Students who nominated her have said:

“Professor Smiley embodies everything that this University is, and everything that it could ask for in a teacher...In the classroom her mastery of the material and her ability to both control class discussion and pique student interest are unmatched by anyone... Professor Smiley has given me valuable advice on academics, class selection, job selection, what to do with my summers, what to do with my time after college, as well as life in general.”

“Professor Smiley makes every student who takes her course feel warm and welcome. She commands the classroom with authority, but in a manner that makes students want to listen...She is a professor who is first and foremost interested in knowledge and helping students gain just that. Her door is always open, and she is always willing to discuss issues, papers, and various other conundrums...”

“She is encouraging, yet appropriately critical. She invests herself in her student’s intellectual development. Furthermore, her presentation of a diverse array of ideas is incredibly fair – she never presents a subject with her bias included, and all positions get their fair presentation and scrutiny. In this respect, Professor Smiley is an ideal intellectual. For many of the philosophy students, Professor Smiley is more than just an instructor – she is a coach and idol for living a fruitful intellectual life.”