



# ORACLE

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**MICHAEL D. GIACALONE, PH.D.**

*Membership in historically White sororities and fraternities (HWSF) has been connected with sense of belonging (Cohen et al., 2017; McCreary & Schutts, 2015). The experience of commuter students in sororities and fraternities, however, has been largely overlooked, including an understanding of what belonging consists of as members. This phenomenological study sought to close that gap by exploring how commuter students in HWSF experienced belonging at primarily commuter public institutions through interviews with alumni who lived that experience. Three themes emerged from the data: personal connections, feeling welcomed and accepted, and transformation of the college experience.*

17 **DIFFERENCES IN INFORMAL ALCOHOL PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOR STRATEGIES BETWEEN FRATERNITY & SORORITY MEMBERS**

**JAIME L. MYERS, PH.D., PIETRO A. SASSO, PH.D.**

*Institutional interventions and formal policies designed to reduce alcohol misuse among fraternity and sorority members have been largely unsuccessful. However, informal policies to address alcohol use concerns can also develop within this subculture. This qualitative multi-case phenomenological study examined the informal policies chapters adopt to reduce risks associated with drinking. Findings suggested considerable informal policy development, which varies between fraternities and sororities. Sorority groups implemented more protective behavior strategies for members' safety, whereas fraternities often focus on monitoring outside groups. Implications for practice suggest a combination of risk and harm-reduction approaches that facilitate peer-led protective behavioral strategies.*

**37 NPHC AND MGC SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES AS SPACES OF ACTIVISM WITHIN PREDOMINANTLY WHITE INSTITUTIONS**

**CRYSTAL E. GARCIA, Ph.D., WILLIAM R. WALKER, M.Ed., CIERA A. DORSEY, M.Ed., ZACHARY W. WERNINCK, M.Ed., JESSIE H. JOHNS, M.Ed.**

*This study explored how Students of Color within National Pan-Hellenic Council and Multicultural Greek Council sororities and fraternities engaged in activism and in what ways this involvement connected to their membership. Using a qualitative critical narrative approach, we examined the journeys of ten participants. Findings unpack ways participants engaged in activism and resistance aimed at educating individuals and increasing awareness of societal injustices, addressing inequities through service, and inciting disruption and cultivating institutional and societal level change.*

**55 SENSE OF BELONGING OF NEW MEMBERS WHO ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS: A SINGLE-INSTITUTION QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY**

**LEVI J. HARREL-HALLMARK, Ed.D., JASON CASTLES, Ed.D., PIETRO A. SASSO, Ph.D.**

*While there is research to suggest that first-generation college students benefit from and have a greater sense of belonging as a result of involvement in student organizations, there is limited research on how first-generation college students develop a sense of belonging specifically through their involvement as new members of a fraternity or sorority. This study, constructed within a single-institution qualitative case study framework, highlighted the unique role that organizational involvement, mentorship, emotional support, and first-generation status and identity can play in the development of sense of belonging for fraternity and sorority new members that are first-generation college students.*

**75 BOOK REVIEW: PIETRO A. SASSO, J. PATRICK BIDDIX, & MÓNICA LEE MIRANDA. (2020). SUPPORTING FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES IN THE CONTEMPORARY ERA: ADVANCEMENTS IN PRACTICE. MYERS EDUCATION PRESS.**

**REVIEWED BY SHANTÉ C. HEARST & KEVIN J. BAZNER**

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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.

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