

The Drake Group

A Voice for Faculty Charged with Educating College Athletes

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The Drake Group Announces Ms. Sally Dear-Healey as Recipient of the 2010 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award

The Drake Group (TDG), a consortium of faculty, staff, and others, concerned with academic integrity with regard to intercollegiate athletics, is proud to announce **Ms. Sally Dear-Healey**, Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Binghamton University (BU), as the 2010 Robert Maynard Hutchins (RMH) 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 sport. As an untenured instructor and Ph.D. candidate, Ms. Dear-Healey demonstrated tremendous bravery in her actions and is richly deserving of this honor.

Dear-Healey is recognized for exposing the pressures she faced to give preferential treatment to basketball players for attendance and grades while teaching in the Department of Human Development at BU. Terrified of losing her job, Dear-Healey acknowledged that she faced pressure from the athletic department about her course policies. Despite relentless emails and phone calls requesting her to adjust her attendance and grading policies specifically for basketball players, Dear-Healey held her ground. Her concerns, as voiced in a New York Times article, along with numerous accusations about recruiting and admission issues led to a four-month investigation into the athletic department at BU.

Dear-Healey was released from her position of eleven years in the Department of Human Development due to what was labeled as budget cuts but eventually she was temporarily reinstated. The investigation yielded a host of recruiting and admissions infractions, NCAA violations, and widespread administrative and academic corruption thereby vindicating Dear-Healey's accusations. As a result of Dear-Healey's initial willingness to come forth and the investigation, the athletic and academic staff has experienced major turnover with ongoing searches for a new athletic director and university president. By supporting academic rights in the classroom and continuing to enforce academic integrity, TDG is proud to honor Ms. Sally Dear-Healey as the 2010 recipient of the Robert Maynard Hutchins Award.

Dear-Healey joins past RMH recipients: Jan Kemp, Tiffany Mayne, Frank Splitt, Linda Bensel-Meyers, James Gundlach, and Jon Ericson. With permission from the Hutchins family, the RMH Award was created in 2004 to honor individuals who have defended academic integrity in the face of commercialized college sport. The RMH Award is named after the former President of the University of Chicago who is best known for reforming undergraduate education and eliminating the football program at the university for being a distraction to the campus.

The RMH Award Luncheon, sponsored by TDG, is being held on Friday, April 23 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (time and location TBA). Updated information about the RMH Award Luncheon will be online (www.thedrakegroup.org).

"The purpose of the university is nothing less than to procure a moral, intellectual, and spiritual revolution throughout the world." --Robert Maynard Hutchins