"And gladly would he learn and gladly teach." So describes Chaucer of a pilgrim in The Canterbury Tales, and no better description fits this recipient of the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award. Enthusiasm for teaching and learning is his hallmark. One former student wrote that this professor "imbued me with the confidence and desire to go further, to give my creativity a voice, to conduct research in an unconventional fashion, and to draw meaningful and insightful conclusions from that research." Another cited his teaching as "enabling us all to see a global community, small and shrinking, affecting us in ways I had never imagined. I left his classroom a different person, with a distinctly different understanding of an interdependent world." And, in the best spirit of this award, another student praised this teacher's "consistent ability to make the arcane institutions and workings of the political and economic world accessible to all his students."

The nominations for this professor describe not only a gifted teacher whose classroom innovations have helped to reshape the teaching of international politics on a national level, but a mentor and friend whose concern for the post-Davidson welfare of his students is without peer. He has served as a catalyst for the successful nomination of numerous scholarship and fellowship winners, and his sage counsel has helped many alums make important career choices. He is a fixture at campus events, from presentations on U.S. policy in Africa to volleyball and basketball games. He is, in short, an embodiment of the love of teaching and learning whose accessibility to students, alums, and colleagues is legendary—that is, if you can navigate around the stacks of newspapers in his office without setting off a seismic event.

In sum, this professor's lifetime of work is proof of Oliver Wendell Holmes' observation that "a person's mind stretched to a new idea can never return to its original dimensions."

Davidson College is proud to honor with the 1999 Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award, Professor Louis L. Ortmayer.