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Season's Greetings



MELODY CONROY/Emerald

The Craft Center in the EMU offers classes each term in everything from bead work to tie-dyeing. Staff members are available to help during Craft Center hours. Day passes are available for \$1.50.

Making gifts low-cost idea for students

By the time most students pay for tuition, books and rent, they don't have enough money to buy holiday gifts.

But some of the best holiday gifts don't come from the mall; they come from the creative juices of overworked college students.

Craft stores offer a variety of supplies that can be transformed into perfect gifts, said Holly Blum, a florist from Michael's craft store in Eugene.

Craft items are good gifts because the maker gets a lot of pleasure from the completion of a project and then being able to give it to someone else, she said. The receiver also enjoys the thought because they know it comes from the heart.

"It shows you cared enough to spend the time," she said.

Blum has many suggestions for easy projects students can do before the holiday season. Plaster

ornaments can be painted and given to friends or tied to packages.

The ornaments are under \$1 and are available in many shapes and sizes. The paints cost about the same and can be used for more than one project.

Card stock and fancy papers can be transformed into greeting cards to give as gifts or sent as holiday correspondence. Students can make cards for different holidays of the year with rubber stamps, colored pens and paints and tie them with ribbon.

Other suggestions include holiday baked goods. Some simple sugar cookie recipes can be transformed into artsy Santas and snowmen. Chocolate chip cookies with Christmas M&Ms instead of chocolate chips, or Rice Krispie treats in the shape of snowmen are easy creations, Blum said.

These goodies can be put in tins that are decorated with holiday

themes. Plain tins can be purchased at craft stores and painted or baskets can be decorated with festive ribbon and flowers.

Michael's has many staff members available to help students plan projects on a small budget. Project sheets and books are also easy reference guides for many holiday crafts.

The EMU Craft Center will be open until Dec. 15, allowing students an opportunity to finish holiday gifts after the term is over, said Kaulu Gaperu, a Craft Center employee.

The Craft Center offers a variety of easy projects for quick holiday gifts. Small ceramic projects are cheap and firing and glazing are free. Staff members are available for help and instruction. Silk screening and wood working facilities are also available. A one day pass for the center is \$1.50.

By Marcelene Edwards

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