

## **Press Release (Immediate): The 2006 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award**

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The Drake Group (TDG) presented its *2006 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award* to Dr. Frank G. Splitt, honoring him "for his courageous defense of academic integrity in collegiate sports."

Dr. Splitt, a Vice President Emeritus of Nortel Networks, a Fellow of the International Engineering Consortium, a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and a former McCormick Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University, has written extensively on the faculty-driven movement to reform college sports, see Publications at <http://thedrakegroup.org/News.html>.

Dr. Splitt has advanced 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 to America's institutions of higher learning.

The presentation was made by Dr. Allen Sack, Director of the Management of Sports Industries Program at the University of New Haven, one of TDG's founders, and a member of Notre Dame's 1966 National Championship football team.

Dr. Sack called Dr. Splitt "one of the loudest and bravest voices advocating college athletic reform." Sack noted that the October 2005 retraction of Dr. Splitt's Faculty Fellow title, and the position he held with distinction since 1993, drives home the point that telling the truth about the negative impact of commercialism on college sport often exacts a price. "It is sad, but true," said Sack, "that on many college campuses with big-time athletics programs, faculty who defend academic integrity are considered subversive."

Dr. Splitt concluded his acceptance remarks with a Margaret Mead quote that he said truly fit TDG:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

The award ceremony took place March 31, 2006, at University Place on the Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis campus where TDG hosted a conference on college sports reform. The conference was titled: *"A Century of College Sport: A Turbulent Past, A Conflicted Present, A Brighter Future,"* and was keynoted by Dr. Richard Lapchick, Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Program at the University of South Florida.

### **Previous Robert Maynard Hutchins Awardees were:**

**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."