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Black Greek 101: The Culture, Customs, and Challenges of Black Fraternities and Sororities

By Walter M. Kimbrough



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Black Greek 101 provides an analysis of the customs, culture, and challenges facing historically Black fraternal organizations. The text initially provides a history of Black Greek organizations beyond the nine major organizations. Next, the pledging practice of the organizations is chronicled, noting the abuses associated with it, and a recent research study assesses the policies implemented to curb hazing in the organizations. The text highlights the growth of fraternalism outside of the mainstream organizations, with particular emphasis on African fraternal organizations. Then, the vivid culture and practices of the groups is documented, providing a historical grounding of the visible aspects of the groups. Finally, several challenges for the future are highlighted. Readers are also provided with an annotated bibliography of articles, news stories, and books related to Black fraternalism, as well as a chronicle of hazing cases over the past twelve years. Illustrated.



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Review

"Black Greek 101'... has an immense amount of information valuable to Greeks and non-Greeks alike." -- *The Famuan*, October 13, 2003

"... Kimbrough accomplishes a feat that few have dared: capture more than a peripheral snapshot of black Greek Life..." -- *Black Issues Book Review*, January-February 2004

"If you are interested in a thought-provoking discussion of the need for change.... this is a fascinating book." -- *AFA Perspectives*, Winter 2004

"The combination of Kimbrough's research and personal anecdotes result in an impressive publication." -- *Hermes newspaper*, September 9, 2003

"The history and traditions of black fraternities and sororities have been largely ignored by scholars and the mainstream media..." -- *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 31, 2003

"This book offers readers a compelling and succinct guide to historically African American fraternities and sororities." -- *NASPA Leadership Exchange*, Spring 2004

About the Author

Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough currently serves as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia. He is the youngest Chief Student Affairs Officer in the University System of Georgia, and one of the youngest nation-wide. Prior to Albany State, he served at Old Dominion University, Georgia State University and Emory University.

After graduating from the Benjamin E. Mays High School and Academy of Math and Science in Atlanta as the Salutatorian and Student Body President in 1985, Dr. Kimbrough earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Degree from the University of Georgia in 1989. He continued his education at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, completing a Master of Science Degree in 1991, and in 1996 he earned the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Higher Education from Georgia State University.

Dr. Kimbrough has a long history of professional, community and civic involvement. A 1986 initiate of the Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at the University of Georgia, he has served the fraternity as the Southern Region Assistant Vice President and member of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Kimbrough has forged a national reputation as an expert on historically Black fraternities and sororities. He has conducted interviews with national publications including Associated Press, the Washington Post, the New York Times, and Rolling Stone Magazine. A nationally renowned speaker and lecturer, Dr. Kimbrough has given presentations at over 100 universities and 90 conferences.

Dr. Kimbrough was the Alpha Phi Alpha College Brother of the Year for the Southern Region during the 1987-88 school year. He was named the 1994 New Professional of the Year for the Association of Fraternity Advisors, and was a 2001 Nissan-ETS HBCU Fellow.

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