

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Number 38

September 2007

**LOUISIANA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:
WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT
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Yesterday (August 20) *The Princeton Review* released its 2008 listing of the 366 best colleges and universities in the United States. Seven Louisiana institutions are included on that listing. Nine others are not.

INCLUDED:

**Centenary
LSU
Loyola
Tulane
ULL
UNO
Xavier**

Four of these institutions -- Loyola, Tulane, UNO, and Xavier -- are located in Katrina-devastated New Orleans. Three of the four are private universities. All three of the public universities included on the list -- LSU, ULL and UNO -- are noteworthy for select negative rankings. LSU is ranked tenth in the nation for not allowing student discussion in the classroom and second on the "lots of hard liquor" list. ULL and UNO are ranked sixth and fourth in terms of negative student evaluations of their dormitories.

NOT INCLUDED:

**Grambling
Louisiana College
Louisiana Tech
McNeese
Nicholls
Northwestern
Southeastern
Southern
ULM**

Not included are seven of the eight institutions in the University of Louisiana System under the leadership of President Sally Clausen. ULL is the lone exception. **As of today (August 21) ULS has made no official public comment on the listing.**

The Princeton Review's listing of the best colleges and universities is prepared by the same New York based organization that prepares and administers test-prep courses, education services, and books. It is not affiliated with Princeton University and is not a magazine.

The Princeton Review surveys 120,000 students nationwide, asking each interviewee to respond to 80 questions. About 90 percent of the interviews for the current listing were completed online. No mathematical formula or calculations were used in the construction of the listing. Two basic norms were applied in selecting a college or university as one of the 366 best in the United States: academic excellence, and ability to survey students anonymously.

Both the AP and USA Today preseason football polls rank LSU second in the nation.

Edward J. O'Boyle is Senior Research Associate with Mayo Research Institute. Since completing his doctorate in economics from Saint Louis University more than 35 years ago, Dr. O'Boyle has specialized in economic research and analysis increasingly from the perspective of the human person engaged in everyday activities both as a unique individual and as a community member. In January 2004 the Association for Social Economics conferred on Dr. O'Boyle its prestigious Thomas Divine Award for lifetime contributions to social economics and the social economy. He taught economics at a state university in Louisiana for 30 years prior to his retirement in 2007.

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