Benjamin G. Klein
2004 Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award Citation

"Time," wrote Carl Sandburg, "is a great teacher. For who can live without hope?" So it is with the professor we honor now, one who has given both time and hope to students without number. Even at Davidson, where steadfast dedication to one's students is a hallmark of the faculty, this Hunter Hamilton award winner stands out. One alumna wrote, "We remember how students often sat in the hall around his office, waiting while he helped others and knowing that he would never turn us away to do anything else -- we were his top priority."

In an era when the world wants immediate answers, this man counsels patience. In a discipline known for its rigid rules, he bespeaks flexibility and a variety of approaches -- lessons that, according to more than one letter writer, last for a lifetime. "He never told me the answers to my questions," penned one former student, "but rather led me along a path of discovery until I saw the answers for myself." Such is the gift of every master, the ability to communicate not a set of skills or a list of facts but rather to lead an expedition of discovery and along the way to convince students that they themselves are the focus of the journey.

This year's Hunter Hamilton professor is famous for his ability to wrestle any combination of letters and numbers into comprehensible language. He knows that the mathematician's best work is high art, as daring as the most secret dreams of poets; and he has been for years an inspiration to those he sends on to graduate school. To the innumerable masses, however, he has been more like a savior. "He always found a way to explain the inexplicable," wrote one former student. "...Even to me."

Widely respected by his colleagues and invaluable to the College for his years of service, he nevertheless has aspired to no title other than professor.
Hamilton Love of Teaching Award.

Davidson College Honors Professor Benjamin C. Klein with the Hunter
For these traits and for the integrity evident in his daily work with students,

In all probability there will never be another like him.

confidence of the world's great teachers.
problems has not diminished; he processed only patience and the calm
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day when the crowd outside his office has not diminished and the rigor of the
sleepers rolled up, the glasses knuckled down, he managed always to convince us
Whether speaking before the faculty or addressing first-year students, his