

**An Excerpt from The Drake Group's October 11, 2019 Press Release:
"Dr. Frank Splitt, Longtime Drake Group Member and Robert Maynard Hutchins Award
Recipient, publishes REFLECTIONS, 2016-2019: A Sequel to AN ODYSSEY OF
REFORM INITIATIVES, 1986-2015"**

NEW HAVEN, CT -- B. David Ridpath, Ed.D., President of The Drake Group, announced that Dr. Frank Splitt, a former McCormick Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, has published a sequel to his seminal and lifetime work, *An Odyssey of Reform Initiatives, 1986-2015*. We are pleased to be able to publish the sequel to this work, entitled *REFLECTIONS, 2016-2019* that is now posted on The Drake Group website.

Splitt has long advocated engineering education reform at American colleges and universities and this latest anthology details those battles as well as his lifelong commitment to college sports reform. The Drake Group is profoundly grateful for his leadership and contributions

It was in the late nineties after witnessing the erosion of educational primacy within athletic programs at many colleges and universities that Dr. Splitt decided to attack the problem like he did with every other issue that needed action - "head on." In the early 2000s, after conversing with then University of Michigan president, Dr. Jim Duderstadt, one of the few progressive presidents who was unafraid to discuss reform in college sports, he was introduced to Drake Group founder, Dr. Jon Ericson, then the provost at Drake University. It was then that Splitt, after officially joining The Drake Group, published his first works on college sports reform.

Splitt has been a prolific writer on the subject ever since. His publications and letters have appeared worldwide and he is a frequent "go to" media source regarding issues in intercollegiate athletics. He refuses to believe that college athletics cannot be changed for the better and insists that it can be brought closer to its original intent when it was started over 100 years ago. This quote from his sequel sums up the struggle that he and many others faced every day in their efforts to make college sports better for institutions and those who play them.

America is a sports-entertainment-and-gambling-loving nation. When it comes to college sports, the culturally-rooted behavior of its citizens is not only intensely tribal in nature, but also very difficult to change. As reformers must know, it's all about money along with its awesome power to influence people and events. Money certainly makes strange bedfellows. Unfortunately, government officials, university presidents and trustees, along with many others who should be awake at the switch are willfully asleep. To try to wake them is to jolt them into a reality they just don't want to face.

For his efforts in advancing the cause of academic integrity and reform in college sports, he was the recipient of The Drake Group's 2006 *Robert Maynard Hutchins Award*.