

## **Anagama Kiln: Wood Fire Technology**

Permit 2001-5

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### **Primary aim of project**

This area provides a locus for students to engage in essentially new technological research utilizing an ancient instrument, a 9000-year-old Anagama kiln fired by wood to understand the ways in which heat and fire affect ceramic ware. This kiln lets students see in a very fundamental way the infinitely complex stages clay goes through during a firing. This outdoor lab is, for the Department of Art an essential component of the teaching program in ceramics. Since it was first established it has had a very positive impact on the teaching of both undergraduate and graduate students.

### **Results/Accomplishments December 2003 - December 2004**

During this period the area has been a classroom for approximately 350 students enrolled in Art 168-224, 168-324, 168-524, 168-624 and 168-924. The Anagama kiln has been fired both as class instruction and individual research projects. During the eight-week summer session 45 ceramic students worked closely with the students in Professor Mark Kenoyer's Anthropology 352 researching clay bodies, primitive glaze calculations, making pieces, building and firing kilns. This inter-disciplinary activity between two these two units of the University was an extremely positive experience. The firings have occurred on the average of one per month including when the snow is flying.