

8QLYHUVLW\ &RXQFLO RQ 7HDFKLQJ
5HSRUW DQG 5HFRPPHQGDWLRQ V DRGH * &RPSHU HQVOLDRQ 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 RQHS SDA B I HGXFDWLRQ D
QRW UHVWULFWHG WR %RVWRQ & R Q GHVWKH) U Q XWVQV SRXJHWV
JUDGHV DQG WKH QXPEHU B G \$OJUDQFHU DWH & G K D V QVWV KH C
DYHUDJH JUDGH RI WKH JUDGH D V RYHQJ FODVYKIQ QXP EHU RI S
JUDGHV LQFUHDVHG IURP LQ WR

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

7KH 8&7 YLHZV WKH FRQWLQX D G H V U D Q G 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 P D V E H D F L O D H U W 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 G 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 E 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 P L J Q V E H H W K H O D J U D G L Q
S H G D J R J \ % 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 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 D 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 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 R Q Y D Q G 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 M R W K R X S O G R E O E 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 Z I G Y H U W K 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&7RWNKQZVWKBUIH DERXW JUDGHV
VWDQGDUGV DPRQJ IDFXOW\GHSBIBWPHUVWDFK DILYHQ 3+RZ
UHODWLYH WR P\ SHHUV DUGV DUTXH YV IORQV RWHQSUREO
VWHS LV WR SURYLGH GGMAD VRQ IDFXLOHVAWD QBXFK/DLUV
UFRPPHQQ WKDW DW WKKHHUHGJLRMWHUDDFK SWHPYHVGHHWKH
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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DQG WKH SHUFHQWDJHQRQWRVWIDIO JUDGGHDEWPHR&UMD
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IDFXOW\ PHPEHU LV WRQFKG QS DLQWPHHQWVRKUDQFKRR
)RU FRPSDULVRQ WKH RYHUDOO DYHUDJHV RI WKH
VFKRRO IRU VRPH SURJU SHFOGKHPDLFN<HDDU P
EH SURYLGHG

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

7KH \$ 6 (3& UHSRUW UHIHUHQFHG DERYH VXJJHVWV WK
OLQH WKH QXPEVHUFRXOGHEFKSURXRLGDFXOQVDDQW/O WK
DUH HQWHUHG ELQD S ULREP WVRZRHGDDSSSRYDO ,Q WKL
PHPEHUV FRXOG LQVW DQWDE XWHLRQKR UUHJDFKGR&UVH E
VXEPLVLRQ 7KH 8&7 VXSBBUJHW WKIDWLGMDPDE XWDNH
LPSOHPHQW WKDQ VLP SO\ SURYLG LQJ VXPPDULHV DW W

,QLWLDWH ZLGH GLVFXVLRQ RI JUDGHV DQG JUDGLQJ
'HDQV VKRXOG DVN HLDKVBHGLDFVXFMQRVWRDERXWJU
HVWDEOLVK LWV RZQ JURXOGL QHQRHUPVILWRHUPVDFPH
JUDGH SRLQW DYHUDJHWRXUGDQVSHZKIRQVDFJHLVHYI
JUDGHV RU ERWK 'HSDUWPHQWGLVPHLUKQFDQVVRHFKZ
ODUJHU SHUKDSV! DQGLWRDOKHUF RXUJHWWHGHV
GHSDUWPHQWV WR VXBFLWH DGEVEXIVWHRSRU DQRQQRU
2QFH JXLGHOLQGV WKH\HWKRDQGLVIRFBQDIXIDFFXOWH
GHSDUWPHQW LQFOXGLQJSDUWVWVLPVHIDQFXOW\WKHO
QHZHU IDFXOW\ SDUW&FXQBQORIZJHDFRFRQJGQRILPFFV
OLWWOH LGHD RI KRZ WKHLU FROOHDJXHV JUDGHG
(DFK VFKRRO VKRXOGGGMADQDQUPKLSHUKDSWUXQGHU
RI DQoc FRPPLWVHH RU WKHLU (3&TV 7KH /DZ 6FKR
DQG KDV HVWDEOLVKHGHENUDQXDRXUWPHRQMVIR
ERWK ODUJHU DQG VPDOOHU FODVVHV
)DFXOW\ REYLRXVO\ QGHGLVWHI IORFLQRULPVA WRRZH
IDFXOW\ PHPEHU GHYIEDWKHIGRSQVUPPHVQWHWKDW
VKRXOG EH KHOG DFFRXQWDEOH WR GHSDUWPHQW
UHDVRQV IRU WKH GHYLDWLRQ /LNHZLVH FKDLUV

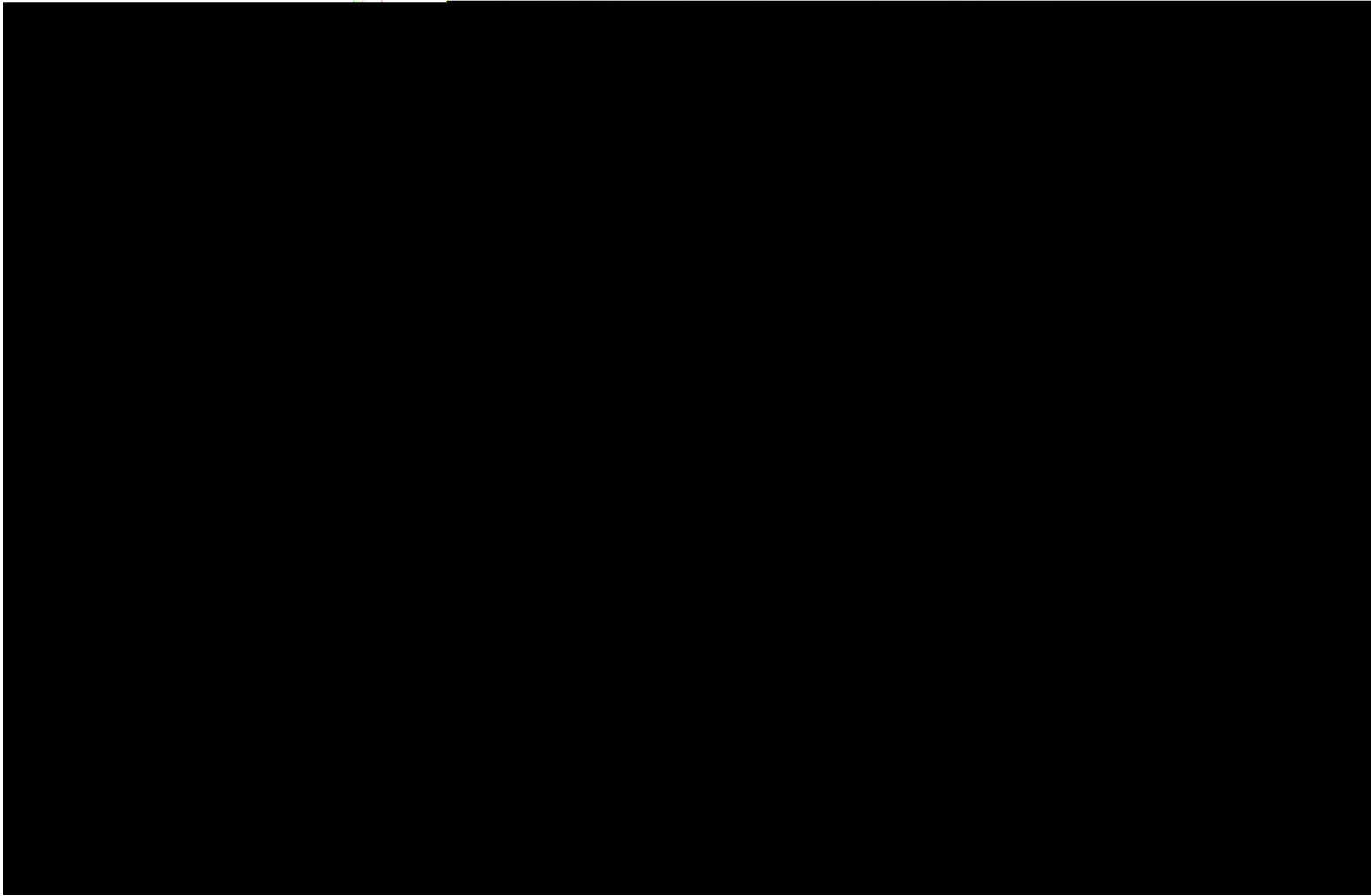
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)DFXOW\ VKRXOG EH DMNHGDGR UGLOCHUMERLWLRQXGH
HYDOXDWLRQV DQ SDYVHZI SWKRFHDQQKDFK \H DU

\$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 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 E W D 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 Y 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 SDUHWDWV F H W D E R O W X D W E 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 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 D X R
REYLRXV WKDW W W K H W H X D F Q 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 D 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 W K K I D 3 W R Y R / F W R R O 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 E 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 E 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

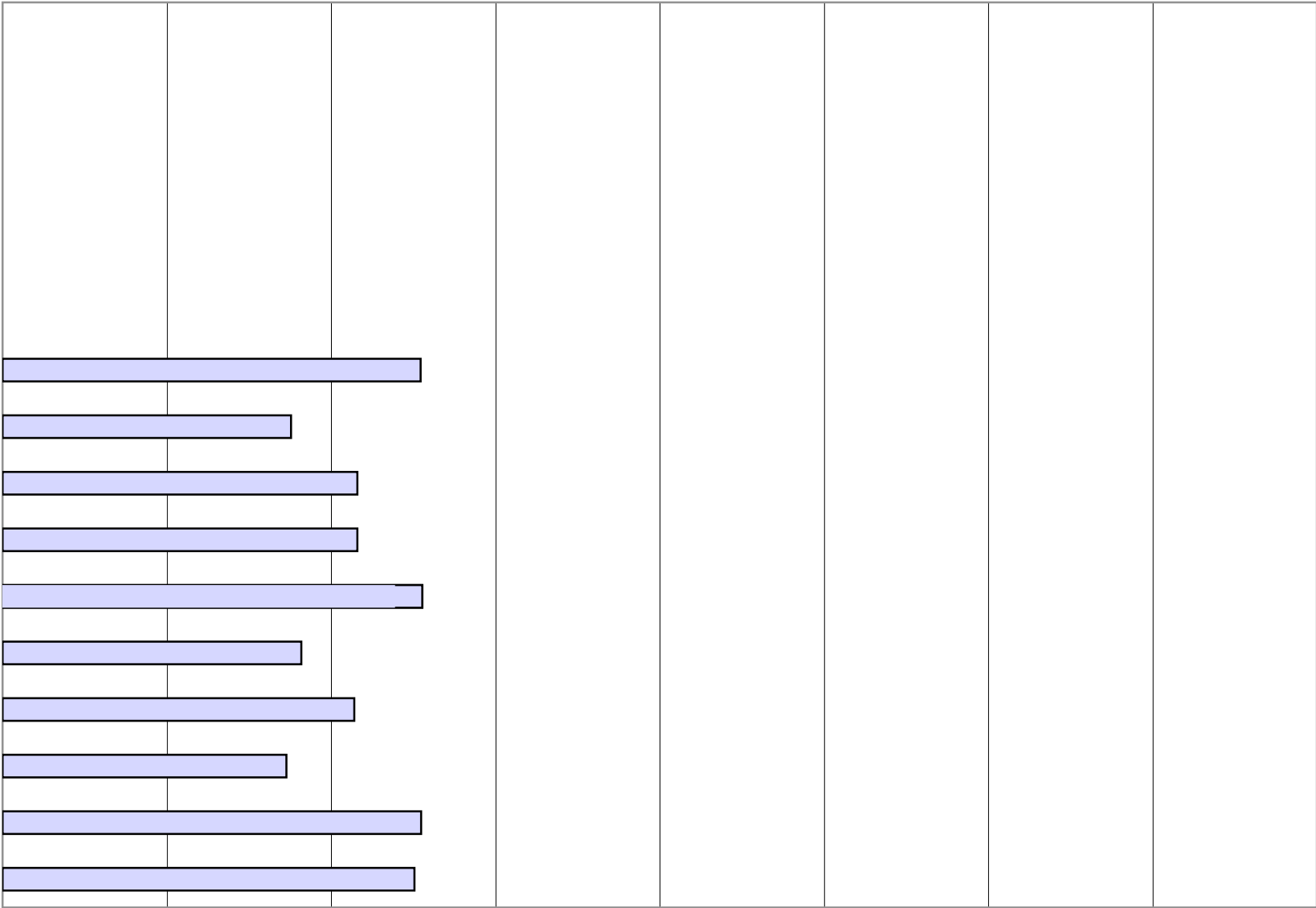


Figure 2