors*



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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

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.

16 [FRATERNAL LEADERSHIP: DIFFERENCES IN LEADERSHIP PRACTICES AMONG FOUR GOVERNING COUNCILS](#)

Anthony Nicholas DiChiara

In this study three hundred members of fraternities and sororities at a large, public, land-grant institution located in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States responded to the items of Kouzes & Posner's Student Leadership Practices Inventory (SLPI) (Kouzes & Posner, 2006). The results of the study were used to determine the leadership practices of the respondent group and the chapter members representing the four governing councils for fraternities and sororities at the host institution. Additionally, this study sought to identify the differences in leadership practices among members of the four governing councils. The results of the study indicated no significant differences in leadership practices subscales between members of the governing councils. Significant differences were found in specific SLPI items between the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Council (NPC), and differences were also found between the IFC/NPC and the United Council of Fraternities & Sororities (UCFS) councils. This study has practical implications for professionals who work closely with fraternities and sororities through understanding the leadership practices of members.

30 **RISK REDUCTION AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS: TORT LIABILITY, LEGISLATION, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PRACTICE**

Jeffery D. Hall

Tort liability claims against colleges and universities in response to student-related injuries and deaths compel administrators to develop a complete understanding of the university-student relationship so that they may actively engage in risk reduction strategies. With several states enacting anti-hazing, alcohol, and risk management education legislation, universities have been driven to develop and implement strategies that address risk management concerns associated with fraternities, sororities, and other student organizations to support core institutional mission and values. In this manuscript the author reviews the emergence of tort liability on college and university campuses, critiques recent risk management legislation, provides examples and suggestions for crafting risk management policies and developing educational programming for fraternities, sororities, and other student organizations, and outlines recommendations for practice.

41 **SPIRITUALITY OF COLLEGE STUDENTS: AN EXAMINATION OF FRATERNITY/SORORITY MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER GROUPS**

Bradley M. Webb and John A. Mueller

This quantitative study utilized the Assessment of Spirituality and Religious Sentiments (ASPIRES) (Piedmont, 1999) to investigate levels of spirituality in fraternity/sorority member and non-affiliated students. Data analysis on 123 participants at a mid-sized public institution in the mid-Atlantic region revealed significant differences on connectedness aspects of spirituality.

56 **LEARNING COMMUNITIES IN FRATERNITY/SORORITY HOUSING**

Sean S. Blackburn and Steven M. Janosik

The purpose of this study was to examine the degree to which members living in fraternity/sorority housing experienced learning outcomes associated with living in a residential learning community. Additionally, the study explored differences in the degree to which selected learning outcomes were achieved by members of fraternities compared to members of sororities. Data were collected by administering the Learning Communities Assessment (Turrentine, 2001) to members living in fraternity and sorority houses at a major research institution in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Respondents characterized their fraternity/sorority living experience as an important living community, but not as a learning community.

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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 <http://www.fraternityadvisors.org/Oracle.aspx> for more detailed submission guidelines.