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Professor Q+A: Jim Brau

Annie Pond
Brigham Young University, anniepond29@gmail.com

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suntered into the large auditorium as 2
Unlimited’s song welcomed me to class. At the
front, a man in a football jersey and jeans sat next to a
projector talking to students and drinking out of his
water bottle. I quickly realized this was not my
average Intro to Finance lecture. As class began it was
easy to see that my professor, Jim Brau, cared a
whole lot about us and our success in the class.

Jim Brau has worked diligently to provide his
students an exceptional and understandable
experience. From an Airborne Ranger infantry officer
to the Joel C. Peterson Professor of Finance, Brau
teaches from experience the importance of hard work,
humor, and the gospel. Here’s a glimpse into a bit of
his life.

What is your favorite part of teaching at a university?
I love working with young people. My patriarchal blessing
talks about how I will work with the youth. As I get older
and older, BYU students become younger and younger! To
me they are still the youth of the Church!

What has been one of your funniest moments as a
professor?
It probably has to be this year when RateMyProfessor
awarded me as the Hottest Professor in the
Country based on chili peppers from
students. If you’ve ever seen me, you know
that’s gotta be a joke!!

You invite your students to visit you at VASA while you
exercise. How come?
These Vasa office hours are for mentoring – things like
career ideas, choosing a major, finding an internship. This
type of mentoring is great at the gym. We kill two birds
with one stone! I pay for a guest pass so students without a
gym pass can come to Vasa office hours as well.

Music is played as students shuffle in before class. What’s
your favorite song to jam out to before class? Why?
“Ya’ll ready for this?” I play it the first day of class to pump
everybody up for the semester.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a university
student trying to figure out life?
“Enjoy the journey.”

If you had $10 million right now, what would you do?
Assuming it is after-tax and after-tithing, pay off my
mortgage and invest the rest.

What do you want to do when you grow up?
Serve couple missions with my wife Bunny, compete in
bodybuilding shows in the senior master’s (old guy) class,
and have fun with future grandchildren.