

# 'Obsessive/Retentive' items on display in EMU Gallery

By Julie Decker  
Emerald Contributor

The EMU Gallery is currently cluttered with objects likely to be passed by at a garage sale.

Glass cases are filled and glittering with the odd and unusual, overflowing with collections of things few others have thought to keep.

"Obsessive/Retentive: Things People Collect," on display through April 13, features the collecting obsessions of people in the community, but with an unusual twist.

Will White, co-director of the EMU Gallery, said the idea behind the exhibit was "to take a light-hearted approach to how and what we see visually by showing what people have."

"The purpose of the exhibit is to express different opinions in what people find appealing," White said.

Many people have saved things for years, filling shelves and shoe boxes with items that seem to have no real use, but yet cannot be thrown away.

The people participating in this exhibit, however, have not only kept these unusual objects, but have sought to gain more of them, creating a collection few others can claim to duplicate.

"Obsessive/Retentive" offers these people the chance to proudly show their collections and to gain an audience, where before viewers of these collections may have been limited.

In the gallery people gather to gaze at Jill Mulholland's collection of Chicken of the Sea dishes lined up side by side. A

school of these colorful aquatic dishes shines on the platform with new-found glory, proud to be recognized as objects of value and distinction.

Another item now rarely seen

ness of honey bees overflow from their glass hive, filling every corner and every inch with these striped insects. Despite vast amounts of such buzzing objects, included is a notice

is represented in miniature with numerous stuffed animals imitating this spare-toothed animal.

Will White includes his own collection of the odd and unusual, this one made up of advertising and TV memorabilia. This collection includes Jetson lunchboxes, Ronald McDonald figures, a Nine Lives battery bank, pictures of the A-Team and other objects reminiscent of favorite commercial figures and television heroes.

The odd and unusual does not end there. Also included is Arlene Emery's Jadie kitchenware, Samantha Le Vine's camera collection, Lois Merritt's covered animal dishes, Mary Lou Hepner's carnival glass, Scott Morrell's insulators, Phylliss L. Vaughan's cookie

jars, Bernice Zigler's egg cups, Elizabeth Cahn's individual Jell-o molds, and Bo Willis' Milk Bottles of Oregon.

This obsessive/retentive display of uncommon collectibles makes a fun and light-hearted exhibit. Objects seldom seen and rarely collected are proudly featured and deserve to be viewed and celebrated for their unusual nature and valued not for their inherent price, but for their oddness and originality. These objects find glory in the simple fact that they were not thrown away. Instead they were saved and sought, and can now decorate gallery walls and showcases.

"Obsessive/Retentive: Things People Collect" is on display in the EMU Gallery through April 13.

**'The purpose of the exhibit is to express different opinions in what people find appealing.'**

— Will White

and probably very seldom collected is Doris Day albums. But their existence is validated by Lisa Reaves' nostalgic collection. Scattered across the gallery showcase, the smiling Doris Day reappears on each of the numerous albums, apparently looking not just for viewers, but for potential listeners as well.

David Fenley's collection features another well known figure, although this one goes back even further than Doris Day. Objects featuring the lovable Davy Crockett adorn this showcase's shelves. Pictures, books and other memorabilia make up this shrine-like collection dedicated to Crockett and his coonskin-capped fans.

Other lovable characters become favorite collectibles for people such as Kenny Hill, who includes his collection of Smurfs in the exhibit. This obsession resulted in the retention of multiple figures and pieces featuring the cartoon-inspired creatures in blue.

Someone identified only as Bee Bee Head displays a collection of honey bees. Various objects decorated with the like-

that Bee Bee Head is looking for more.

Much larger than insects in actual size, but similar in the size of their collections, are Mary E. Baxter's hippos. This oversized mammal adorns posters, cards, cups and more and



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## Housing Continued from Page 6

difference immediately. "There's tons of kids," he said. "It was unusual because I hadn't been around kids for a while."

Abercrombie said the number of resident children expands normal quiet hours. Due to thin walls neighbors must maintain a certain level of respect for each other's privacy, she said. "We're really quiet out of consideration...so kids can sleep."

Thin walls are just one of the aspects of married student housing that residents see as a drawback.

Crime is a more serious concern.

Many tenants have had bicycles stolen and Swanson noted that his car was broken into. Norman confided that she was

sexually assaulted on one occasion and that her home was burglarized within the first two hours she was there.

"You have to be very careful here," Norman said.


But other residents are less adamant about their concern for safety.

"I'd say we're pretty safe myself," Westmoreland resident Swanson said.

Resident turnover, though expected, is another aspect that tenants bemoan.

"The downside is a lot of turnover. People coming and going," Redginald Abercrombie said.

Although the faces in the neighborhood change, their expectations and situations remain basically the same.



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