

The Lily Klinger Memorial Award

James Madison College Michigan State University

The Lily Klinger Memorial Award honors the life of Lily Ann Klinger, an active student, alumna, and long serving member of the James Madison College Alumni Board. Born on June 24, 1958 in Chicago, Ms. Klinger graduated with an undergraduate degree in Urban Community Policy Problems from James Madison College at Michigan State University. She was completing a Masters Degree in Philanthropy at St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota at the time of her death. A gregarious and warm person, Ms. Klinger was known for her generous and giving heart. Her kindness, warm smile, and infectious laughter touched many people who came across her life. Ms. Klinger passed away on September 1, 2001, from complications due to ovarian/pancreatic cancer. She was forty-three.

Lily was passionate about James Madison College. She thrived in the residential setting, loved the small classes and enjoyed the close interaction with fellow students and the Madison faculty. Lily had a wonderful educational experience at Madison and spoke fondly of the College. You could always count on Lily when something needed to be done and this was exemplified in her tireless service on the JMC Alumni Association Board. Lily helped this young organization grow and develop because she knew how important alumni are to the future of an institution. She remembered her undergraduate years and wanted to give back to Madison and provide the same or even better opportunities for each generation of students. Lily's passion for JMC, combined with other personal interest provides the vision for the Lily Klinger Memorial Award.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, she had spent the last ten years of her professional career writing grants for non-profit organizations. Ms. Klinger worked as development manager and grant writer for Advocate Health Care in Chicago. Her many contributions to the Chicagoland area included employment by the Chicago Architecture Foundation, and she also served the city as a docent. In 1991, she was hired by the non-profit organization Zonta International to act as their foundation manager. An avid music lover and concertgoer, Ms. Klinger was also a regular season ticket holder of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and also enjoyed theatrical productions. Shortly before her passing, she was assisting the Chicago-based Eclipse Theatre troupe in establishing a donor base for their seasonal stage productions.

Lily had a great sense of adventure and loved to travel. In her short life, she was able to see many of the world's wonders including the Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower, Machu Picchu, the Golden Gate Bridge, the London Tower, and the Great Lakes. Lily welcomed visitors to her beloved city, Chicago, and gave hundreds of walking tours as a docent. She educated visitors on the many architectural marvels of the city. It was easy to fall in love with Chicago while attending one of Lily's walks. She was a risk taker and found humor in every day events. Lily met her husband by responding to a personal ad on a dare from a favorite aunt, and later married Thomas H. Brierton on April 23, 1994, in Chicago.

Ms. Klinger devoted her life to making the world a better place. Her work focused on improving the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women. Lily was an exceptional daughter, friend, wife, student, citizen, and human being. She gave her all on a daily basis, and was consistently a positive and kind influence. Passages from the Zonta Collect best sum up Lily's approach to life: be large in thought, in word, in deed; leave off self-seeking; meet each other face-to-face without self pity and without prejudice; never be hasty in judgment and always generous; make time for all things; put into action our better impulses - straightforward and unafraid; grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences - that in the big things of life we are as one.

We invite you to join us in establishing this legacy for Lily Ann Klinger at James Madison College. We ask for your most generous financial contribution. Funds will support Madison students pursuing internships and study abroad programs that reflect Lily's commitment to humanity, service to urban communities and joy of traveling. For further information please contact Rocky Beckett at the JMC Development Office.

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