

WEConnect

Get to Know a Katie...Interview with Mary Docken

by Kristen Vogel

Anyone who knows Mary Docken understands why her reputation as a modest, innate leader is so unique—and magnetic! She is smart, honest, genuine and lively; she gives helpful advice and sets fine examples; she is kind and understanding; Mary is a go-getter. Recently, I had the opportunity to interview Mary and find out her secret to success. I am here to offer a glimpse into the life of a true leader in our community—particularly among the students in the communication major.

First things first, I want to know how this mother of three how is able to invest 100% effort into her family, her classes and school work, her career as a Marketing Specialist, her community and her friendships. Mary is like a duck—she makes it look so easy, gracefully gliding across the water, while her feet are hard at work under the surface. She tells me, "It starts with attitude." Although this may seem cliché, she explains what she means about attitude, "There is not a single thing in my life that is a chore...because I love what I am doing. A paper is not a chore because I love to write...surprisingly, I am enjoying my math homework! And I LOVE my career. My family is number one, and everything else enhances my life—none of it takes away."

Her positive attitude not only assists her in all of her roles, it also inspires the women around her here at St. Kate's. But according to Mary, she gets as much inspiration from St. Kate's women, as she radiates. Mary and I discuss St. Kate's mission statement. She tells me that the women at St. Kate's make up our mission statement; "It's more than just the text on the page that proclaims the mission." She elaborates, saying that the instructors bring topics and facilitate the environment, but she learns just as much from the students as she does from the instructors! "It's the whole that teaches," she tells me, and so much of it is "the lively conversations...by the women that have such respect for themselves and one another."

"Attitude is Everything, Including a Choice."

More than once, she mentions how grateful she is for the inspiration she gets from the "strong, beautiful women" here at St. Kate's. She continues on to state that it's though educators like Milt Thomas who facilitates our peer learning that we are able to learn so much from our peers.

When I ask Mary to reflect on a positive St. Kate's experience, she tells me that it was "not one single experience" that stands out. "I have gotten to know myself here!" She tells me her St. Kate's experience has enhanced her role as a mother by being "surrounded by such beautiful inspirations"—she smiles—"I try to teach my children the values that I learn here from the WEC community..."

She attributes one of her favorite assignments as testimony. The assignment was to examine the cultures that they exist in and find the core statements they could make about each one. Mary tells me matter-of-factly, "Culture is so often defined as race and ethnicity...so when you are white woman, 30 something living in the suburbs"...she trails off, but I understand her point. She summarizes that, "the meat" of the assignment was to recognize and celebrate identity; "I am in Deaf culture, a woman culture and mother business/professional..." she continues to list the many facets of culture that shape her, but then smiles and says, "this assignment helped me realize that I have culture! I don't know how to say it as eloquent as it really was. [It was] one of the best personal gifts—and it came through an assignment!"

Mary came to the College of St. Catherine because the weekend schedule fit well with her frequent business travel, and for the reason that she would be surrounded with peers. When she graduates in 2009, her peers will remember her as one of the inspiring women she raves about!

Imagine how different our world would be if we were surrounded with people that embraced Mary Docken's life motto: "Attitude is Everything, Including a Choice."

ASK CAREER DEVELOPMENT!

By Erin Koolen, Career Counselor

Hello WEC students! I hope everyone is surviving the cold winter weather. You all must be very busy this semester because I did not receive any career questions from anyone. However, if you do have any questions that you would like answered in my next WEConnect article, email them to me at emkoolen@stkate.edu. I really enjoy assisting and reaching out to WEC students, so please send any of your concerns my way.

The Career Development Office has a special WEC presentation coming up on Saturday, March 1, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. We will be presenting a workshop that will help WEC students explore majors and careers that relate to who they are and will bring them satisfaction. There will be an assessment activity to help you learn more about your career interests. In addition, we will briefly go over how to conduct a job search and build a stellar resume. If you are confused about where you want to go in life and/or how you are going to get there, this is the workshop for you. To register for this event call 651.690.6542 or go to www.stkate.edu/weekend. In addition, our office is once again presenting our Backpack to Briefcase Program, where we offer a variety of workshops and activities that help students get ready for life after graduation. We are going to be offering resume reviews, practice interviews with top employer recruiters, job search workshops, and much more. Go to the calendar on KatieClick, accessible through www.stkate.edu/career, to register and get information on all of these events.

Contact Information:

Career Development Office, CdC 460
Hours: 8am to 8pm (Monday), 8am to 4:30pm (Tuesday- Friday), 8am to 6pm (WEC Fridays). Phone Number: 651.690.8890

The WEC Student Advisory Board Development Grant

This grant is intended to provide WEC undergraduate students with the opportunity to participate in a local, state or national conference or seminar for development of leadership and academic enrichment related to their educational experience at St. Kate's.

For more information on the WEC Grant Guidelines or to download an application, please visit our website under "Resources for Students." The grant submission deadline is February 8th. The WEC Board will vote on the submissions at the March 8th WEC Board Meeting.

Interested in a leadership role?

The WEC Student Advisory Board will be holding an election for the Communications Chair position. If you are interested in being a candidate, attend the February meeting or send an email to WECBoard@stkate.edu for more details! Elections will be held Spring 2008!

Looking for writing or math help? Visit the O'Neill Center!

The O'Neill Center is open Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Drop in hours are every Monday from 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

Employer Reimbursement Program

Are you participating in the Reimbursement Program? If so, please be sure to visit Kateway and fill out a form on the appropriate form before the term begins. You will be able to postpone payment of her account until her employer has been able to review grades and pay the tuition (usually about 30 days). The trade-off for being able to postpone payment is that the you will have a 'Hold' on your account. If you need to access transcripts, register, etc...all you will need to do is call Student Accounts @ 690-6503 and let them know that you are participating in the Employer Reimbursement Program and the Hold will be lifted from your account for 24 hours.

FYI: The CSC Bookstore

>>Did you know you can order textbooks online? Having a hard time locating the bookstore website? Follow this path: KateWay—> CSC Information tab—> click on Bookstore Information link under the Student Resources section.

>Can't make it to the Bookstore during regular business hours to pick up your books? Call ahead to the Bookstore (#651-690-6729), pay for your textbooks over the phone, and have them left at the Information Center in Coeur de Catherine. The Information Center is open from 7am-10pm during January and 7:00 am-Midnight from February-May.

All WEC Student Advisory board meetings are held in the Student Organization Center on the 2nd floor in CdC. If you are interested in becoming a member, or if you have ideas, concerns or articles you would like to contribute to the WEConnect, please send an email to wecboard@stkate.edu or call us at 651-690-6213.

WEC Board Meeting Schedule

February 9th from 12:15 pm-12:50 pm
April 12th from 7:15 am-8:15 am

March 8th from 7:15 am-8:15 am
May 3rd from 12:15 pm-12:50 pm

