

The 2006 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award

The Robert Maynard Hutchins Award is given annually to faculty or staff members who take a courageous stand to defend academic integrity in higher education, often risking job security in doing so.

The Drake Group (TDG) will present its *2006 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award* to Dr. Frank G. Splitt, a former Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University. The award ceremony will take place March 31, 2006, at University Place on the Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis campus where TDG will be hosting a conference on college sports reform, see:

http://thedrakegroup.org/Press_Release_1-31-06.pdf

Frank G. Splitt (2006) -- Beginning with his essay, "RECLAIMING ACADEMIC PRIMACY IN HIGHER EDUCATION," foreworded by Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, Dr. Splitt has written extensively on the faculty-driven movement to reform college sports, see Publications at <http://thedrakegroup.org/News.html>. He has worked to provide TDG's position on reform related issues for easy availability to all concerned parties – especially to members of Congress where TDG is working a quid pro quo initiative on disclosure and the restoration of academic and financial integrity in our institutions of higher learning.

Dr. Splitt's appointment as a McCormick Faculty Fellow, an appointment he held with distinction for 12 years, was summarily invalidated by Northwestern University after the publication of "Who wants to tackle biggest man on campus?" as the lead letter in the Oct. 5, 2005 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

His letter was written in response to Skip Rozin's Sept. 15, 2005, column, "The Brutal Truth About College Sports." The letter focused attention on TDG's efforts to reform college sports and to its congressional initiative.

Northwestern's act of academic retaliation provides a salient example of the stranglehold the college-sports entertainment business has on America's institutions of higher education as well as how telling the truth about the negative impact of college sports on higher education can have dire consequences.

Previous Robert Maynard Hutchins Awardees

Tiffany Mayne (2005) -- Mayne, a former Louisiana State University kinesiology instructor, sued LSU in 2002, in a lawsuit that was at the center of a grades scandal involving football players. Mayne alleged she was pressured to change football players' grades and hide academic misconduct during the 2000-01 school year to keep players eligible for the Peach Bowl. After an investigation into the allegations of academic fraud, LSU admitted to five secondary NCAA violations, transferred the former head of the Academic Center for Student Athletes and moved control of the center from the athletic department to the provost. The amount of the settlement was undisclosed.

Jan Kemp (2004) -- In 1982 Kemp filed suit against the University of Georgia because she was fired after openly protesting the preferential treatment given to academically unqualified athletes. Kemp won her suit with a jury award of \$2.58 million. She was honored by the American Association of University Professors for her "unwavering commitment to academic integrity."