Michael G. Schechter Endowed Scholarship Fund  
for James Madison College

This endowment honors Michael G. Schechter, whose passion for helping students and for serving as their “teacher” in the broadest possible way has been a nearly forty year hallmark at James Madison College. That passion, reflected in Professor Schechter’s classroom instruction, course advising, personal and professional counsel and exemplary scholarship, has been second to none. Professor Schechter has had a profound impact on his students, James Madison College and Michigan State University. Serving on a faculty known for setting the bar for teaching excellence, Professor Schechter has long been a leader and mentor among his colleagues. While awards and professional accolades can never be the measure of the person, Professor Schechter’s special bond with, and regard for, the students he engaged is reflected in a host of University awards, all of which involve selection criteria requiring notable service to students. He has received 5 awards for teaching excellence highlighted by the 2001 Michigan State University Honors College Award for Distinguished Service to Honors Students. He also received the Michigan State University Distinguished Faculty Award in the same year.

These awards are well deserved but they only evidence, rather than tell the story of, Professor Schechter’s decades-long dedication, commitment and service. He has shared his time, talents and wisdom openly and generously with generations of Madisonians, both inside and outside the classroom and often well-beyond many students’ East Lansing residency. He has made a habit of writing letters of recommendation for current students, recent graduates, and for those long gone from Case Hall. He has regular and continuing correspondence with his former students and offers professional and personal counsel as Madisonians move through life. Alumni seek him out for advice and often send him updates on their life and career to say thank you and share their accomplishments. And notably, Professor Schechter has filled this role for students without regard to Madison major and whether the student was an academic superstar or one taking more time to find her way and find her place in the academic arena.

To honor his enduring commitment to the College and the students who have populated it, former and current students who have benefited from Professor Schechter’s instruction, counsel and friendship are now establishing the Michael G. Schechter Scholarship Fund. Many have a desire to pay it forward and to insure Professor Schechter’s story and legacy of scholarly and teaching excellence are conveyed to future Madisonians and emulated by faculty and students for decades to come. Others simply have a desire to say thank you and recognize an outstanding teacher, scholar and friend who will be concluding his service at Madison College. While it is difficult to imagine the College and the International Relations field without Michael Schechter as its consistent and dependable anchor, this is one way to carry his legacy forward and embrace the values Professor Schechter so directly embodied.

We invite you to join us in establishing this endowment to honor Professor Michael G. Schechter. Unsurprisingly in light of his personal decades long service, Professor Schechter has specifically asked that any funds being donated be used to support undergraduate scholarships for students at James Madison College. Students have been at the center of his career and this endowment to support undergraduate scholarships will serve as one final, enduring aspect of Professor Schechter’s legacy. Please consider making your most generous gift in support of the Michael G. Schechter Endowed Scholarship Fund. We encourage you to consider and make a multi-year pledge to help us build the endowment for the future. For further information please contact Rocky Beckett at JMC.

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