

Recognition of Newly Endowed Programs  
2009

**Katrina Tagget Memorial Fellowship**  
By Val Nilson

I'd like to recognize the Tagget family who have traveled, many of them, from Maryland to be with us today and who have turned a very sad tragedy into opportunity for growth for many students to follow in the future. (Sara, David, Blake, and Katrina's grandparents, and aunt and uncle: Eleanor and Paul Tedesco, Duane and Shirley Massman, Tom and Kelly Tagget)

As a senior at MSU majoring in Public Administration and Public Policy with a specialization in Political Economics, Katrina Tagget achieved academic excellence and balanced this with service to others. She earned a place on the Dean's List every semester beginning in the spring of her freshman year. Seeking to transcend academic success, Katrina engaged in numerous co-curricular opportunities and grew to realize service to others as one of her most meaningful accomplishments. Throughout her last two years at MSU she served as an RCPD mentor helping others with disabilities maximize their potential. Reflecting on all the honors, awards and accolades earned as a student, she cited her experience as an RCPD mentor as one of her most important accomplishments.

Through the generosity of Katrina's family and friends, this fellowship was established to memorialize Katrina's contributions and encourage others with disabilities to excel both academically and through service to others. The financial stipend that goes with this fellowship will be matched with a guided experiential component via the RCPD similar to that enjoyed by Katrina. The fellowship will benefit the chosen fellow, the students touched by their work, and the RCPD through a synergy of effort that culminates in self-awareness, skill development and a sense of contribution.

Today we recognize the Katrina Tagget Memorial Fellowship and would like to present this Rock as a symbol of your generous spirit and of the academic excellence and service to others for which Katrina will always be remembered.

Sara, I believe you have some remarks.....

And now while the family is still at the podium, we'll present the Katrina Tagget Memorial Fellowship. Will Jason Baumhover please come forward?

Jason is a junior from Nederland, Colorado majoring in General Management. Jason's career goal is to become a manager in the entertainment or sports industry. Jason, your Partnership Planning Letter has established a number of goals including mentoring up to four RCPD students with learning disabilities. You will be teaching them strategies to enhance their academic success, as well as encouraging them in leadership development, and connecting them to opportunities for volunteer community service. John Pedraza and I look forward to working with you this coming year! Congratulations on being chosen to become the first Katrina Tagget Fellow at MSU!