

JACK WILLERS

DRAKE LECTURER

Jack Conrad Willers is Professor Emeritus at George Peabody College and Vanderbilt University. He received his bachelor's in Biblical Studies with minors in Philosophy and Greek and his master's in Philosophy with a minor in Greek at Baylor University. He received a second master's in Philosophy of Religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and his Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Education at the University of Texas at Austin. During his over thirty-three year teaching career, he taught at Baylor University, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Illinois at Urbana, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and Auburn University where he chaired the Department of Foundations of Education prior to joining the faculty of George Peabody College in 1972.

Professor Willers has had an outstanding international career. He served as Director of the U.S. Department of State Peabody College-in-Athens (Greece) Graduate Program, was a Fulbright-Hayes Senior Lecturer in Philosophy of Education at Pahlavi University, Shiraz, Iran, and at SELETE Higher Teacher Education Institute, Athens, Greece, and has served as a consultant to Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, Foreign Language Institute, Irkutsk, U.S.S.R., the Mongolian Ministry of Education, Ulaan Bataar as well as to ministries of education in Mexico, Venezuela, Morocco, Egypt, Turkey and China.

As a graduate student at the University of Texas, Professor Willers became the first Alexander Caswell Ellis Fellow, and received the first Frederick Eby Research Award in Humanistic Studies in Education. Professor Willers is a Fellow and Past Executive Secretary of the Philosophy of Education Society, is a charter member and former Executive Committee member of the American Educational Studies Association,

has served as a representative to the Council on Learned Societies in Education, and has been active in the Midwest, Southeast, Southwestern, and Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Societies, serving the latter as President.

Professor Willers is especially well qualified to speak about the thought of William E. Drake. Dr. Drake was his professor, graduate advisor, and close personal friend. He has edited two earlier Drake publications and was designated in Dr. Drake's will as editor and publisher of his 991 page memoirs which, according to Professor Willers, present the most thorough and intimate picture of Dr. Drake's personal life, professional career and philosophy of education.

Professor Willers is a native of Dallas, Texas. He is married to Dr. Elaine R. Willers, and they are the parents of four sons.

DRAKE LECTURES

- 1987 William E. Drake, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin. "The Authority of Law and the Freedom of the Individual." Response, "Freedom and Authority in the Educational Philosophy of William E. Drake," by Jack Willers, Professor, George Peabody College and Vanderbilt University.
- 1988 James E. McClellan, Jr., State University of New York at Albany and Corpus Christi State University. "Our Historical Duty and How to Do It."
- 1989 John Pulliam, Dean, University of Montana. "The Right Stuff for Education in the Twentieth Century: Futures Philosophy and Educational Reform."
- 1990 Richard Wisniewski, Dean, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, "Restructured Schools of Education: Hope for the Foundations."