Wise, perceptive and discerning, this year’s Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award recipient has been affectionately known by his students of the last twenty years as "The Sage." His teaching blends the wisdom of the ages, from Aristotle to Darwin, with the pragmatism, wit and humor of Texas. In the classroom, the gleam in his eyes and his contagious smile instill a love of learning and discovery in even the most skeptical student. As one student stated, "you want to show him that his hard work and his obvious love and excitement for his field is not unnoticed, but captivating and inspirational."

This teacher’s success stems from a combination of deep and complete knowledge of his discipline, allowing him to simplify the complex and connect the apparently disparate, and a fertile mind that never fails to manifest its love for ideas and scholarship. His teaching is innovative and energetic. He enrolls students as co-conspirators with him in a plot to uncover nature’s secrets. His courses transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries to expose the art of science.

A familiar scene in Dana Science Building might include students nervously pacing around the anatomy lab with trays of dissected sharks as they await their recitation appointments. One might also overhear students in the halls of Dana complaining of lack of sleep because they were arguing
half the night about an idea presented in this teacher's class the previous
day. The resounding hue and cry, "No pain, no gain," is passed from one
student to another -- year after year.

This teacher's commitment to his students does not end in the classroom.
His office and home extend welcome to students in need of a listening ear
and good counsel. In him, students find a confidant, friend and mentor.
Alumni physicians and medical students value the preparation his courses
have given them to meet the challenges of medical school. Over the years
his encouragement and support have made possible careers in medicine for
many who lost hope of achieving that dream.

"Even if I were a great writer," states a former student, "the words to
express my admiration and respect for this man could not be penned. He
truly taught not only about science, but about life . . ." The heartfelt
praise for this teacher pours forth from students, alumni and colleagues.
A demanding teacher, an understanding and patient counselor and guide -- a
sage. We salute Jeremiah L. Putnam and name him this year's recipient of
the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award.