

# The Drake Group

*A Voice for Faculty Charged with Educating College Athletes*  
*www.thedrakegroup.org*

**PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

**April 8, 2008**

**Contact: Dr. B. David Ridpath, 740-593-9496**

*The Drake Group Announces Dr. James Gundlach as Recipient of  
2008 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award*

The Drake Group, a consortium of faculty, staff, and others, concerned with academic integrity with regard to intercollegiate athletics, is proud to announce that **Dr. James Gundlach**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, at Auburn University, as the 2008 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award winner. The RMH Award is given annually by The Drake Group to someone who has shown courage in standing up for academic integrity in the face of commercialized college sports. Dr. Gundlach is one that exceeds these criteria and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

Gundlach is noted for exposing systemic academic improprieties at Auburn with regard to high grades being awarded to Auburn athletes in directed readings courses. Specifically, these courses were created for 18 members of the football team in sociology and criminology all taught by the same professor, Dr. Thomas Petee. These independent study courses required no attendance and little work and would have continued unabated if not for Dr. Gundlach's efforts in exposing the fraud.

In standing up for academic integrity, Gundlach was the focus of vitriol by Auburn fans, faculty, and the administration, but he did not waver in his convictions to do the right thing and demand academic integrity. His courage to stand up for academic integrity in the face of overwhelming pressure from intercollegiate athletic interests at a powerful Southeastern Conference school is well-documented in the media, most notably the New York Times, and makes him a very deserving award winner who will continue the tradition of enforcing academic integrity at our institutions of higher learning. Gundlach joins past courageous recipients such as Jan Kemp, former faculty member at the University of Georgia, Tiffany Mayne, former academic advisor at Louisiana State University, Dr. Frank Splitt, former Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University, and Linda Bensel Meyers, Professor of English at the University of Denver.

The Hutchins Award Luncheon, sponsored by TDG, is being held at the College Sports Research Institute's 2008 Scholarly Conference on College Sports in Memphis, Tennessee on April 16-19<sup>th</sup> at the University of Memphis. The RMH luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> in the Fogelman Executive Center Back Dining Room. Costs for the lunch is \$25 and tickets can be purchased at the CSRI conference registration table.

All other details on the RMH Luncheon and the CSRI academic conference can be found at [www.thedrakegroup.org](http://www.thedrakegroup.org) or <http://coe.memphis.edu/hss/csri.htm>

////