

For disadvantaged students

Center provides special instruction

By ANNE MARIE GADDIS
Of the Emerald

Everyone seems to be "getting back to the basics" these days, and that includes the importance of reading and writing skills in college.

Students who have problems with reading or writing may feel there is no place to turn for help, and the experience could be frustrating.

Don Shank, Marie Harris and Gloria Williams are three instructors doing something to help.

Together with a staff of about 40 counselors, advisors and tutors, these teachers make up the instructional, administrative and advising group known as The Center for Self Development.

The center, located at 207 Emerald Hall, presently provides services for some 350



eligible students throughout the year who have learning difficulties in their classes. There are also several workshops and seminars that deal with such problems as poor study habits, listening problems and weak vocabularies.

The classes are taught both

on the small group and individual basis, depending on the course and availability of instructors.

"According to HEW (Health, Education, and Welfare) requirements," says Gloria Williams of the administrative staff, "a student must be in a

low income bracket or have come from an educationally deprived background setting to be eligible." She also says students with severe reading or writing problems are admitted along with some handicapped students.

Although many of the students are freshman students, there is a suggested two-year minimum participation time, and students are encouraged to spend up to four years if needed in the program.

"The center is 80 percent federally funded, with the University contributing a small additional amount," Williams continues, explaining the funding for the center. "The tutors are not paid, but they receive credit hours for their services." She encourages any students interested to contact them at any time for information concerning tutoring.

Don Shank, who teaches

Writing 040, emphasizes the importance of the student's progress and indicates the work is comparable to those students in Writing 121.

"I had several Graduate Teaching Fellows comment upon the good construction of several of the students' letters," Shank says enthusiastically. "They simply couldn't tell the difference between the two writing courses."

Marie Harris, who also teaches several Writing 040 classes, stresses the long term effects, and says not only did the classes get the students through current problems, but also they helped students develop positive habits they could use throughout their lives.

The center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with a staff available most of the time.

Groups seek Merry Xmas for all

For most people, Christmas is a season of joy, a time of exchanging presents and being with family and friends. For some, however, Christmas can be less than joyous.

Two campaigns are under way right now in the Eugene area aimed at making this Christmas a merrier one for all. Both the Salvation Army and U.S. Marine Corp reservists in Eugene have launched their donation drives for Christmas baskets and Toys for Tots.

This year, the Salvation Army hopes to distribute more than 900 Christmas food baskets to needy families. However, Al Summerfield, Salvation Army Captain, says the annual canned food drive has so far only netted about 15,000 pounds of canned goods, about half the total for last year.

Summerfield says about 860 baskets were distributed last year, but without additional donations, only 450 baskets can be prepared this year. Anyone who wants to donate store-bought canned fruits and vegetables may drop their donations off at local fire stations in the Eugene-Springfield area, starting Thursday and continuing through Dec. 15.

Christmas basket recipients are chosen by the Salvation Army with the aid of the Lane County welfare

office. The canned food donations are supplemented by additional donations of perishable items for the holiday meals.

While the Salvation Army is concentrating on brightening the holidays with a more festive meal, Eugene Marine Corp reservists want to brighten youngsters' faces with a new toy.

The reservists are collecting toys for distribution to the children of people who are not able to afford as merry a Christmas as they would want for their children.

The collected toys will be given to local welfare and charitable organizations for distribution to underprivileged youngsters. Reservists ask those wanting to donate toys to drop them off at local fire stations in the Eugene-Springfield area. The program will run through Dec. 19.

Persons wishing to help with the drive may call 345-6714. Organizations that would like to help distribute toys may contact the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve office at 1520 W. 13th Ave., Eugene.

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