

ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Pi Chapter:
African American Male Identity and Fraternity Culture
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Pi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. at Morgan State University made a significant contribution to the identity construction of college-educated African American men in the state of Maryland. The initiates of Pi Chapter constructed identities that allowed the members to see themselves as participants in mainstream American society as opposed to being marginalized by it. The membership navigated American race relations and constructed identity roles, which included: use of fraternity mentoring opportunities, pursuit of higher education, participation in the Morgan college athletic program, and participation in the United States military. This dissertation discusses the initial role of Black Greek-lettered organizations on HBCU campuses, and provides an overview of Omega's founding on Howard University's campus, and the founding of Pi Chapter at Morgan. Pi Chapter's development is within the context of historical events and American race relations. Consequently, each generation of Pi Chapter initiates reconstructs their own identity in an effort to maintain a relevant role on the Morgan College campus, and within the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.