

# Toma scholarship honors student leaders in residence life

Consider the advice James Madison College sophomore Teresa Dettloff offers incoming freshmen, and you understand why she received the first scholarship on campus to honor a student for excellence in residential living.

“Push yourself outside your comfort zone. Jump in. You won’t regret it!”

She speaks from experience. Besides her challenging international relations major, Teresa plays violin in an MSU orchestra, works at the Case Hall front desk, helps run MSU’s Model United Nations program, writes a regular blog on politics and belongs to a student-run public policy think tank.

She counts her Case Hall floor mates as a second family and says she was honored to receive the Doug Toma scholarship after recommendations from her roommate and residential advisor. “I’m pretty lucky to have the friends that I do,” she says, adding that the scholarship is a powerful reminder.

Doug Toma (’86, James Madison) died in 2011 and is remembered by former classmates as a voice of reassurance whether working in MSU’s former “pit” registration or studying in Case Hall. Lansing-area attorney Mike Brown (’86, James Madison) called Doug the “best roommate you could ever have” which planted the seed for him to begin the Toma Scholarship in Doug’s memory.



*Teresa Dettloff*

Others joined Mike to fund the scholarship, including Ingham County Judge Tom Boyd (’84, James Madison) who was Doug’s residential advisor. He recalls Doug as a quiet leader who helped others navigate the college experience, even as he was going through it himself. “Doug always seemed wise beyond his years,” he says.

Doug completed law school, but found a calling tracing back to his MSU roots. When he became dean of Franklin Residential College at the University of Georgia, it came as no surprise to Case Hall friends. Thanks to their generosity, the Toma scholarship will recognize outstanding roommates and Case Hall residents like Teresa Dettloff as a fitting tribute to Doug’s legacy.

*To learn more about making a gift to James Madison College, contact Director of Development Rocky Beckett at (517) 432-2117; [becketttr@msu.edu](mailto:becketttr@msu.edu).*