

favorite faculty member:

# DAVID DANIEL

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contributing writer

When you meet Professor David Daniel, the first thing he'll say to do is look up his name on Ratemy-professor.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 McGuigan, 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,

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**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 Hoefferle, sophomore Ali Steed, senior Caitlin Vetter and McGuigan 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 GenEds, 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."