

Instructor Profile

Dr. Karen Staten

By: Deborah Dancy

All communication courses on the WCC campus are taught by Dr. Karen Staten. She reveals her self-reliance and dedication throughout her courses and her chosen field is one of the most crucial in our society. Communications has such a wide expansion of categories. Everything we say, or choose not to say, is a form of communications. In other words, everything we do or say is a form of verbal or non-verbal communication. Our physical actions are a category as well. The way we act or don't act, move or not move, or even the way we look or don't look. When we communicate, are we being ethical or unethical? Listening and critical thinking are yet another category of communication. Critical thinking helps us to better understand what a mass of connections there are in communication.

Dr. Staten has accomplished her goal in this significant field of study. Within the past year, she has written an entire text book for the communication courses here at WCC. Her book is titled, Connections: A Study of Communication. She has most definitely shown her hard work and determination within this text, as she does in her teaching.

When asked what her inspiration was for choosing this field for her profession she said, "I would have to say my inspiration was my Daddy." She talked about how she and her daddy would "argue" every night at the kitchen table, but it wasn't until she was in high school that she realized "his eyes would smile before his mouth," and that he wasn't serious. Dr. Staten said "he was actually teaching [her] critical thinking, but he probably wouldn't have even known the term." Her daddy passed away in 1990. The last coherent thing her daddy said to her was, "we had some good arguments, didn't we?" According to Dr. Staten, "this was what drew [her] into the argumentative, critical thinking, of all sides of an issue."

Dr. Staten is originally from Ohio. She received her Bachelors degree in Communication from the Cincinnati Institute and her Masters from the University of Dayton. Therefore, this distance between the two worked out well for her. She began her teaching six and a half years ago here at Wilkes



Community College and remarked how much she really loved working with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Dr. Staten really didn't have plans to go any further with her degree but when her daddy passed away, she found he'd left her a *daughter's scholarship*. This scholarship was just something her Mom had made up. So, she continued her career through distance learning at California Coast University where she received her doctorate degree, (Ed.D.). She had to travel to Santa Ana, California several times to defend her dissertation. The committee there would sometimes cause her to feel intimidated and somewhat small. However, it made her think about the scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz. One of her favorite quotes is when the scarecrow went to the wizard and asked for a brain, and the wizard said, "it's not that you don't have a brain, it's just that you don't have a degree to prove it."

Dr. Staten has published articles on "Educational Methodology for Teachers," "Critical Thinking Skills for Communication Students," "Learning Styles of Students," and "Intercultural Communication." Also, she actually developed a Women's Studies in America class, which is only offered on demand because she feels that it is important that everyone get their communication courses first.

Dr. Staten commented; "One thing that is so great about a community college is the teaching and what's really good is when you get a teacher who not only knows his/her field, but also their craft." Dr. Staten went on to say that "everyone in the world needs to communicate and connect." She truly loves working and teaching here at Wilkes Community College.

Dr. Staten is married and has two wonderful children. She is a very loving mother and extremely proud of her children. Her daughter is also a teacher and her son, Nathan, has served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Voter Registration Drive

By Deborah Dancy

Shirley Johnson, representative from the Wilkes County Board of Elections was present in the Student Center Lobby during the SGA Elections on September 10th and 11th from 11:00am until 1:00pm each day.

Mrs. Johnson is the voter registration coordinator for Wilkes County. She was on hand to answer students' questions and to help with the county



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