

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:
REFLECTING ON THE PAST TO ASPIRE FOR THE FUTURE

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In the first issue of *Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors*¹ (*Oracle*), Hesp (2005) stated that he and others who played a role in founding the journal hoped it would "... become the primary source of wise counsel and responses to specific lines of inquiry related to all aspects of the fraternal word" (p. iv). While I contend that the *Oracle* editors and contributing authors are mere mortals prone to offering occasionally unwise advice (e.g., I suspect that not all recommendations for practice within this journal have stood the test of time), I find it fitting that the final issue of the journal using the *Oracle* moniker aligns with the founders' aspirations to broaden and diversify the scholarship on sororities and fraternities.

Within this issue, Minthorn and colleagues (2022) argued, "It is essential we give voice to the experiences of all [sorority and fraternity] members and be open to our own growth and development. This could provide a pathway to understanding how to evolve as a fraternal movement" (p. 51). For far too long *Oracle* has centered historically white sororities and fraternities or Western ways of knowing. I am excited that the scholarship in this issue either centers or explores the experiences of sorority and fraternity members with minoritized racial or ethnic identities (see Bello Escobar et al. 2022; Minthorn et al., 2022), or critically examines the discourse of international sorority and fraternity organizations related to racism (see Roland & Matthews, 2022) or LGBTQ+ identities (see Goodman et al., 2022). By raising the voices of sorority or fraternity members with oppressed identities and critiquing the discourse of the fraternal word, it is my hope that this scholarship causes practitioners and scholars to critically reflect on and interrogate the structures and forces within the sorority and fraternity movement that hinder its advancement.

In addition to the four empirical articles, this issue also includes a review by Newball (2022) of Garcia and Duran's (2021) edited book, *Moving Culturally-based Sororities and Fraternities Forward*. Newball commended Garcia and Duran for their editorial efforts, and noted that more work remains to advance culturally-based organizations.

On the eve of journal's transition to the *Journal of Sorority and Fraternity Life Research and Practice* in 2023, it is also my hope that the content of this issue serves as a beacon to scholars who aim to examine and explore the assumptions underlying the sorority and fraternity movement, uplift the voices of members and other constituents with marginalized identities and experiences, or challenge the oppressive contexts within and external to these organizations. Your scholarship is welcomed by the editorial leadership team as we continue to champion "... lines of inquiry related to all aspects of the fraternal world" (Hesp, 2005, p. iv).

¹ The original name of the journal was actually "*Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors*," because the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors membership did not amend the Association name until 2009 (see Whittier, 2009). The name of the journal was revised subsequent to this amendment.

References

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