Our second Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching recipient is described as a magnet who draws people together, an individual who is above and beyond being only a professor, with “a warm, welcoming and comforting spirit.” This honoree lives by five deeply-felt commitments:

**#One, Stimulate students in the classroom through stellar teaching and research.** Letters about this nominee used the words “passion, enthusiasm, and inspiring.” A former student explained, “[This teacher’s] unconventional approach to lectures and ...limitless intellect about so many topics were influential in my decision to [major in this field].”

**#Two, Practice life-long learning, along with your students.** This individual encourages students to create their own projects and to explore topics outside of the professor’s own research specialties. The result is that the student and professor learn together.

**#Three, Feed the students’ souls and hearts in addition to their minds.** One alumna commented, “This professor’s office is always open and students stop by for the comforting feeling and aura that surround this teacher.” Another student remarked, “[This professor] always provides great insight into the world and how one can accomplish his or her dreams with a good plan and some thought.” “Simply put,” another former student said, “I never had a professor...who spoke not only to my mind, but also my soul.”

**#Four, Care for and inspire all students.** Perhaps one of the most compelling traits we celebrate today is this professor’s attention to all Davidson students—mainstream and minority, struggling and flourishing. One alumnus, a minority student, spoke of his first year at Davidson: “I fell into a...depression after receiving my first [bad grade]...The depression receded only after I reached out to... [this professor who] showed me [she] cared, could sympathize with my experiences, and knew the resources to get me back on my feet.” This is a professor who advocates equality. One alumna said, “She promotes tolerance and acceptance amongst the Davidson community by treating all of her students the same.”
#Five, Teach beyond the classroom walls. Our honoree is a teacher, a mentor and a leader beyond the Chambers building. She developed and frequently led Davidson’s summer program in West Africa. An alumnus wrote, “The Davidson in Ghana program was one of the highlights of my college career.” Our honoree is also a significant presence in the STRIDE program for minority students. One alumna said, “She continues to incite in each new year of freshmen, [the idea] that we are special, that we are worthy, and that we BELONG at Davidson.”

Indeed, numerous students credit this powerhouse woman, with her warm smile and hearty laugh, as being the person who, above all others, motivated them to reach their full potential, both intellectual and personal.

For inspiring students with your passion and love of anthropology; for your ingrained commitment to serve the underrepresented; for your respect of the whole person; we bestow the 2011 Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award upon you, Professor Nancy Fairley.