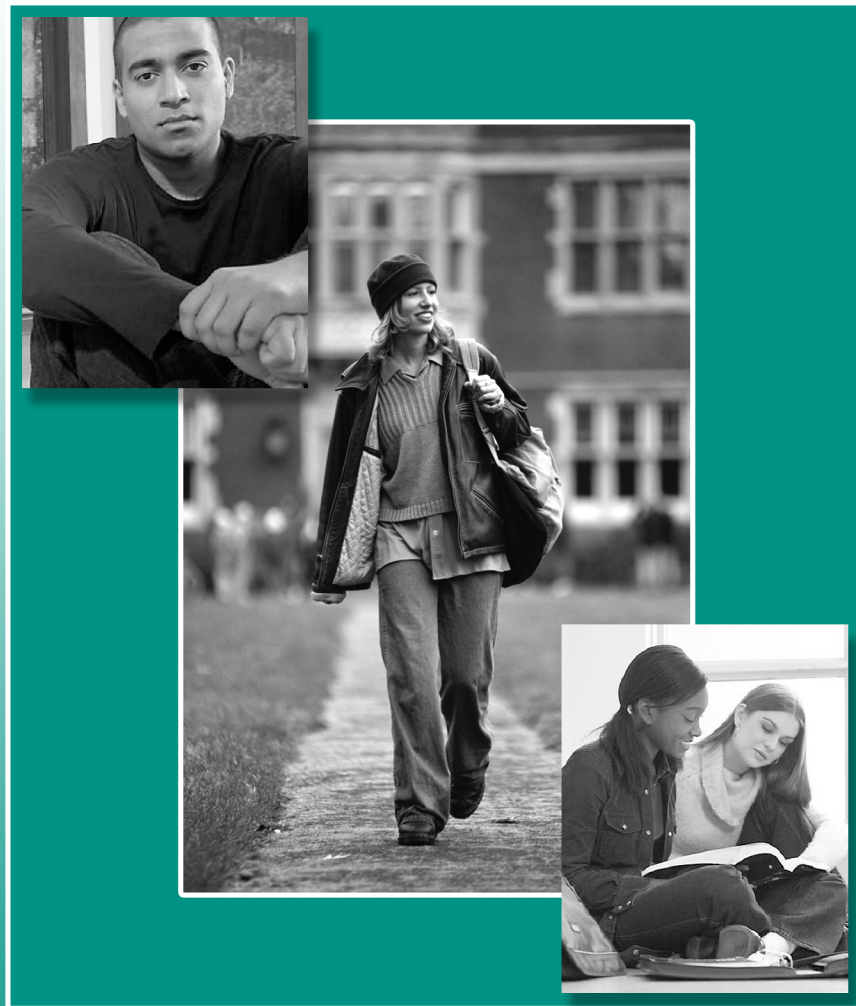


ORACLE

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



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

iii	<u>EDITORIAL TEAM</u>
iv	<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>
v	<u>EDITORIAL: NOT “GREEK” UNLESS YOU ARE FROM GREECE: WORKING TO IDENTIFY INCLUSIVE RESEARCH TERMS</u> J. Patrick Biddix
1	<u>DIFFERENCES IN SELF-AWARENESS RELATED MEASURES AMONG CULTURALLY BASED FRATERNITY, SOCIAL FRATERNITY, AND NON-AFFILIATED COLLEGE MEN</u> Tricia R. Shalka and Susan R. Jones <i>This study examined differences among men affiliated with culturally based fraternities, men affiliated with social fraternities, and non-affiliated men on measures of consciousness of self and congruence. Data were collected in the spring of 2006 from 1,698 undergraduates, representing 46 different higher education institutions, as part of the Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership (MSL). Analysis of data was conducted using MANCOVA to compare independent variable group differences across the two dependent variables, while taking quasi pre-test measures for both items into account as covariates. Significant differences among culturally based fraternity men, social fraternity men, and non-affiliated men were found on the combination of dependent variables. Further analyses revealed culturally based fraternity men scored lower than social fraternity men and non-affiliated men on both consciousness of self and congruence.</i>
12	<u>FRATERNITY/SORORITY MEMBERSHIP: GOOD NEWS ABOUT FIRST-YEAR IMPACT</u> Robert DeBard and Casey Sacks <i>Much has been written about the importance of student involvement for building a sense of belonging on college campuses. Fraternity/sorority membership, as a form of undergraduate involvement, frequently invokes perceptions of misbehavior more often than positive outcomes. This study considered the impact of fraternity/sorority membership on the academic performance of more than 45,000 first-year students, from 17 different institutions. Quantitative analysis involved grades, credit hours earned, and retention. Findings offer a comprehensive view for judging the efficacy of maintaining fraternal organizations on college campuses and encouragement to individual institutions to use this methodology to inform institutional policy, particularly the potential benefits of deferring recruitment.</i>

24 **WHY UNDERGRADUATES AREN'T "GOING GREEK": ATTRACTION, AFFILIATION, AND RETENTION IN FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES**

Kristin S. Fouts

Declining interest in fraternity/sorority membership on many campuses has led advisors, campus-based professionals, and inter/national organization staff to consider reasons why some students choose not to join. This study sought to identify the factors that influence attraction, affiliation, and retention in fraternities and sororities. Results from this multi-institution, quantitative study (n = 1,432) indicated time, financial obligations, and lack of perceived personal benefit deter many students from pursuing membership. Discussion focused on recommendations for addressing myths, stereotypes, and other uncertainties, using clear and explicit information about the obligations of membership, and encouraging members to engage potential members in positive interactions throughout the year.

34 **FRATERNITY MEMBERS' VIEWS OF NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES**

Craig Tollini and Beate Wilson

The purpose of this study was to have fraternity members identify the negative stereotypes they believed other members of the university community had of them and the extent to which these stereotypes were both accurate and/or damaging to their chapters. To gather these perspectives, which provide administrators, faculty, and staff members with a better understanding of how fraternity members view themselves and why they act as they do, a qualitative study consisting of five focus groups was conducted with 30 men from five Interfraternity Council (IFC) member fraternities at a medium-sized, Midwestern, public university. The seven most common negative stereotypes discussed among participants were drinking, womanizing, hazing, poor academic performance, paying for friends, being arrogant, and not performing community service. Each group held slightly different views on which stereotypes were true, untrue, or most damaging. Implications of these findings along with recommendations for practitioners and researchers are provided.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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.