

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 RQHSFDDVÀ BI HGXFDWLRQ D
QRW UHVWULFWHG WR %RVWRQ & R G H V K H) U Q X W K D V S R X J H W D
JUDGHV DQG WKH QXPEHU R 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 & D V R Y Q H J F O D V V K I H Q Q X P E H U R I S
JUDGHV LQFUHDVHG IURP LQ WR

WUHQQV FRQWLQXH JUDGH DFRPSDWHVWV RQVZS O R 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 R S D R Q W W E H W
GHSDUWPHQWV DQG H V F K S 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 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[SHFWDWLRQV IRU RXU VWXG
E\ VLPSO\ UDLVLQJ JUDGHS/HUEXUYHWDG H L O W W H P O H Q R X D O F K
FRXUVHV EHFDXVW 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 F R L Q 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 D D V L Q R Q V W K I O B H H [S W 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 F W Q I 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 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 R Q D G H 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 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 O 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&7RWNKQZVWKBUIH DERXW JUDGHV
VWDQGDUGV DPRQJ IDFXOW\GHSDUWPHQWDFKDLUHQ 3+RZ
UHODWLYH WR P\ SHHUV DUGV DUTXH V W IORQV R W K G S K R E O
VWHS LV WR SURYLGH GGMAD VR R IDFXLOHVAWD Q BXFK/DLUV
UHFRRPHQG WKDW DW WKKHHUHGJLRMWHUDDUK SWHRYH/VGHH 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 DG WWHUW V URD GERW W K I S/KHHVQ K I
DQG WKH SHUFHQWDJHQRQWRV W DIO JUDGGHDEWPHR RUMD
7KH RYHUDOO DYHUDJH WR H VGHSDHU W W IDOM V DQGF V RIB
IDFXOW\ PHPEHU LV WR QFKG QS DLQWPHUQHW VRUD QFKRR
)RU FRPSDULVRQ WKH RYHUDOO DYHUDJHV RI WKH
VFKRRO IRU VRPH SURJU SHFOGKHPDLFN<HDDU P
EH SURYLGHG

2OGHU 8&7 PHPEHUV UHFDLOO RZKPHQWLRQWZ BV WIR XWLG
IDFXOW\ FKDLUV DQG GHDQV

7KH \$ 6 (3& UHSRUW UHIHUHQFHG DERYH VXJJHVWV WK
OLQH WKH QXPEHU FRXOG EFKSURXRL GDFX OQV VDDQ W/O WK
DUH HQWHUHG ELQD S ULREP W W V R H G D S S B Y D O , Q W K L
PHPEHUV FRXOG LQVW D Q W D E X W H R Q K R U U H D F X G F R Q U V H E
VXEPLVLRQ 7KH 8&7 V X S S B U J W W W K I D W L G M P D E X W D N H
LPSOHPHQW WKDQ VLP SO\ SURYLG LQJ VXPPDULHV DW W

,QLWLDWH ZLGH GLVFXVLRQ RI JUDGHV DQG JUDGLQJ
'HDQV VKRXOG DVN H D L D K V B H G S L D F X R M Q R V W R D E R X W J U
HVWDEOLVK LWV RZQ JURXOGG Q E H Q R H U P V L W K R H U P V D F P H
JUDGH SRLQW DYHUDJH W WRXG B Q V S H Z K R Q W H F J H L V H Y I
JUDGHV RU ERWK 'HSDUWPHQW V L P H L U K V F D H V E R H F K Z
ODUJHU SHUKDSV ! D Q G L W R D O O K H U F R X W J H W W H G V
GHSDUWPHQWV WR V X E P L W H D G E V E X I V W L H R S R U D Q R Q Q R U
2QFH JXLGHOLQGV W K H \ H W K R D E O G L V M R F B Q P X I O L F F X O W H C
GHSDUWPHQW LQFOXGLQJ S D U W D O W L Q P H V I D Q F X O W \ W K H C
QHZHU IDFXOW\ SDUW X F X Q B Q O R I Z H O D F R L P Q H G Q R L P F V V I
OLWWOH LGHD RI KRZ WKHLU FROOHDJXHV JUDGHG
(DFK VFKRRO VKRXOG G M Q W D Q B U P K L S H U K D S W X Q G H U
RI D Q C FRPPLWWHH RU WKHLU (3& V 7KH /DZ 6FKR
DQG KDV HVWDEOLVKHG G E H U D I O X D R X U E A H Q M Q V I R
ERWK ODUJHU DQG VPDOOHU FODVVHV
)DFXOW\ REYLRXVO\ Q G H G L V W H I I O R F L Q R L P W \ W R R Z H
IDFXOW\ PHPEHU GHYIED WKH I G R S D Q R U P H Q W H W K D W
VKRXOG EH KHOG DFFRXQWDEOH WR GHSDUWPHQW
UHDVRQV IRU WKH GHYLDWLRQ /LNHZLVH FKDLUV

VLJQLILFDQWOWDE\RWKHLKRWFKRROV VKRXOG EH DV
GHYLDWLRQV WR WKHQWQXHQQWKR7XOG'SDQVLRGLFDC
GLVWULEXWLRQZLWQ WKHL3UWRFRRRQV 2IILFH
)DFXOW\ VKRXOG EH DMNHJGDGR UGLOQHWMEFLWLRQXGH
HYDOXDWLRQV DQ SDYVHZI SWKRFHDQQKDFK \H DU

\$UH 7KXVH 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 SDUHWDWV F H W D B R O W K 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 B X R
REYLRXV WKDW W W K H W H X G 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 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 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 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

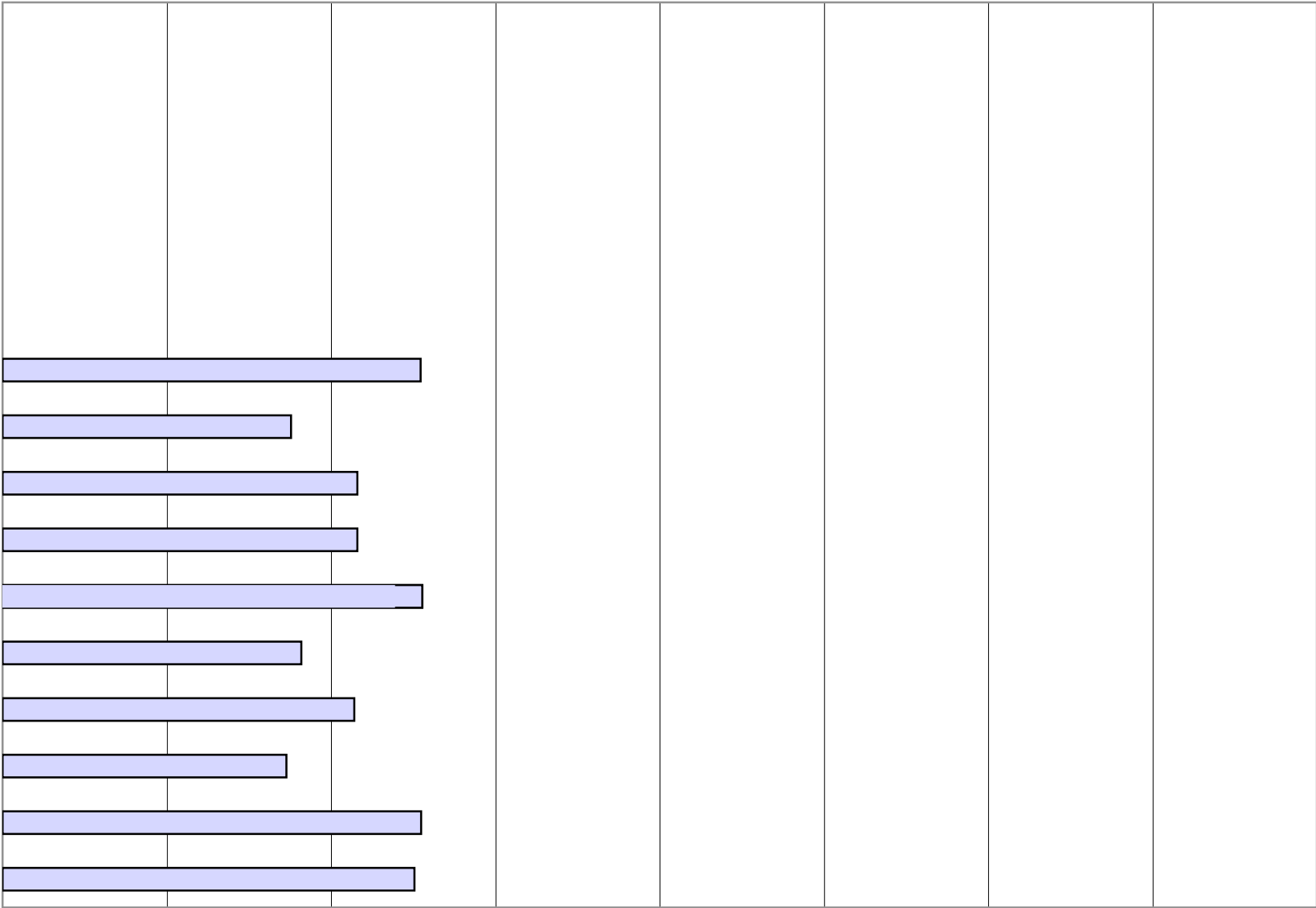


Figure 2