

**ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST
TRAINING PROGRAM**

February 2008 Monthly Report



Senator Lisa Murkowski visited the program and spent time talking with both students and staff.

Starting off this month's class schedule was Professor Dr. Phil Weinstein of the University of Washington's Dental Fears Clinic who has become a regular visitor to DENTEX and a favorite of our students. During this session he introduced the Community Projects concept and taught techniques that the students can use to work with very young children in their own communities.

Pictured is Royann Royer, Dental Hygienist from the Southcentral Foundation Dental Clinic, and instructor for the Radiology course working with student Marian Petla.



Through an agreement with the University of Washington, we have entered into a new partnership with the University of Alaska-Anchorage and the instructors from WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho regional medical school collaboration) program. WWAMI has arranged for their local faculty to teach Medical Terminology, Microbiology, Nutrition, Pathology, and Anatomy and Physiology.

In late February the DENTEX students were invited to host display tables at two ANTHC sponsored Employee Health Fairs. The first was held at DEHE (Department of Environmental &

Health Engineering) and the second was at the Alaska Native Medical Center. Many of the employee participants stopped to chat, get fluoride treatments and have their questions about the program answered. Pictured below are Tatiana Barraclough and Ben Steward manning the table at DEHE Health Fair site.

We have begun to coordinate our education and prevention activity schedule with the Southcentral Foundation's Head Start staff. The goal is to do oral health education and fluoride applications to start in the near future.

The students and staff were both pleased and honored to be visited by Senator Murkowski. Her reassuring comments and interest in program activities were well received by all.



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Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic - Second Year Activities

The month of February has been very busy at the Clinic in Bethel. Dr. Weinstein arrived on February 4th and is, of course, a familiar face to the students as he instructed them during their first year of training. On his visit to Bethel pictured below, Dr. Weinstein reviewed motivational interviewing techniques, the management of pediatric patients and introduced the students to techniques that they can use in the development and implementation of community dental health promotion projects.



Dr. Tom Beckman is one of the three primary instructors for second year curriculum and arrived the evening of January 10th to some very heavy winds and drifting snow. The snowdrifts immediately surrounding the dorm were so deep and wide that Dr. Allen, Dr. Beckman and Kathy Balasko had to leave the car behind and hike the last 150 yards to reach the YUUT Elitnaurviat dorm where instructors are housed. After getting settled, Dr. Beckman kept the students busy taking clinical photographs, placing restorations, and learning to manage pediatric patients.

On February 28, DENTEX Clinic Manager Mary Anaruk visited the second year training clinic and provided the students with hugs and support. She also assisted Kathy with organizing files in the same manner as the DENTEX office in Anchorage. During her visit she met with Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation's Gene Peltola, CEO/President and Jack Crow, Vice-President of Health Services and toured the Yuut Elitnaurviat clinical and dormitory facilities.

The second year students have been progressing in their training. They have started performing more complicated restorative procedures and benefit from close supervision during those clinical encounters. In the past six weeks, the students have seen over 75 different patients in the clinic and express their growing confidence in providing treatment. Several of them relate how rewarding it is to have the skills to help make a fearful patient become more comfortable and relaxed in the dental chair.