By IJ CHAN
The Breeze

Clad in a Dallas Cowboys windbreaker and his trademark cowboy hat, Dave Baber is ready to take on hundred of calls from party-bound JMU students on a Friday night.

Clients call Baber, a taxi driver for ABC Cab, "Cowboy Dave." Originally from Waynesboro, Baber has been a taxi driver in Harrisonburg for nine years. He started off driving for Yellow Cab, and he's been with ABC for the past five.

His car, a white Ford Police Interceptor, goes home with him at the end of every shift. Baber said using the same car every day is both convenient and sentimental.

"I always know what kind of shape it's in," Baber said. "If I have a trip going out of town, I know my cab's going to make it there and bring me back."

Baber said he's learned over the years that mutual respect between the driver and the client is crucial.

"A lot of drivers have problems with [students] doing this or that, but what I've learned through the years is that what it takes is respect," Baber said. "If you respect the kids, they're going to respect you."

He added that being honest about the wait time is also important. He said it's what separates ABC from other cab services in Harrisonburg.

"You'd be surprised how many people say, 'They told us they'd be here in 15 minutes and we've been waiting for an hour and a half,'" Baber said. "But when I tell them I'm going to be there, I'm there. It makes a difference."

Mohammad Najeeb Khalid, co-owner of ABC Cab, said the family bond he and his staff have with one another is what makes his company special.

Khalid said several people are involved in this "family," including the dispatcher, driver and phone operator. He also said his clients are also part of this family.

"It's not uncommon, he said, for drivers to know clients on a first-name basis.

"Kids call us directly and know us personally now," Khalid said. "They're on campus for four years and so you form a relationship."

ABC Cab, Khalid said, currently employs about 35 to 40 drivers. They can receive about 500-700 calls in a 12-hour period.

Khalid said he and his co-owner, Musa Syed, drive taxis themselves and run the company based on grassroots ideals.

"The key thing in business — the main thing that you need, is that you've got to be honest and you've got to be respectful to everybody," Khalid said.

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favorite faculty member: **DAVID DANIEL**

By JOANNA MORELLI
contributing writer

When you meet Professor David Daniel, the first thing he'll say to do is look up his name on RateMyProfessor.com, where he is ranked the "hottest" out of a multitude of professors.

"Sometimes on the first day of class I'll wear Axe body spray," Daniel said. "Sometimes it's hard to get people to focus on the way I teach when they're looking at me. It's a struggle."

He then explains that this is a joke as he considers himself the opposite.

Daniel establishes close relationships with a majority of the students he teaches in his 300-person general psychology classes and encourages open participation throughout. Many of his students have noted and appreciated his different techniques in teaching such a large audience.

"He doesn't like relying on PowerPoints solely, and that really makes him different from a lot of teachers," said Christiana McGuihan, a sophomore psychology major. "He does more of a lecture-slash-open conversation. He encourages us to ask questions and participate; those are the main components of his style. It's a rewarding class."

It is no surprise, then, that Daniel has been voted by students, "I've gotten teaching awards before, but this one comes from students — that's the best honor you can get...even though it's because I'm attractive."

David Daniel
psychology professor

faculty, and staff as the best professor of JMU.

"Students are always around my office," Daniel said. And a few minutes later senior marketing major Lindsay Hoeffler, sophomore Ali Steed, senior Caitlin Vetter and McGuihan lounged in his office, claiming to only be there "for the nice couches."

Daniel jokes with the four students, speaking with them in the same way good friends do.

"I think people value that he likes to teach the course," said Steed, a political science major. "Most kids feel like their professors don't want to be teaching their GenFeds, but in that class you can tell that he really likes what he's teaching and that really translates over."

Daniel teaches in a quirky way that makes learning a remarkable experience; his T-shirts match the lesson covered in his classes and uses humor as an anecdote to his teaching techniques.

"He's very enthusiastic about the class," said Vetter, a health sciences major. "It's a class of about 300 people so it would be easy to skip, but you wouldn't."

Daniel attributes his Best of the Burg win to those that have encouraged him: his students.

"This is the first time the students of JMU have done this, so it means more," he said. "I've gotten teaching awards before, but this one comes from students — that's the best honor you can get. Even though it's because I'm attractive."

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Dave Baber, a driver for ABC cab, spends his weekends shuttling people around town to parties. He said honesty and respect are the most important things when it comes to driving a taxi.