

Former Northwestern Faculty Fellow To Receive Robert Maynard Hutchins Award

The Drake Group (TDG) has announced that its *2006 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award* will be presented to Dr. Frank G. Splitt, a former Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University.

The *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 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.

Dr. Splitt's Oct. 5, 2005, letter to the editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, "Who Wants to Tackle Biggest Man on Campus?" -- written in response to Skip Rozin's Sept. 15, 2005, article, "The Brutal Truth About College Sports" -- and the related retaliation by Northwestern University, have focused attention on TDG's efforts to reform college sports as well as on the sometimes painful personal consequences of these efforts.

Diane Carman's Dec. 11, 2005, Denver Post column, "Colleges are fumbling sports reform," reiterated the need for serious reform -- keying on recommendations suggested by Dr. James Duderstadt, President Emeritus of the University of Michigan, and author of the foreword to Dr. Splitt's essay, "The Faculty-Driven Movement to Reform Big-Time College Sports," http://thedrakegroup.org/Splitt_Sequel.pdf.

The above, taken together with a Dec. 30, 2005, *New York Times* editorial, "A College Sports Scam," and related articles by Pete Thamel and Duff Wilson, represent a college-sports reform redux -- a rekindling of the fire for reform ignited by Rick Telander's 1989 book, *THE HUNDRED YARD LIE: The Corruption of College Football and What We Can Do to Stop It*. Over the years, Telander, a former Northwestern University football player and now a nationally renown sportswriter, has literally exhausted himself pointing out the money/power aspects of the elite, tax-exempt, revenue-producing, big-time college-sports entertainment business.

Furthermore, Tony Messenger's Aug. 31, 2005, *Columbia Tribune* column, "Big money rules decisions in all aspects of the NCAA," Mike Steinberger's Dec. 16, 2005, *Financial Times* article, "US college sports graduate to big business," Don Walker's Dec. 25, 2005, *Milwaukee Sentinel Journal* article, "Money Game," and Dr. Splitt's appearance on Bob Gilbert's Jan. 7, 2006, WCBR-Knoxville radio program, have combined to stimulate considerable interest in TDG's congressional initiative.

This initiative is discussed in Dr. Splitt's essays on college-sports reform and in TDG Executive Director David Ridpath's remarks at the Nov. 8, 2005, meeting of the Knight Commission. All of this material can be accessed at: <http://thedrakegroup.org/News.html>. There, your attention is called to Congresswoman Schakowsky's March 17, 2005, remarks for the Congressional Record and to Dr. Splitt's most recent essays -- "Sports in America 2005: Facing Up to Global Realities" and "Are Big-Time College Sports Good for America?" These essays illuminate the negative impact of America's addiction to college-sports entertainment on higher education, especially in today's increasingly competitive global economy.

The essays suggest a way to not only reform college sports, but also to provide incremental tax revenues to help finance the implementation of the recommendations made by the National Academies in their call-to-arms report, "RISING ABOVE THE GATHERING STORM: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future." The report's recommendations for scientific research, education, and energy were echoed by President Bush in his Jan. 31, 2006, State-of-the-Union address.

For more information contact B. David Ridpath, Executive Director, The Drake Group, <http://www.thedrakegroup.org/>, 662-325-0854, dridpath@colled.msstate.edu