

8QLYHUVLW\ &RXQFLO RQ 7HDFKLQJ
5HSRUW DQG 5HFRPPHQGDWLRQ V DRGH * &RPSHUHQVOLDRQ DW % F
\$SULO

,QWURGXFWRQ

7KH 8QLYHUVLW\ &RXQGLE\ RYKH FBDFRKYLRQVWZ DFR DFRNHN LQW
JUDGH FRPSUHVVLQR DW % RYFRPQ & R Q DQVLRDQVQV WQR/RPDKNDW
EH ZDUUDQWHG DU B PISIOHI [OQLVQ RCHSDWA BI HGXFDWLRQ D
QRW UHVWULFWHG WR %RVWRQ & B O G H J K H) U Q X W K D V S R X J H W D
JUDGHV DQG WKH QXPEHU B G \$ O J U D G F H V H D W H \$ & G K D V Q V W W K H C
DYHUDJH JUDGH RI WKH JUDG B D V R Y Q J J F O D V Y K I H Q Q X P E H U R I S
JUDGHV LQFUHDVHG IURP LQ WR

WUHQQV FRQWLQXH JUDGH DFRPSDWHVWV RQVZS O B E I X H V D Q G H
HIILDFD\ DV DQ HGXFDWLRQ D V D R R I O D V , L C H D G G E R S D R Q W W E H W
GHSDUWPHQWV DQG H V F K B B O H V D W 7 K & V) E D X U X H M D D V Q G I D L L Y H Q M
D GHSDUWPHQW ZLWK L Q H O O L W K R B G J U R D G H D G X D W H L D W H Z U L W O K K R
RWKHU EHQHILWV DVVRFLDWHG ZLWK L Q L G H S D D O H P V Q W K D Q L V

7KH 8&7 YLHZV WKH FRQWLQJLQJ VUDQ B R I K E R S H K U B M G W D J
% & D V D S U R E O H P J U D G H X D D W L * B Q V R W W R P D V E H D F L O D H W U B M K D Q U D L
DFDGHPLF FKDOOHQJHV DQG H [S H F W D W L R Q V I R U R X U V W X G
E \ V L P S O \ U D L V L Q J J U D G H S / H U E X U Y H W D C H L O W W H P O H Q R X D O F K
FRXUVHV EHFDXWV D W D G H Q V V Q R O B B Q M L Y S H R Y L G X I L G D Q F L Q I
WKH FKDOOHQJH + R Z H Y M U D E R P S I O F L J Q V E H H W K H O D J U D G L Q
SHGDJRJ\ % R V W R Q & R O O H J H Q H Z H G R R M R D F R Q K D O H Z H W D U N L G
V W X G H Q W V ± D Q G K R V Z D D V L Q R Q V W K I O B H H [S H R J U D G G H L Q Q O D W B
D O D U J H U V \ V W H P L F S U R E O H P H B R O O L Y H G V W B W W W D F K Q Q J D F W L
L Q I O D W L R Q Z L W K R X W F R Q R U G H V L O L N H O V D Q Q D W R R S O M R V S H V
Z H R I I H U W K H I R O O R Z L Q J U B M R P P W Q H S D W L R Q W D V Q L E P H G D N H
D Z D U H Q H V V R I W K H S U R E O H P D W % & V X Q G D F R J S V R P R K W H F G E S

5HFRPPHQGDWLRQV

7R KHOS FRQWURV K I H V B W Q B Q Y D Q G J D F R S L C H O D W R Q D W %
& R O O H J H W K H 8 & 7 P D N Q V W I K G R Z H F R P P H Q G D O L L J R I W K D W W K
U H F R P P H Q G D W L R Q V L I L P S H S E B Q D V G G J H D V H Q E J X W K H I S U R E O V
I H H O W K H V H U H F R P P H Q G D W L R Q V F D Q E H X Q G H U W D N H Q H D V
W K H P D V W R W D O V R O X W L Y R Q W K H R W K R X S O G R E B B S V Z R I E W I Q J H I
L V V X H R Q F D P S X V 7 K H V G R W H Q R I Z P B I Q G D W L R Q V \ Z D H V D U H V
U H F R P P H Q G D W L R Q V S U R Y Q L R X W G X E P D G H P S E W W K B X R F D W K R Q D O
3 R O L F \ & R P P L W W H H (3 & L Q R X U N Q R Z B B I G Y H U W K R R V H U H F R P P
Q H Y H U H Q D F W H G

3URYLGH GDWD RQ JUDGHV WR WKH IDFXOW\ FKDLUV I
,W LV FOHDU WR WIOHDBN&7RWNKQ/RZVWKBUIH DERXW JUDGHV
VWDQGDUGV DPRQJ IDFXOW\GHSBIBBPHUVWDFKDLUHQ 3+RZ
UHODWLYH WR P\ SHHUVWUGV DUTXH\YVQRRQVWVHQSUREO
VWHS LV WR SURYLGH GGMWDRR IDFXLOHWDQDQBXFK/DLUV
UFRPPHQQ WKDW DW WKKHHUHGJLRMWHUDDFK SWRPHYLVGHHWKH
IDFXOW\ ZLWK FRSLHV WR FKDLUV DQG GHDQV

7KH HQUROOPHQW LQ HDFK FRXUVH WDXJKW
7KH DYHUDJH DQG PHGLDQ JUDGH LQ HDFK FRXUVH
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)RU FRPSDULVRQ WKH RYHUDOO DYHUDJHV RI WKH
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EH SURYLGHG

2OGHU 8&7 PHPEHUV UHFVDOOIZUKPHQWLRQWZBVWRXWLC
IDFXOW\ FKDLUV DQG GHDQV

7KH \$ 6 (3& UHSRUW UHIHUHQFHG DERYH VXJJHVWV WK
OLQH WKH QXPEVHVFRXOGHEFKSURXRLGDFXOQVDDQW/OWK
DUH HQWHUHG ELQDSULREPWRVZRHGDDSSSRYDO ,QWKL
PHPEHUV FRXOG LQVWDDWDEXWHIRQKRDUHJDFKGFH&UVH E
VXEPLVLRQ 7KH 8&7 VXSBUJHW WKIDWLIGMDPDEXWVNH
LPSOHPHQW WKDQ VLPSON SURYLGGLQJ VXPPDULHV DW W

,QLWLDWH ZLGH GLVFXVLRQ RI JUDGHV DQG JUDGLQJ
'HDQV VKRXOG DVN HLDKVBHGLDFVXFMQRVWRDERXWJU
HVWDEOLVK LWV RZQ JURXOGLQJQRHUPVILWIRHUPVDFPH
JUDGH SRLQW DYHUDJHWRXUGDQVSHZKIRQVDFJHLVHYI
JUDGHV RU ERWK 'HSDUWPHQWGLVPHLUKQFDQVVRHFKZ
ODUJHU SHUKDSV! DQGLWRDOKHUFRXUJHWWHGHV
GHSDUWPHQWV WR VVXPHLWHDEVEIXIVWLRSRUWQRQQRU
2QFH JXLGHOLQGVWKH\HWKRXDEOGLVIRFBQDIXIDFFXOWH
GHSDUWPHQW LQFOXGLQJSDUWVWVWLPVHIDQFXOW\WKHO
QHZHU IDFXOW\ SDUW&F/XQBQORIZJHDFRFRQJGQRILPFV V
OLWWOH LGHD RI KRZ WKHLU FROOHDJXHV JUDGHG
(DFK VFKRRO VKRXOGGGMWDRRUPKLSHUKDSWUXQGHU
RI DQoc FRPPLWVHH RU WKHLU (3&TV 7KH /DZ 6FKR
DQG KDV HVWDEOLVKHGHGHUDDOXDQVUWVHQQMNVIF
ERWK ODUJHU DQG VPDOOHU FODVVHV
)DFXOW\ REYLXXVO\ QGHGLVWVHIIORFLQRLPWA WRRZH
IDFXOW\ PHPEHU GHYIEDWKHIGRSQVUPPHVQVHWKDW
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UHDVRQV IRU WKH GHYLDWLRQ /LNHZLVH FKDLUV

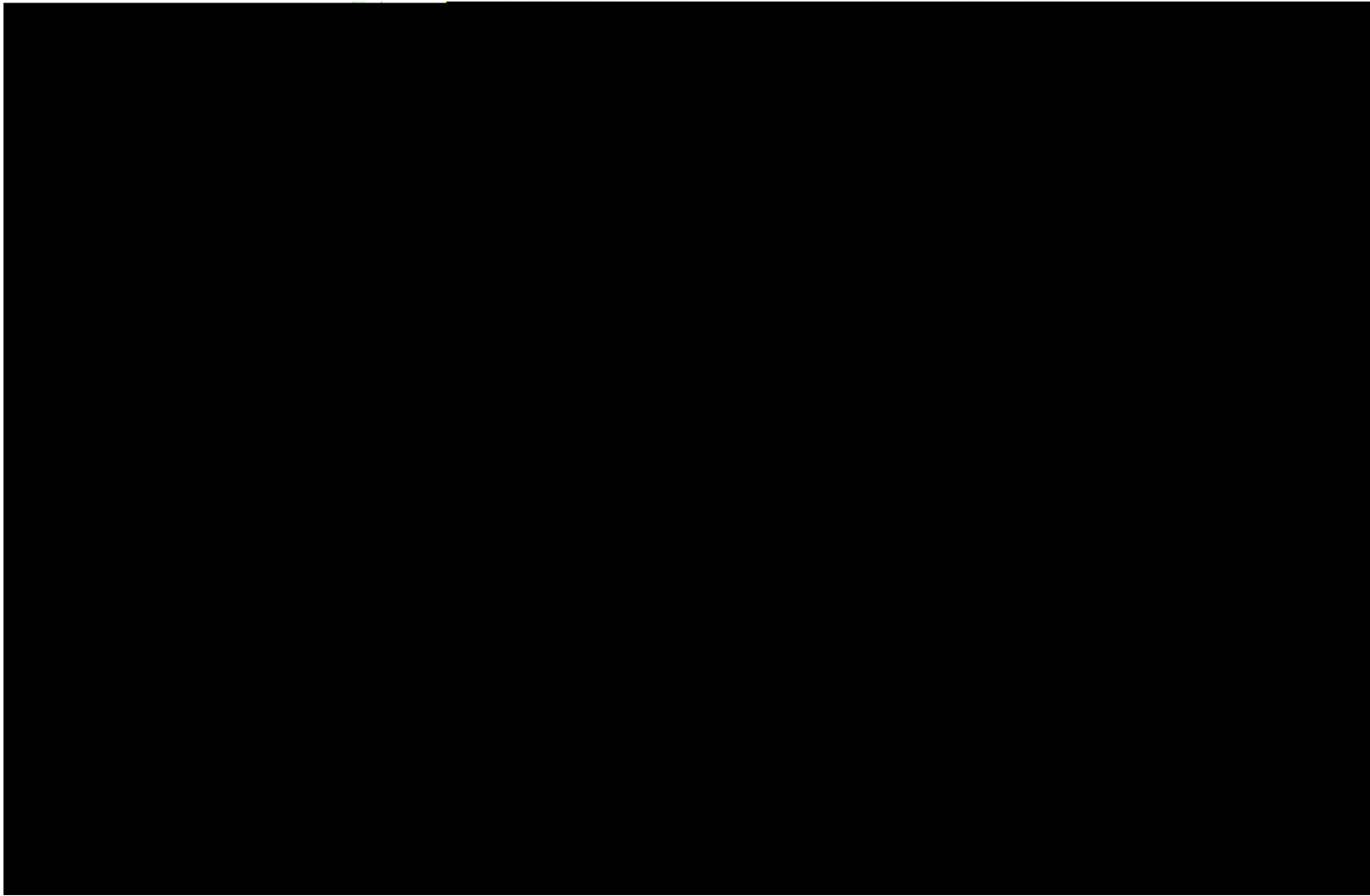
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)DFXOW\ VKRXOG EH DMNHJGDGR UGLOQHWMEFLWLRQXGH
HYDOXDWLRQV DQ SDIYWHZISWRHFHDQQKDFK \H DU

\$UH 7KHVH 0HDVXUHV 1HFHVVDU\"

LPSO\ WKDW WKH DFDGHPLR IH 1/8H FDFXVLRQKDDY G U S P D Q H G G
VWXGHQWV KDYH JRWYQH Q D F W W H D B L Z O Y B E S W W M S H H D L W H W R K D Y H
JUHDWHU WKDQ WKH ULVHJ H Q W H L Q W H W K D W B S T E R Q W U H U S H Q R W
VWDWLF EXW GHFOLQL Q Q W H Q W H B W R D P X O D F K B O D H Q Q J L Q J F D
7KH DUJXPHQW WKDW E D F X R W H O D F R U I R Q F H I Q Q V L V B G L V R Z D
ORUH ULJRURXV JUDGLQJ L W H V P R K R X W W W G W R W R F R P S X O D W Q I H D U
VWXGHQWV PD\ UDQN WKHP O T K L H U L R Q W K R X U J K M H W Y D G K D S V L L R V
IRU QRQ WHQXUHG DQG SDUHDWV L F H W D B R O W X D W B O Z H M G U L W H
EHWWHU FRXUVH HYDOXDW X B C H P S L U Q R V O V X S / S K R U L W M G J E D F F X O
VWXGHQWV DQG KROG WKH W K R K R J K H U D G L V X G H D Q W M R B B X R
REYLRXV WKDW W W K H W H X G F Q V W U P H S E I F W V , I W K H U H Z H U F
JUDGLQJ HVWDEOLVKHG E\ G H S Y D L W X B M Q W Q D Q G L V G F J K V R R D M D F S
JUDGLQJ ZRXOG QRW EH DQ L V V X H

&ORVLQJ VWDWHPHQW

7R FRQWURO JUDG H H L V Q I L R D W L R O O D O H L W R V I U R R P W I K O G 8 Q I L G X
PHPEHUV WR GHSDUWPHQ W G O V K K I D L W R Y R F W R R R I G I H F H Q Q H B G
WKLVSUREOHP 7KH 8&7 W W H R S P I D G B V H W E K H W D R S H Q H D V D I L
DGGUHVVLQJ WKLVSUREOHP L V V X H D W % & : H K R S H W K D W E \ P D N L Q
VROLG JUDGH GLVWULEX W Q B Q J G D W Q H O Q G L W H Q F R V L R D Q I R Q J W K
8QLYHUVLW\ Z L R O Z E K H H D X S Z H W G R W S L U D O R I J U D G H V D Q G D F K
GLVWULEXWLRQ



The above graph is a composite of 80 years of undergraduate grading in the US. Schools represented are listed below. This work would not have been possible without the help of many people including registrars, institutional assessment staff, archivists and random people who decided to search on the web and send me data. Thanks to all, Stuart Rojstaczer, stuart.rosh@gmail.com.

Figure 1

Schools Represented

Alabama 1991-2006

Appalachian State 1968-2006

Auburn 1924-2006

Carleton 1974-2004

Central Florida 1976-2006

Central Michigan 1977-2006

Colorado 1989-2006

Cornell 1990-2006

CSU-East Bay 1980-1999

CSU-Fullerton 1976-2005

CSU-San Bernardino 1965-2006

Dartmouth 1989-2006

Duke 1932-1960, 1969-2001

Florida 1989

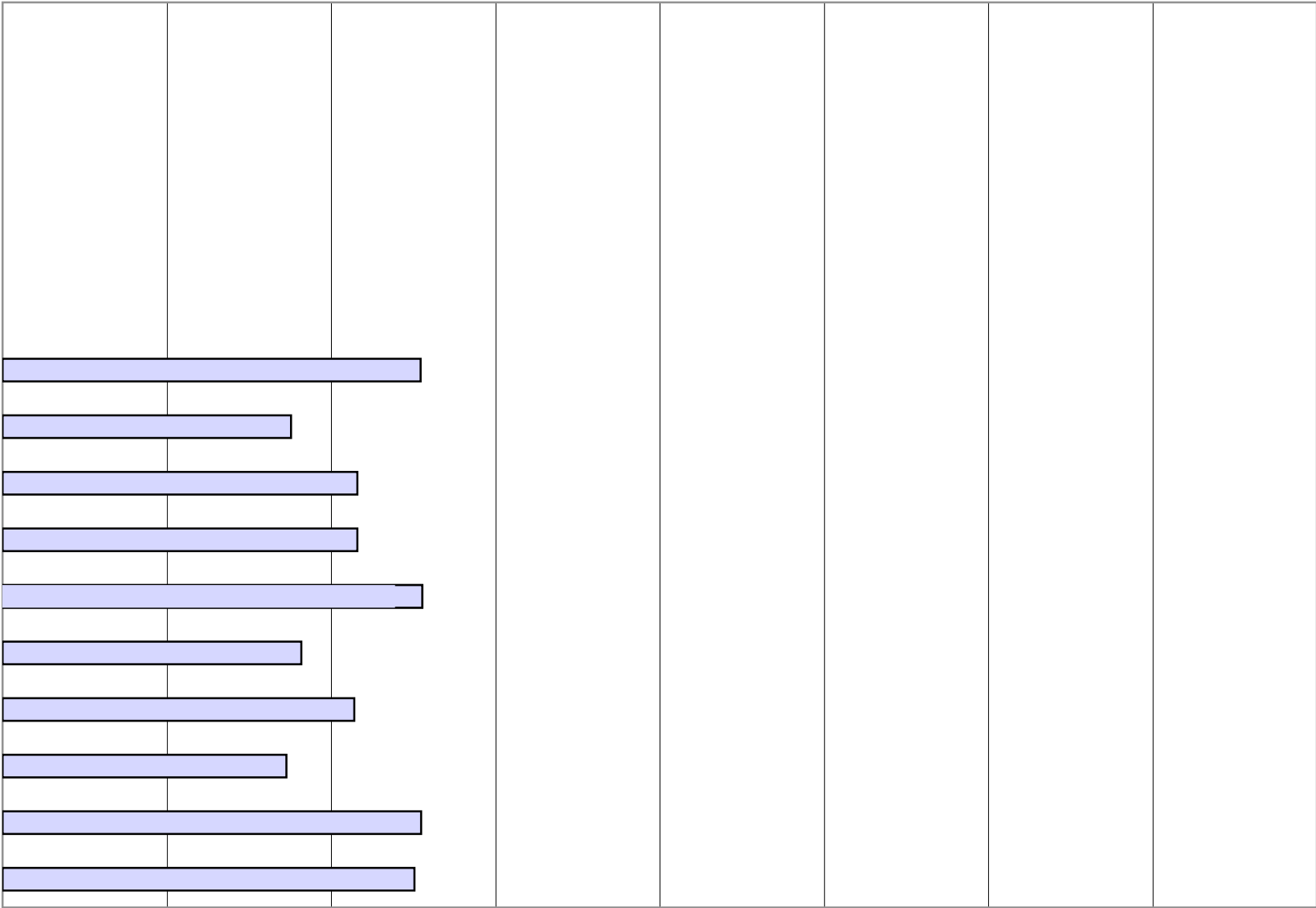


Figure 2