

ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN COMMUNITY AWARD

Given by the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation to honor the memory of the Founder of the New York Southern Society, this award is made to a person associated with Hollins University who has shown in daily living and work those characteristics that exhibit the noblest of spiritual and human qualities.

This year's recipient started her career at Hollins in 1977 and during her many years brought a passion and excitement for all things mathematical. Whether she was teaching quantitative reasoning or calculus or knot theory or the mathematics of gambling or the wonders of mathematical knitting or change ringing of the carillon bells, her enthusiasm and gift for motivation and inspiration were unbounded (a mathematical term). As one current student noted fondly, "She was the neatest mathematical nerd ever and we love (and respect) her for that. She always got so excited when she drove through the I-81 and I-64 interstate exchange...because it was the only place she knew of where two perfect squares meet."

This year's Sullivan award recipient generously and joyously shared her talents in ways that richly enhanced the Hollins experience. She was a thought leader in the world of quantitative literacy and a sought-after expert in the design and implementation of undergraduate quantitative reasoning programs. In January, the Mathematical Association of America presented her with the 2017 Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award, a national award to honor her not only for inspiring students in the classroom and beyond but also for developing and teaching interdisciplinary courses (see above!) that help all students understand, appreciate and value the significance and beauty of mathematics in the world around them. Her service on campus was extraordinary- Science Seminar, Phi Beta Kappa, Sustained Dialogue, Honors Program, Faculty Executive Committee and that was all happening just this past spring semester. As one colleague

stated: [We were] very lucky to have had such an amazing leader, mentor, and friend. She cared about Hollins with all of her heart and all of her soul ...and then some. We are all very thankful for the joy, mathematical and otherwise, she brought to this campus.”

In gratitude for her dedicated support of the Hollins University community, Hollins bestows the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award upon:

Caren L. Diefenderfer

Professor of Mathematics