

# Family Prog.

**FAIRBANKS** — A Host Family Program has been developed by the University of Alaska Foreign Student Office in Fairbanks to give students and Alaskans a chance to share in intercultural experiences during the student's term at the university.

The program was set up by Dr. Charles Fields, foreign student advisor on campus.

According to Dr. Fields, Fairbanks area families interested in hosting a foreign student would be responsible for bringing the student to the campus to get him settled on his arrival in Alaska.

During the course of the year the student assigned to the host family would share in the family's activities which might include everything from watching television to cooking the host family a traditional meal from the student's home country.

Fields said the relationship between the student and the host family would be "as casual or as close as they desire."

He said, "the net effect is that both student and family gain in international understanding from their close personal relationship."

Fields developed the program this summer following visits to foreign student offices in Washington and Oregon in late 1973. Those visits were made possible by a training grant from the National Association for Foreign Students Affairs.

Fields said the UA has approximately 60 foreign students from 20 different countries. "They are bright, interesting people," he said, "and I personally have gained a great deal from getting to know them."

Implementation of the program is being carried out by the University Women's Association in a joint effort with the UA Foreign Student Office.

There is no monetary reward to the host family and any family in the Fairbanks community with a sincere desire to host a foreign student is eligible.

Fields, said, however, that "it is expected that prospective host families will outnumber available foreign students."

The chairperson of the University Women's Association host family program is Diane Lex. She can be contacted at 479-4071.

Information on the program can also be obtained from the Foreign Student Office on campus at 479-7256 by asking for the foreign student secretary, Marcia Kresge.