

# The Drake Group

*A Voice for Faculty Charged with Educating College Athletes*

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## *The Drake Group Announces Dr. Harry Edwards as Recipient of the 2011 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. Harry Edwards**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, as the 2011 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. Edwards is being honored for his lifetime commitment to the rights and academic opportunities for college athletes.

Edwards, who might be best known for organizing the Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympic Games, has continuously spoken critically about the intercollegiate athletic complex. As Robert Lipsyte wrote in 1998, Edwards “has seen himself as one who provokes and incites others to action, a reformer, not a revolutionary. And indeed, no other single figure in sports has done as much to make the country aware that the problems of the larger culture are recapitulated in sports, that the arena is no sanctuary from drugs, racism and corruption.”

Edwards’ focus on equal opportunity for all college athletes stems from his personal struggle to select his own major while in college, and the petition he needed to become a sociology major. He saw that athletes were being clustered into select majors in the 1960s, a process that continues on many college campuses today. Edwards, in a 1985 interview, highlights the priorities of athletics and academics in higher education: “We have to recognize that these are educational institutions, not athletic institutions. Until we begin to fire coaches for unethical behavior just as we would fire a professor for unethical behavior, until we hold coaches and athletic departments accountable for academic integrity, nothing will change.” With his lifetime commitment to academic opportunity and integrity, TDG is to honor Dr. Harry Edwards as the 2011 recipient of the Robert Maynard Hutchins Award.

Edwards joins past RMH recipients: Jan Kemp, Tiffany Mayne, Frank Splitt, Linda Bensel-Meyers, James Gundlach, Jon Ericson, and Sally Dear-Healey. 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 Thursday, April 21 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (time and location TBA online – [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*

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