

'Queen bee' buzzes through MMC

Mount Mercy student wins a date with professional organizer to clean her dorm

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An unmade bed, a month's worth of dirty laundry wadded up in the corner, a Taco Bell bag peeks out from under the bed, last semester's books and handouts stored in sloppy stacks next to the desk, while DVDs and CDs are strewn about the room.

This is a standard messy dorm room that can be found at any college across the country, but one woman who calls herself the "Queen Bee" wants to change that.

Most Mount Mercy students, like Beth Samek, junior business major, enjoy occasionally checking out events occurring around campus. A few weeks ago Samek attended a workshop in the Flaherty Community Room.

Maggie Jackson, aka the Queen Bee, who owns and operates her own company in Cedar Rapids called The Organized Life, held the workshop.

"She had little mottos, like if you are going to buy something new for your place, make sure it has a place to go when you get it there," said Samek "It seemed pretty straightforward."



Photos provided by Beth Samek

Before and after pictures of Beth Samek's room at Mount Mercy. Samek won a consultation with Maggie Jackson, owner of The Organized Life, a Cedar Rapids business that helps clients organize and simplify their lives.

Little did Samek know that her casual attendance at the workshop would win her a date with the Queen Bee herself.

On Feb. 8, Jackson entered Samek's dorm room. "She brought a tub of stuff; label makers, trash bags, and boxes." Samek said "Then we just started organizing, section by section."

Jackson went through each part

of Samek's room with a fine toothed comb. They started with the area underneath Samek's bed, clearing out things such as clothes, boxes and books that weren't suppose to be there.

"Life is complicated and time is short, but there are ways to make life simpler."

- Maggie Jackson

Through out the whole process Samek was getting rid of a lot of unused items. When all was said and done Jackson walked out with 3 bags of stuff Samek didn't need anymore. Things

that could be donated were and others were recycled.

"She really tried to gear my organization style to my personality, so I feel that I will keep some of the things that she taught me, because it just makes things easier...I found things while she was here that I hadn't seen in months," said Samek. "She was wonderful and I would recommend her to anyone who needed her help."

"Life is complicated and time is short, but there are ways to make life simpler and time more plentiful so you can focus on what is important to you," said Jackson.