

## **SPRING INTO PROFESSIONAL GROWTH! INCORPORATING RESEARCH INTO YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PRACTICE**

**GEORGIANNA L. MARTIN, ORACLE EDITOR**

Spring is upon us! It's that time of year when we start spending more time outside: farmer's markets, festivals, swimming, hiking, BBQs, and more. It's also a hectic time as many of us plan for the end of another academic year. As we welcome spring and close out another academic year, let's take time to assess where we are professionally and what we've accomplished this year. Did you keep your professional development goals this year? Did you succeed in launching the initiative you've been thinking about and planning for the last 18 months? Did you finish your dissertation? Did you read all of the books you had on your 'to do list' this year? If you're anything like me, you may find that you fall a bit short of the lofty expectations you set for yourself from time to time. However, you also can probably identify a number of wins this year! Did you have any moments where you genuinely felt like you helped a student or an organization? Did you take pride in mentoring a new colleague at your institution or within your organization? Did you read any of the books on your 'to do list' this year? Did you have any moments that reminded you why you love your job? Spring is a time to reflect on where we've been and to push the reset button as the summer approaches.

In addition to enjoying more time outdoors, what new goals might you set for yourself professionally? Are there reading, writing, or planning goals you need to make a priority this summer? For many of you catching up on recent research in the field might make it to your list of goals; we have four articles in this issue of Oracle that can help you accomplish that goal! I hope for some of you that contributing to the research in the field by conducting your own study (and submitting it to Oracle!) is part of your plan. In the spirit of continual improvement, I encourage us all to take a moment to think about how we contribute to the research in the field. Maybe it's through being a good consumer of research or maybe it is through encouraging dialogue among your colleagues (or students!) about a recent article you've read. Maybe it's through writing and conducting research on your own or with a group or maybe it's through blogging about how you can translate research to practice for other professionals in the field.

In the Spring 2016 issue you will find four articles that contribute to the growing body of literature on the fraternity/sorority experience. First, Colleen Kase, Natasha Rivera, and Melissa G. Hunt discuss how sorority recruitment contributes to psychological well-being and social support in their article titled *The Effects of Sorority Recruitment on Psychological Well-being and Social Support*. This particular article adds to the growing body of literature exploring how various aspects of the fraternity/sorority experience influence college outcomes. Next, in their article titled *Examining Social Desirability Orientation and Alcohol Use Expectations as Factors in Fraternity Drinking*, Pietro Sasso and Alan M. Schwitzer discuss the relationship between students' expectations for alcohol use and social desirability adding further nuance to the already sizeable research on fraternity alcohol use. Then, Liz Rohan's historical piece titled *The Historical Construction of the "College Man" Identity and World War I Era Archive of a Denison University Fraternity Man* explores the diaries of John Price and offers Oracle readers a rarely seen historical article on the experiences and writing of one fraternity man's struggle to maintain prescribed cultural identities during and after World War I. Finally, we close out this issue with K. Joy Hamm's article *Just the Facts, Bro: Developing a Successful Alcohol Education Program for Fraternity Members*. The final article in this issue presents findings

on an alcohol education intervention (ASTP), a piece that may be particularly helpful for professionals working on harm reduction initiatives. In closing, wherever you find your strengths and talents related to research, I hope you'll consider making research on fraternity/sorority experiences an important part of your professional development goals!