

1077-01-1276 **David E Zitarelli*** (zit@temple.edu), Department of Mathematics, 1805 N. Broad Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19122. *Elevating the ranking of American mathematics departments 1900-1940.*

The mathematics department at the University of Missouri contained one of the most competent faculties in the U.S. during the period 1900-1920. Three of the central figures were students of David Hilbert, while others held degrees from Harvard and Chicago. The University of California at Berkeley assembled a first-class core of mathematicians in this period too, with degrees under Felix Klein and E.H. Moore. Berkeley rose to the top of American departments by 1920, declined for more than a decade, and then ascended quickly. Yet Missouri did not reach the top rung at any time up to WWII. We compare the histories of these two departments with an aim toward speculating why one emerged among the leading departments but the other did not. (Received September 22, 2011)