THE HUNTER–HAMILTON LOVE OF TEACHING AWARD

The Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award seeks out and honors teachers whose way of life uniquely inspires the full potential of each student. This award is given to a Davidson College faculty member judged by his or her peers to display an exemplary love of teaching.

FELIX ALVIN CARROLL, JR.

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1996

Lively, extremely well prepared, dedicated, and challenging are some words that capture the essence of this year’s winner of the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award. This professor inspires students whether they are conducting a laboratory experiment, attempting to analyze experimental results in a research project, or simply trying to understand a classroom problem. One student is particularly appreciative of this professor’s help in conducting research, noting, “The fundamental lessons he imparted during this experience were: Research is hard work. Make careful observations in the laboratory. Question and examine your assumptions carefully.” Another student praises him for helping to develop strong analytical and inductive reasoning skills in the field of chemistry. Finally, a student extols this professor for his personal virtues, commenting that “One of my strongest memories of him is of his ever-present willingness to stop his work and answer questions from students. He never appeared impatient. He showed a willingness to take on any questions whether or not they pertained to his own classes.” This professor must be Dr. Felix Carroll.

Dr. Carroll’s talents are diverse and far-reaching. He is a prolific punster, one who uses this talent to bring a unique chemistry into the classroom. Students appreciate the way he injects humor into his lectures, thereby breaking the fast-paced rhythm of his classroom presentations. They also appreciate his understanding of the human condition, of what people can as well as cannot be expected to do. A student notes, “The wisdom of his teaching philosophy is his ability to motivate students by setting high, but attainable standards.” No wonder that many students credit Felix as the catalyst in their decision to pursue graduate education in chemistry, and that others credit him as the professor who, in their estimation, best represents what it means to be an excellent teacher. In this latter connection, one student states, “To me, Dr. Carroll’s teaching represented the essence of a liberal arts education: learning how to think, learning how to learn. As I prepare to graduate from law school in a few months, I can state unequivocally that no class better prepared me for the study of law than organic chemistry.”

In summary, Dr. Carroll’s success as a teacher stems from a combination of his deep knowledge of his discipline, his joy in sharing that knowledge, and his concern for the well-being of his students, whether they choose to follow his path or march to the beat of their own drummer. For your extraordinary talents, we salute you, Dr. Felix Carroll, and declare you recipient of the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award.

Signed by: John W. Kuykendall
President

Robert C. Williams
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty