

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

JAMES P. BARBER, EDITOR

The publication of this issue of *Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors* comes on the heels of the 2019 AFA Annual Meeting, which saw fraternity/sorority research take a prominent role, thanks in large part to the efforts of the AFA Research Committee. This Annual Meeting included over 20 sessions with original research or methodology as a focus. Each programming block at the meeting included at least one research-based presentation. There was one dedicated research paper session this year, featuring three research presentations and critique by a discussant, a first for an AFA Annual Meeting. In addition, there was a roundtable session specifically for those members interested in research, and a presentation from the *Oracle* editors on the academic publishing process.

The authors in this issue of *Oracle* offer research on a wide variety of topics in fraternity/sorority life, including philanthropy, hazing, and career longevity. Garth Heutel, Koren Hardy, Mackenzie Marti Slater, and Gregory S. Parks analyzed Black Greek-Letter Organization philanthropy using archival data collection and quantitative methods. Kate Steiner studied the experiences of fraternity/sorority advising professionals who have been in the field for at least five years to learn about the strategies they used to sustain their careers in the field. From her research, she developed a career sustainability and wellness model. Brian Richardson, Steve Rains, and Camille Hall-Ortega examined the relationships between organizational affiliation, hazing severity, and the willingness of members to intervene and report hazing incidents. Emily Feuer investigated how administrators and students defined hazing at two higher education institutions using Bolman and Deal's (2017) four-frame model.

This issue features the first article that was written in part at the AFA Oracle Research Writers' Retreat. Kate Steiner's investigation of the resilience of fraternity/sorority professionals began with her Ph.D. dissertation research for Counselor Education and Supervision at the University of Wyoming (Steiner, 2017).¹ She refined her work and finalized her manuscript at the 2018 and 2019 Oracle Retreats. The Oracle Retreat takes place over a week in July on the campus of William & Mary, the birthplace of Phi Beta Kappa, the first collegiate Greek-letter organization. The retreat offers an opportunity to come together with fellow researchers, programming each day related to academic writing and the fraternal experience, and most importantly time and a quiet space to write. We are grateful to the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors and the AFA Foundation for their generous support of the Oracle Retreat.

Finally, this issue brings transitions to the *Oracle* editorial board. Dr. DJ Mitchell is completing his term as associate editor. *Oracle* has benefitted greatly from DJ's expertise and keen attention to detail. Dr. Mitchell has been an asset to *Oracle* and the fraternity/sorority advising profession broadly during his time on the board, and I am grateful for his service over the past two years. Thank you for your contributions, and we wish you well!

¹Steiner, K. D. (2017). *Anchor down: A grounded theory study of sustaining careers in the Fraternity/Sorority advising profession* (Order No. 10685786). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (2035389295).