

# The Drake Group

*A Voice for Faculty Charged with Educating College Athletes*

[www.thedrakegroup.org](http://www.thedrakegroup.org)

**PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

**February 9, 2007**

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***The Drake Group Announces Bensel-Meyers as Recipient of  
2007 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award and 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scholarly Conference in Cleveland***

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. Linda Bensel-Meyers**, Professor of English at the University of Denver, as the 2007 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award winner. The RMH Award is given annually at the Drake Group's Scholarly Conference and Annual Business Meeting to someone who has shown courage in standing up for academic integrity in the face of commercialized college sports.

This year's academic conference entitled, "**Academic Integrity and College Athletics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: On the Road to Disclosure?**" is being held **March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Wolstein Center on the campus of Cleveland State University**. This year's TDG conference is being held simultaneously with the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Title IX celebration, ***Girls and Women Rock Conference, also being held at the Wolstein Center***. Information regarding the TDG conference can be found on The Drake Group website at [www.thedrakegroup.org](http://www.thedrakegroup.org). As in previous years, the conference will include diverse and relevant scholarship on academic issues and college sports, to include panelists representing many interests regarding the landscape of academics and intercollegiate athletics.

Bensel-Meyers is noted for being a charter member and former Executive Director of The Drake Group, along with standing up for academic integrity. While a professor of English at the University of Tennessee, Bensel-Meyers discovered blatant academic fraud and favoritism regarding UT football players' competitive eligibility. Her efforts to expose and stop the fraud were met not with favor, but she encountered a vigorous cover-up by the university and other athletic interests. Her courage to stand up for academic integrity in the face of overwhelming pressure from intercollegiate athletic interests at the University of Tennessee is well-documented in the media and makes her a very deserving award winner. Bensel-Meyers was selected from three finalists selected by The Drake Group Executive Committee.

**The other finalists were Dr. Tom Palaima, a Professor at the University of Texas, who has been vocal on his campus in academic and athletic issues; and Dr. James Gundlach, Professor at Auburn University, who exposed academic improprieties concerning Auburn athletes in his academic department.** The Drake Group also wants it known that the heroic efforts of these two academicians have not gone unnoticed.

The Hutchins Award Dinner is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Cleveland on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Armington Room. A reception with cash bar starts at 6:00 p.m. with the dinner following at 7:00. Cost is \$35 per person. Reservations are recommended and we encourage media members to attend.

Many other exciting initiatives, including TDG's efforts with the United States Congress to review the tax exempt status of intercollegiate athletics, and the inception of a new scholarly journal entitled the ***Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics*** (JIIA) will be discussed. All other details on the RMH dinner and the academic conference can be found at [www.thedrakegroup.org](http://www.thedrakegroup.org).

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# **The Drake Group**

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## ***The 2007 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award Dinner***

***The Armington Room  
Hilton Garden Inn  
1100 Carnegie Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio***

**Cash Bar Reception 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner and Ceremony 7:00 p.m.**

***Congratulations to the 2007 winner***

***Dr. Linda Bensel-Meyers  
Professor of English  
The University of Denver***

### ***Plated Dinner Choices***

***Includes house salad, chef's choice of rice, potato, or pasta, seasonal vegetables, choice of dessert, red and/or white wine, iced tea, coffee***

***Chicken Romano with Lemon Herb Sauce***

***or***

***Grilled New York Strip Steak***

***\$35 per person***

***Please RSVP by March 25, 2007 and make checks payable to Dr. Jim Reese, The Drake Group Treasurer***

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