



# ORACLE

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1	<b><u>STUDENT LEARNING IN FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES: USING NSSE DATA TO DESCRIBE MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATIONALLY MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES IN COLLEGE</u></b> <b>Dan Bureau, Helen Grace Ryan, Chad Ahren, Rick Shoup, and Vasti Torres</b> <i>The benefits and challenges for college students involved in social fraternities and sororities have long been sources of heated discussion among higher education constituents. A liberal education is meant to incorporate elements of critical thinking, diverse experiences, and challenging and enriching interactions with peers and educators. Past research indicates that involvement in a fraternity or sorority has had some positive effect in these areas, especially as students persist at their chosen institutions. This study uses data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to explore indicators of student learning among senior members of social fraternities and sororities. Regression analyses controlling for conditional variables indicated that students in these groups report higher involvement in critical developmental practices and larger gains in important educational areas than their unaffiliated counterparts. Limitations and implications of the study are discussed.</i>
23	<b><u>AN EXPLORATION OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES OF UNDERGRADUATE FRATERNITY MEMBERS</u></b> <b>Larry Long</b> <i>Previous research found an unwelcoming environment may hinder the identity development of college students. Furthermore, studies revealed gay, bisexual, and questioning (GBQ) students may encounter a hostile environment in college fraternities. This influenced the researcher to question if fraternities are as effective in producing educational gains for GBQ members as for heterosexual members. In the present study, the researcher sampled 286 GBQ and 286 heterosexual fraternity members from the aggregate results of the campuses that used the AFA/EBI Fraternity/Sorority Assessment in 2009 or 2010. The researcher conducted rank-based analyses of variance to assess the differences in personal gains, alcohol use, leadership experience, and satisfaction of fraternity members by sexual orientation. Results revealed heterosexual fraternity members reported greater gains as a result of their fraternity experience for the majority of the personal gains measures. There were no differences in alcohol use, leadership experience, and satisfaction of fraternity members by sexual orientation.</i>

**39**     **SPIRITUAL VALUES AMONG FRATERNITY MEN COMPARED TO  
UNAFFILIATED MEN AND THE INFLUENCE OF HEGEMONIC  
MASCULINITY**

**Jason B. Goldfarb and Charles G. Eberly**

*The article is based on the Center for the Study of the College Fraternity's 2009 Adele Williamson Outstanding Masters Research Award winning thesis entitled, "Student Spiritual Development Associated with Fraternity Affiliation." Using data (n = 1,211) from the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) 2003 pilot survey instrument, College Students' Beliefs and Values, funded by the John Templeton Foundation, this study examined the relationship between fraternity affiliation, hegemonic masculinity, spirituality, religion, and other associated spiritual/religious factors. Significant differences were found regarding measures of spirituality and associated beliefs and values between fraternity-affiliated and non-affiliated participants, as well as respondents' relative levels of hegemonic masculinity. Discussion and implications for practice offer consideration for practitioners and fraternity advisors with enhancing local chapter programming, creating new programs, or finding ways of reinforcing college fraternal organizations' core values, particularly as they address issues of spirituality and personal religious growth, and a healthy conception of manhood.*

**58**     **CHANGING TRENDS IN THE UNDERGRADUATE FRATERNITY/SORORITY  
EXPERIENCE: AN EVALUATIVE AND ANALYTICAL LITERATURE  
REVIEW**

**Amy B. Perkins, J. Daniel Zimmerman, and Steven M. Janosik**

*Fraternal organizations in American institutions of higher education have a significant influence on student life and campus culture. Historically, research has shown that fraternities and sororities provide environments that support negative and often illegal activities that can be detrimental to individuals and communities at large. However, recent research has identified new trends that suggest this may be changing. This article identifies these trends and implications.*

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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.