

University of Alaska—

Adv. potters workshop

FAIRBANKS — If you're in pottery and ceramics, an Advanced Potter's Workshop being held at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, March 22-24, may be what you've been waiting for.

Robert C. James, master craftsman in stoneware technique and design will be teaching the workshop sponsored by the UA Special Events Committee, the UA Department of Art, and the Associated Students of the UAF.

James is the head of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Oregon. He is also a master kiln designer and pottery fireman.

Vern Stanford, potter-in-residence at the Fairbanks campus this year, is a friend and former student of James's. He said he has known James for 20 years and "he's the best potter I know of and I've been with some of the big names."

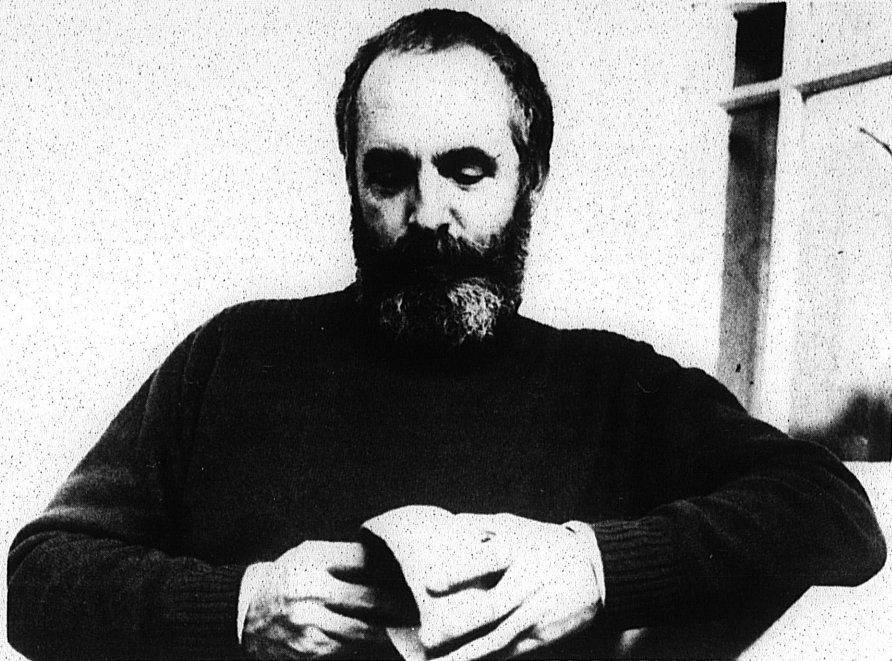
Stanford has his own studio in Colorado but has been in and out of Alaska in the past several years helping set up the pottery facilities at the Nelson Island School of Design at Toksook Bay. He is filling in at the University of Alaska while ceramics professor Stan Zielinski is on sabbatical leave studying Japanese pottery.

Stanford said in pottery circles there are perhaps "five or six internationally known potters in potter's circles." Beyond that there are regionally well-known potters whose work is popular in a relatively small geographic area.

Pottery in the Fairbanks area is a boom course of study. Stanford teaches five classes for the Fairbanks campus plus several for the Tanana Valley Community College. "It is probably one of the most popular courses if you judge it from the waiting lists," he said. He said the popularity stems from an apparent need for people to create something tangible with their hands. "So much of what people do today is abstract," he said, "and they can't see what they are accomplishing and with pottery you take some dirt out of the ground and make it into something useful that you can see."

He said the entire resurgence in interest in crafts could be because of a need to create something tangible at a time when so much of what people do is abstract.

Next month's Advanced Potter's Workshop is limited to 25 students. Judith Strohmaier, coordinator, Office of Conferences and Institutes, suggested inter-



ADVANCED POTTER'S WORKSHOP—Robert C. James, head of the University of Oregon's Department of Fine and Applied Arts, will teach an Advanced Potter's Workshop at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, March 22-24. For more information call Judith Strohmaier at 479-7800, or write the Office of Conferences and Institutes, 117 Eielson, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. (UA PHOTO)

ested persons register early due to the limited space. Her office telephone number is 479-7800. She can also be reached by writing to 117 Eielson Building, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

The cost of the class is \$65 per person. Housing for out-of-townners is available in university residence halls at a cost of \$14 for single and \$9 for double occupancy.

On the final night of the

workshop James will give a free public lecture on stoneware pottery in the Wood Center Ballroom on campus. The lecture will be illustrated and will be given Wednesday, March 24, at 8 p.m.