

C O M M I T M E N T T O L E A R N I N G

Among the Nation's Best

SU's "Top 50" ranking serves as testament to its Commitment to Learning.

When a recording artist makes the Billboard charts for the first time, it's a vindication of years of hard work and good publicity—and proof of public acceptance.

Now that Syracuse has made an appearance among the nation's top colleges and universities in the *U.S. News & World Report* annual "Best Colleges" rankings, how are alumni to interpret this development?

"It's proof that the University has adopted the right program of action, the right direction—and it's just started," says trustee George Babikian '53, retired president of ARCO Petroleum Products. "This emphasis on both research and teaching at the undergraduate level is paying off, and will improve as we move forward in the Commitment to Learning campaign and go into the next millennium."

If the new rankings reflect the shape of things to come, then the future is shaping up nicely for Syracuse.

This fall, *U.S. News* ranked Syracuse among the top 50 national universities; placed SU 35th among top national universities that are "best buys"; ranked the School of Management 37th among undergraduate business programs; and earlier in the year

recognized the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs as the leader among schools of public administration. The national rankings are based on retention rate, student selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources, a survey of administration and faculty at other schools, and a survey of alumni satisfaction.

"We are shaping ourselves into the nation's leading student-centered

research university," says Chancellor Kenneth A. Shaw. "Now the whole country can see what form that guiding vision is taking. These rankings are tangible markers of our success."

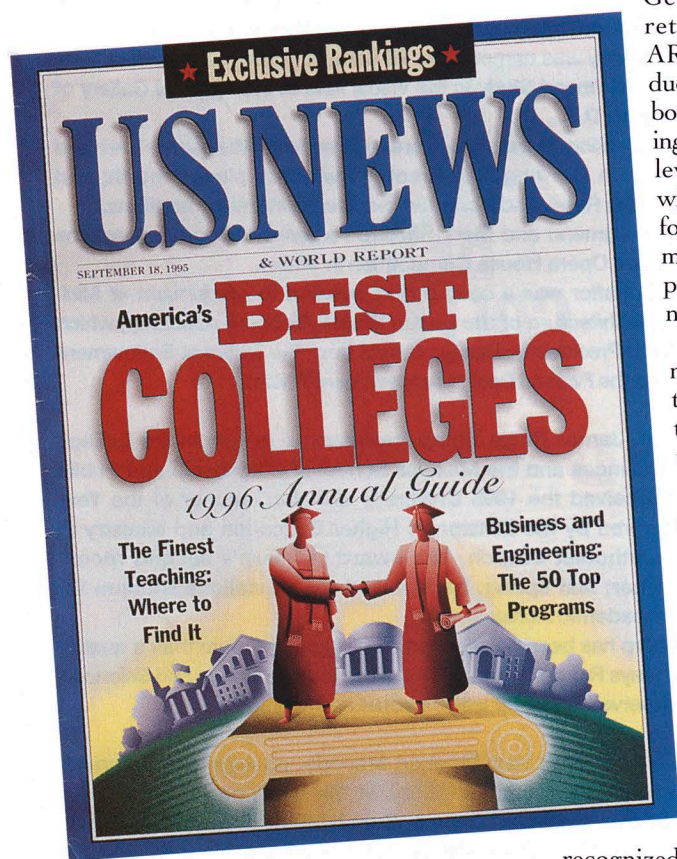
Alumni serving on the campaign executive committee see the current national attention awarded SU as the natural result of the path set by Chancellor Shaw. He began with a mission to restructure the University; he promoted a vision of Syracuse as the leading student-centered research university; and he initiated the \$300 million Commitment to Learning campaign to ensure improved education, service, and quality at Syracuse.

"Now that a few years have passed, we see that Buzz Shaw has done exactly what needed to be done," says trustee René Schine Crown '50. "We're smaller but stronger, we are academically more challenging and more respected. We have a way to go, but with the kind of planning and overseeing that the leadership of the University has undertaken, we will complete the job."

"More important than the rankings are the improvements in academic and student life," says trustee Wendy Cohen '70, director of the Alfred & Ann Goldstein Foundation. "Being recognized nationally will attract more of the quality of student we would like to have, students who will avail themselves of the quality of education we have to offer."

"And it's not only the quality of the student coming in that's important," Cohen adds, "but the quality of the person going out who, we hope, will become a loyal alumnus."

Loyal alumnus? That sounds like George Babikian. "I think the University is doing a magnificent job in terms of giving value for the tuition money that's spent," says Babikian. "I'm proud of the University. I'm proud to be an alum. And the best is yet to come."



To receive a free copy of Commitments, Syracuse University's newsletter about the Commitment to Learning campaign, please write or call Cheri Johnson at 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 100, Syracuse, NY 13244-5040. Telephone: (315) 445-2865.