Horning demonstrates art from ancient civilizations

A presentation with modifications Western Heritage to 1600, History 105 classes via Jerry Horning, associate professor of the fine and performing arts department.

Horning, a potter for nearly 20 years, demonstrated and discussed different methods used by ancient civilizations. With the aid of an electric wheel and a blow torch, functional pottery was formed before the students’ eyes.

A ceramics course his senior year at South Dakota State University directed Jerry horning toward a career in clay. Graduate work in Denver and the University of Minnesota along with serving as artist in residence at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina and Norte Dame University are examples of Horning’s educational experience.

Additionally, a request to lecture and demonstrate at an archæological festival two years ago stirred Horning to a personal study of ancient pottery. His presentation at the Jewish Community Center included the purposes behind the shapes ancients employed.

“It’s surprising for most students to realize ancient cultures were really sophisticated,” Horning commented. “The principles and techniques (of pottery) are the same today. Objects don’t change, purposes do.”

Ross Horning, Jerry’s older brother and acting chairman of the history department, initiated the presentation held on September 21 and 22. Horning conceived the idea while teaching a freshman class during the summer of 1980.

“Rather than just talking about the wheel used in 3500 B.C., why not show how inventive, creative, and talented the ancients were? So I asked Jerry to come in.”

According to Horning, both the students and his brother enjoyed the presentation. In planning the Western Civilization class this fall, Horning suggested the idea and was met with receptive response.

“The impact of pottery had a broad repercussion on all of the early civilizations,” Dr. Ashton Welch, instructor of history said. “It can be seen today when studying the foundation of societies.”