



Billy Hawkins - 2016 Hutchins Award Recipient



Billy Hawkins, a professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Georgia, has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award, the Drake Group's highest honor. For Hutchins, the purpose of education is "to unsettle the minds of the young and to inflame their intellectual interests." Hawkins' research and teaching do just that. His award winning book, *The New Plantation*, draws parallels between colonialism, the American slave system, and the structure of the athletic industrial complex, Hawkins makes a powerful case that the predominantly white universities give far greater priority to exploiting the bodies of black male athletes than to developing their minds. The award ceremony will be held at The Drake Group Hutchins Award luncheon on April 21, 2016 at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina and is free to members. Contact Drake Past President, Allen Sack (AllenLSack@yahoo.com) if you wish to attend. [More about Dr. Hawkins...](#)

Drake Letter to All Division I College and University Presidents



Listing eleven current conditions that threaten the financial stability of college athletics programs and the academic integrity of higher education institutions, The Drake Group issued a request to NCAA Division I college and university presidents and chancellors to support H.R. 2731 (a bi-partisan bill currently before Congress) that would mandate the appointment of a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. The Commission's charge would be "to identify and examine issues of national concern related to the conduct of intercollegiate athletics and to make recommendations for the resolution of such issues." The bill also provides for basic concussion safety measures and addresses the absence of due process guarantees for any institution facing the NCAA enforcement process. [Read Letter...](#)

Fritz Polite - President-Elect



The Drake Group is pleased to announce results of our recent officer election. Congratulations to Fritz Polite who will assume his term of office in July of this year. Dr. Polite is the Chair of the Management Science Division & Director of the Sport Management Program, at The Harry F. Byrd Jr., School of Business at Shenandoah University (VA). He has over 30 years of experience in business, sports, management, coaching, and teaching to include 19 years of International experience. [Learn](#)

[more](#) about our new President-Elect.

We Need You!



We need each Drake member to get his or her respective member of the House of Representatives to sign on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 2731, a bi-partisan Congressional Bill to establish a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics
[Learn how to help...](#)

NEWS

Gurney and Meyer at COIA Annual Meeting. The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) is an organization representing the elected faculty governance bodies of FBS universities in activities related to the administration and governance of intercollegiate athletics. Drake President, Gerald Gurney and member Jayma Meyer presented a session at the annual COIA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. Topics included updates on HR 2731 and a discussion of the function and conditions of an NCAA limited antitrust exemption.

Drake Group President in Washington Post

"This is all about pandering to the fantasies of 18-year-olds. It has nothing whatsoever to do with the mission of a university." [Read more...](#)

Drake President-Elect Ridpath

Why the NCAA Continues to Work Against Athletes' Best Interests



Gerry Gurney, Drake Group President and David Ridpath, Drake Group President-Elect teamed up to comment on the renewal of the employment agreement of the NCAA President and how this action signaled no change in the direction of the NCAA. The authors express concerns

over the NCAA still asserting that it has no legal obligation to protect the health and well-being of student athletes or to ensure the quality of their education.

Lawsuits still abound challenging many of the NCAA's core principles of amateurism, health, and the quality of athletes' educational experiences.

[Read the entire Chronicle of Higher Education op-ed.](#)

Excessive and Exploitative Time Demands on College Athletes



Inside Higher Education just published an op-ed penned by Allen Sack, Drake Group Past President and Gerry Gurney, current Drake Group President critical of the NCAA's failure to take action to reduce athletics time demands on college athletes.

Sack and Gurney review the results of numerous athlete surveys validating the commonly known fact that the

NCAA's four hours-per-day/twenty hours-per-week is routinely violated under the guise of "voluntary practices." [Read the entire op-ed.](#)

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Gerry Gurney,
President

at a time

First, congratulations to Billy Hawkins, our 2016 Hutchins Award winner with thanks and admiration for all he has done to bring the issue of racial exploitation of Black football and basketball players to the forefront of our national conversation. Second, thanks to Fritz Polite for his willingness to serve as our new President-Elect! Finally, To all of our members, I hope you will consider playing an active role in our effort to have Congress approve the establishment of a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. Change happens one person

on "Playing in the Red"

"College sports is big business, and it's a very poorly run big business." [Read more...](#)

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