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One of the Best

08.23.2007 | Campus and Community  The University of Dayton is featured in the 2008 edition of The Best 366 Colleges published by The Princeton Review.

Only about 15 percent of the four-year colleges in America and two Canadian colleges were chosen for the book. It includes two-page profiles of the schools and student survey-based ranking lists of the top 20 colleges in more than 60 categories. UD ranks 11th in the country under the category, "Everybody Plays Intramural Sports."

This is the third national ranking for the University of Dayton this fall. UD again has been ranked as a top-tier national university in U.S. News & World Report's 2008 edition of America's Best Colleges. UD ties for 112 among 262 universities nationally that offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees. Among national Catholic universities, it ties for eighth. Among national private universities, it ties for 58th.

For the first time, the University of Dayton has been ranked in Washington Monthly's annual college guide. UD ranks 138 out of 242 national universities on "how much it contributes to the common good." The magazine ranks schools based on three criteria: social mobility, research and service. "In other words, is the school recruiting and graduating low-income students? Is it producing Ph.D.s and cutting-edge research? And is it encouraging in its students an ethic of service?" said editor Paul Glastris.

The Princeton Review describes UD as academically challenging yet unpretentious, a campus where porches symbolize "community." In the words of one student, UD is all about community: community when we study, community when we party, community when we are doing service, community when we pray." Echoed another student: "Everyone is family here."

According to student surveys, top programs include "a great premed program, a wonderful engineering department, an amazing teacher education program" and an "awesome business school" that includes the Davis Center for Portfolio Management.

"We chose schools for this book primarily for their outstanding academics," said Robert Franek, vice president of publishing for The Princeton Review. "We evaluated them based on institutional data we collect about the schools, feedback from students attending them and our visits to schools over the years. We also consider the opinions of independent college counselors, students and parents we hear from yearlong. Finally, we work to have a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character."