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Letter from the Editor: Changing Seasons of Oracle

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McCready: Letter from the Editor: Changing Seasons of Oracle

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: CHANGING SEASONS OF ORACLE

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While writing this letter, I am glancing out my window at the changing fall foliage in New England. The leaves are beautiful shades of yellow, orange, red and brown. I am not sure if it is the beauty and diversity of fall colors or the change in seasons, but the moment has me reflecting on the evolution of *Oracle: The Research Journal of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors* over the past year. The vision for the journal is to serve as the premier forum for academic discourse and scholarly inquiry regarding the college sorority and fraternity movement. To strive for this vision, my editorial leadership colleagues and I have worked to recruit, on-board and retain editors and peer reviewers who represent the diversity of identities and experiences within sororities and fraternities and the sorority and fraternity life profession. Among other identities and experiences, we are proud that our editorial board now includes members of sororities and fraternities affiliated with National APIDA Panhellenic Association, National Pan-Hellenic Council, National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations, National Panhellenic Conference and North American Interfraternity Conference. More work needs to be done to increase the representation on our board, as we know our composition affects who chooses to submit their scholarship to *Oracle*, and how our editors and peer reviewers engage with this work.

The four research articles and book review in Volume 17, Issue 2 align with the vision for *Oracle*, and enhance our understanding about sorority and fraternity members. In the first article of the issue, Sasso and colleagues (2022) found that the white fraternity men in their study felt dispossessed from hegemonic masculinity. They identified that these men responded through (un)conscious habits of whiteness, including the appropriation of Black culture to perform protest masculinity.

The next article by Grace and colleagues (2022) examined the relationship between sorority and fraternity affiliation and students' mental health and wellness. Within their sample, they found that sorority and fraternity affiliated students report higher levels of positive mental health along with lower rates of depression and anxiety than their unaffiliated peers.

Using a constructivist qualitative design, Duran and colleagues (2022) investigated the perceived challenges faced by culturally-based sororities and fraternities (CBSFs) on college campuses as identified by sorority and fraternity life (SFL) practitioners who work with these organizations. Relying on the perspectives of these practitioners, they found that sorority and fraternity communities implicitly and explicitly center historically white sororities and fraternities (HWSFs), marginalizing CBSFs. In addition, their findings suggest that CBSFs lack the resources to achieve their full potential. Finally, in communities that center HWSFs, SFL practitioners may lack the preparation or motivation to support CBSFs.

Finally, Goodman and Arndt (2022) examined the identities, institutional contexts, and experiences of student government presidents affiliated with sororities and fraternities, and compared these identities, contexts and experiences with those of unaffiliated student government presidents. They found that approximately 30 percent of the 218 student government presidents in their study reported being affiliated with sororities and fraternities, and found similarities and differences between the identities, institutional contexts and experiences between these students and their peers.

In addition to the four research articles, the issue also contains a review of Sasso and colleagues' (2020) edited volume *Foundations, Research, and Assessment of Fraternities and Sororities: Retrospective and Future Considerations* by Silva Tovar and Díaz (2022). Cumulatively, the articles and book review increase our understanding of members' experiences in sororities and fraternities, and how their experiences compare to unaffiliated students.

References

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