



# The Drake Group

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN COLLEGIATE SPORT

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**CONTACT: Jason R. Lanter, Ph.D., 610-683-4458**

***Dr. William Dowling to be presented with the 2012 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 **Dr. William Dowling**, University Distinguished Professor of English and American Literature at Rutgers University, as the 2012 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. Dr. Dowling is being honored for his protection of academic priority and ongoing efforts to move Rutgers to a participatory model of intercollegiate athletics.

Dowling helped create Rutgers 1000, a faculty-student-alumni organization seeking to move Rutgers away from the Division I level of athletics, in 1996. Rutgers 1000 wants the university to leave the Big East conference and follow the non-scholarship participatory athletic models seen in the Patriot League and the Division III level. Dowling argues that the desire for success in athletics at Rutgers has hurt the intellectual climate on campus, and believes Rutgers could be a lost cause in 15 years. "It'll stop attracting the best students, the top faculty will flee – that's already happening." Additionally, he has shown that athletic spending and coaching salaries at Rutgers have continued to increase while unionized staff and faculty experienced pay freezes. Dowling proposes that the approximately \$50 million saved from participating in Division I athletics should be used to update the academic buildings, classrooms, and residence halls on campus. Dowling's reflection on his experience with Rutgers 1000 and intercollegiate athletics is available in his book, *Confessions of a Spoilsport: My Life and Hard Times Fighting Sports Corruption at an Old Eastern University*. For his ongoing commitment to the importance of academics in the face of the college sports enterprise, TDG is excited to honor Dr. William Dowling as the 2012 recipient of the Robert Maynard Hutchins Award.

Dowling joins past RMH recipients: Jan Kemp, Tiffany Mayne, Frank Splitt, Linda Bensel-Meyers, James Gundlach, Jon Ericson, Sally Dear-Healey, and Harry Edwards. 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 11:30-1:30 on Thursday, April 19 in the Magnolia Lounge of the Friday Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Reservations for the luncheon can be made at The Drake Group website ([www.thedrakegroup.org](http://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*