

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 G DQVLRDQVQV WQR/RPDKNDW  
EH ZDUUDQWHG DUBRPSIOHI[OQLVQ RQHSFDVA BI HGXFDWLRQ D  
QRW UHVWULFWHG WR %RVWRQ & R G HJWKH)UQXWADV SRXJHWAD  
JUDGHV DQG WKH QXPEHU R G \$OJUDQFHUHDWH & R G K D V QVWWKH C  
DYHUDJH JUDGH RI WKH JUDGH D V RYHQJ FODVYKIHQQXPEHU RI S  
JUDGHV LQFUHDVHG IURP LQ WR

WUHQQV FRQWLQXH JUDGH DFRPSDWHVWV RQVZS OBEIXHFW DQG H  
HIILDFD\ DV DQ HGXFDWLRQ D V DRIRDQV, LQ D QG R S D R Q W W E H W  
GHSDUWPHQWV DQG HFKS R D V DW 7K&V) EDXU 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 H L D W H Z U L W O K K R  
RWKHU EHQHILWV DVVRFLDWHGHZLWK LQ L G H S D D Q P V Q W K D Q L V

7KH 8&7 YLHZV WKH FRQWLQX D Q 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 D Y D H G 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  
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E\ VLPSO\ UDLVLQJ JUDGHS/HUEXUYHWDQ G H L O W W H P O H Q R X D O F K  
FRXUVHV EHFDXUW D W D G H Q V V O 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 +RZHYMUD ERPSIOHFLRQ V E H H W K H O D J U D G L Q  
SHGDJRJ\ %RVWRQ & R O O H J H Q H Z H G R R M R D F R Q K D Q H Z H W D U N H G  
VWXGHQWV ± D Q G K R V Z D D V L Q R Q V W K I O B H H [ S W R J U D D G H L Q Q O O D W R  
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  
LQIODWLRQ ZLWKRXW FRQRUGHV LQ L N H O V D Q Q D W R R S O M R S H V  
ZH 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  
DZDUHQHV RI WKH SUREOHP DW % & 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 V 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  
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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  
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Q H Y H U H Q D F W H G

3URYLGH GDWD RQ JUDGHV WR WKH IDFXOW\ FKDLUV  
,W LV FOHDU WR WOHDBN&7RWNKQ/RZVWKBUIH DERXW JUDGHV  
VWDQGDUGV DPRQJ IDFXOW\GHSDUWPHQW DFKDLYHQ 3+RZ  
UHODWLYH WR P\ SHHUV DUGV DUTXH V W IRRQV RWHQSUREO  
VWHS LV WR SURYLGH GGDWR RQ IDFXOW\WDEB XFK/DLUV  
UFRPPHQQ WKDW DW WKHH HQG IRLVHDFUK SWRPHV/GHH WKH  
IDFXOW\ ZLWK FRSLHV WR FKDLUV DQG GHDQV

7KH HQUROOPHQW LQ HDFK FRXUVH WDXJKW  
7KH DYHUDJH DQG PHGLDQ JUDGH LQ HDFK FRXUVH  
7KH GLVWULEXWLRQ RG DQ WWHUW V URD GERW K [SUKHIVQ K  
DQG WKH SHUFHQWDJHQRQWRW DIO JUDGGHDEWFRXUMD  
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IDFXOW\ PHPEHU LV WRQFKG QS DLQWPHQW VRUDQFKRR  
)RU FRPSDULVRQ WKH RYHUDOO DYHUDJHV RI WKH  
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EH SURYLGHG

2OGHU 8&7 PHPEHUV UHFDLOO ZUKPHQWLRQWZ BV WR XWLQ  
IDFXOW\ FKDLUV DQG GHDQV

7KH \$ 6 (3& UHSRUW UHIHUHQFHG DERYH VXJJHVWV WK  
OLQH WKH QXPEHUFRXOGHDFKSRXRLGDFXOQVDDQW/DWK  
DUH HQWHUHG ELQD S ULREP WVRZRHGDS SRYDO ,Q WKL  
PHPEHUV FRXOG LQVW DQW DE XWHLRQ KR UUH DFKGFR&UVH E  
VXEPLVLRQ 7KH 8&7 VXSBUJHW WKIDWLIGM DDE XWDNH  
LPSOHPHQW WKDQ VLP SO\ SURYLGLQJ VXPPDULHV DW W

,QLWLDWH ZLGH GLVFXVLRQ RI JUDGHV DQG JUDGLQJ  
'HDQV VKRXOG DVN HDLQV B HGLDFX R MQRVW DERXW JU  
HVWDEOLVK LWV RZQ JURXOG QH Q/RHUP V LWRHUP D V PH  
JUDGH SRLQW DYHUDJH WRXG DQ VSH ZKIRQVDFJHLVH Y  
JUDGHV RU ERWK 'HSDUWPHQW V LPHLUKV FHOVVRHFKZ  
ODUJHU SHUKDSV ! DQGLWRDOKHUF RXUJHWWHG V  
GHSDUWPHQWV WR V XPHLWH DG EVLXIV WLRSRU DQRQQRU  
2QFH JXLGHOLQGV WKH\HWKRXDQGL VHRFB DDXIDFFXOWH C  
GHSDUWPHQW LQFOXGLQJ SDUWV DQW VLPVH DQFKOW\WKHO  
QHZHU IDFXOW\ SDUW XFXQBQ ORIZHJDFRLRQJGQRILP V L  
OLWWOH LGHD RI KRZ WKHLU FROOHDJXHV JUDGHG  
(DFK VFKRRO VKRXOG GGDWR DQUPK LSHUKDS WXQGHU  
RI DQoc FRPPLWWHH RU WKHLU (3&V 7KH /DZ 6FKR  
DQG KDV HVWDEOLVKHG GHUJDFX DQW VLPVH DQV IR  
ERWK ODUJHU DQG VPDOOHU FODVVHV  
)DFXOW\ REYLRXVO\ QGHGLVWHI IORFLRQLRQW\ WRRZH  
IDFXOW\ PHPEHU GHYIED WKH IGRSDQRUPHQW WKKDW  
VKRXOG EH KHOG DFFRXQWDEOH WR GHSDUWPHQW  
UHDVRQV IRU WKH GHYLDWLRQ /LNHZLVH FKDLUV

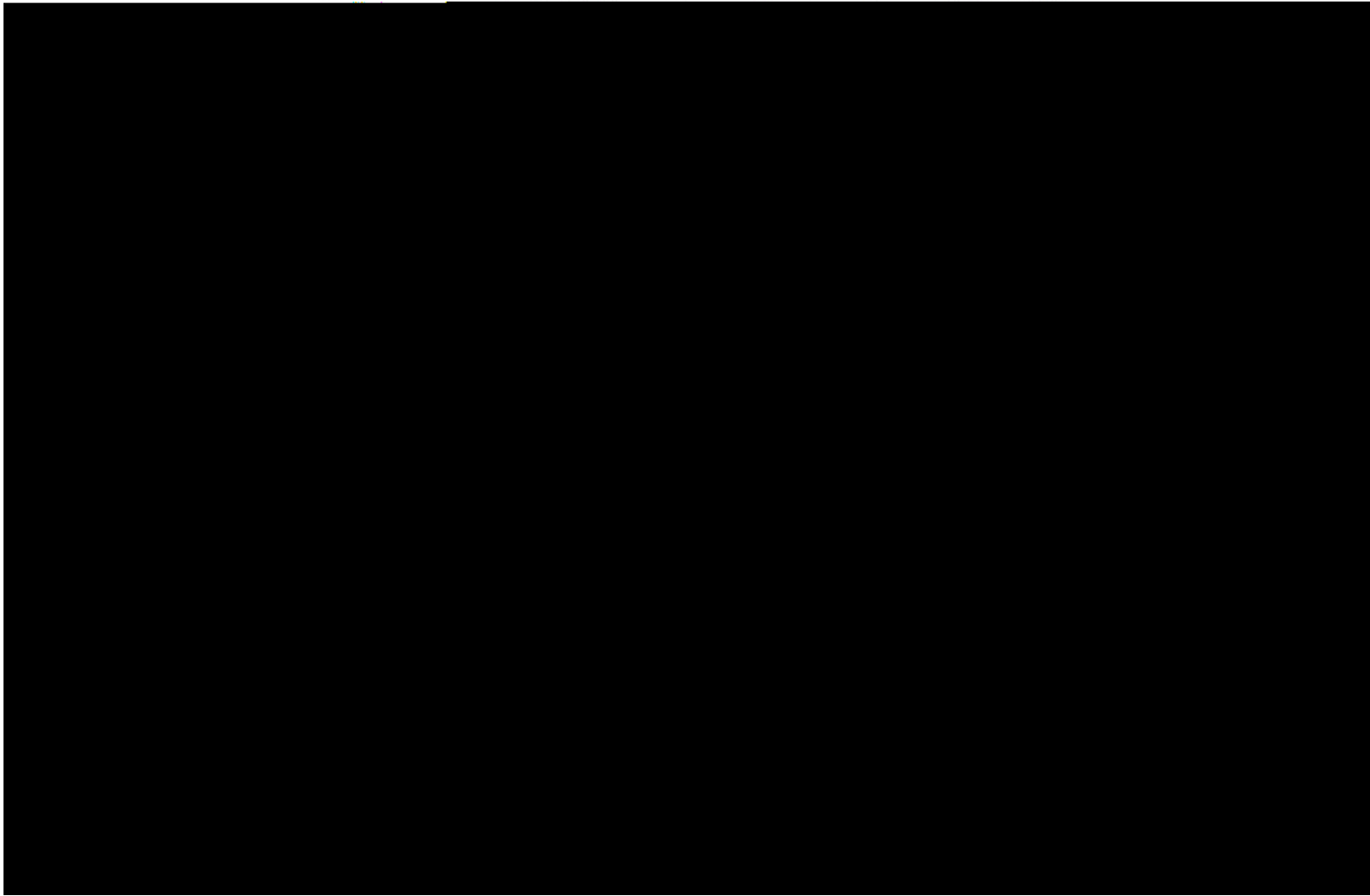
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)DFXOW\ VKRXOG EH DMNHJGDGR UGLOQHWMEFLWLRQXGH  
HYDOXDWLRQV DQ SDHYWHZISWRHFHDQQKDFK \H DU

\$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 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  
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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 D L R V  
IRU QRQ WHQXUHG DQG SDUHWDWV 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 V 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 D 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 V I K O G 8 Q I L G X  
PHPEHUV WR GHSDUWPHQ W G O V 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 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 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](mailto: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

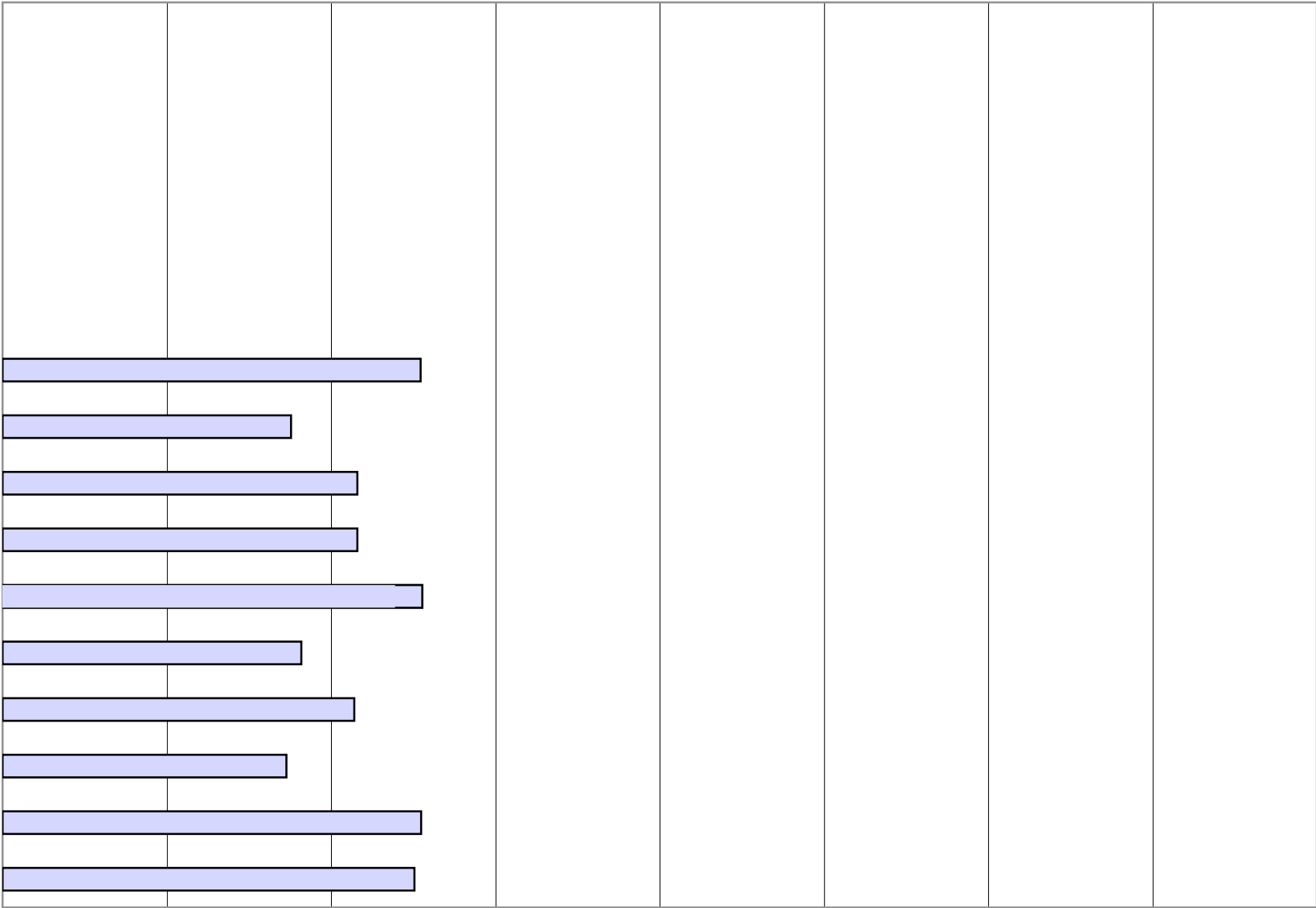


Figure 2