

The Doug Toma Scholarship for Outstanding Roommates and Case Hall Residents at James Madison College

Dr. J. Douglas Toma, known as Doug Toma to his friends and colleagues, graduated in 1986 from James Madison College at Michigan State University. Doug's degree was in Socio-Economics from Madison and he also obtained a law degree, Master's in History and a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Doug had a distinguished career in academia until his death at the age of 47. This endowed scholarship is being created in his honor and memory by the friends and classmates he knows through his college years in Case Hall and MSU. They encourage all of Doug's friends and colleagues around the world as well as people who support the mission of this endowment to join them in this cause by making a generous contribution to the Doug Toma Scholarship.

Doug is the "archetype" for this endowed scholarship recognizing "outstanding roommates and Case Hall residents." It is hard to express in words the formative experiences during college and friendships over several decades, but Doug captures it well below and his friends and donors to this award share his mutual appreciation.

Having spent the past two decades studying higher education, I have been most interested in the collective, more collegiate aspects of the enterprise. These are what cause so many Americans to fall in love with and remain so attached to their institutions -- why "going to college," even at an institution as large as Michigan State, is so different than a European "attending university." Going to college is a collective activity. A group of friends and I, having identified ourselves as "the Senate" during our first academic year in 1982-83, were engaged and successful students, with James Madison College providing our curricular foundation. But it was our out-of-classroom experiences together that were so powerful, defining our time at Michigan State and our continuing passionate connection to the university as alumni and strong relationships with one another as friends.

In recognition of the Senate providing me with a touchstone that has enriched my personal life for almost 30 years and afforded me the basis of a scholarly career, I am pleased that in my honor the Senate has decided to recognize a James Madison College student each year who exemplifies the spirit of American higher education as we have experienced it.

Doug Toma
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Help us to remember Doug and support future generations of Madison students who are outstanding roommates and Case Hall residents. This scholarship does not have any academic criteria other than being in good academic standing. It is targeted for students that make the residential college a special place to live and learn. Please consider making your most generous gift to the Doug Toma Scholarship.

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