

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

March 2008 Monthly Report



Ooyuan Nagaruk of Elim teaching tooth brushing to Head Start children

March has flown by with the first year students finishing studies in General Health Sciences and continuing to develop prevention activities with students such as those seen above. College level classes in Microbiology, advanced Anatomy and Physiology, General Pathology and Nutrition were taught by UAA instructors from the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) Medical Education Program. This collaboration was very productive and we look forward to working with the UAA staff again in the future.

The first year DHAT students visited both of Southcentral Foundation's Anchorage based Head Start sites and worked with the children on tooth brushing and other caries prevention techniques.

In keeping with the University of Washington's schedule spring break was the week of March 24th and spring quarter began with six students returning to learn the dynamics of Basic Restorative Functions. The class was taught by ANTHC's Dental Consultant, Dr. Ron Nagel assisted by Maniilaq's Bobby Curtis, DHAT from Point Hope.

Most of the first year students' training to date has been classroom based and they are now moving into the operatories to begin putting what they have learned to use. As they begin using dental specific skill sets and tools. They are reported to be highly enjoying the time spent in clinic using new skills as they practice drilling and filling on plastic models.

Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic - Second Year



Pictured above are Dr. Mary Williard and Dr. Tony Brusca

During the month of March there were ninety-nine patients seen in the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic. The students have been very busy working on improving their technical skills and ensuring that patient documentation is thorough and complete.

Dr. Tom Beckman completed his rotation on March 6, and on March 10, Dr. Anthony Brusca from Arizona arrived to begin his five-week rotation. Dr. Brusca has been reviewing treatment planning, dental anatomy and restorative dentistry with the students.

Initially, the number of dental services provided for patients was limited by the student's inexperience however; as the students are becoming more confident their efficiency is increasing. As a result, they are able to perform more procedures during a scheduled appointment time. This is especially beneficial for those new patients who need only a small amount of dental treatment and the patient's treatment can be completed in just one appointment.

The students are responsible for completing a Community Dental Health Project this year. Each student has selected a local community organization to work with for their project. This month they started collaborating with the Program Directors of their selected organizations and asking for input in project design.



On Friday, March 28, Dr. Williard, the Clinical Site Director at the DENTEX Training Center in Anchorage, was here to review the training program and visit with the students.

On that same day, Mayor Mark Begich of Anchorage was in Bethel and took the opportunity to come by to visit.

Pictured with the Mayor is Chris Evan, Danielle Boston and Dr. Brusca. Dr. Williard also had an opportunity to spend time with the Mayor to share our successes and answer questions.

Activities this month closed out with the Camai Festival. Camai Festival is an annual three day event held in Bethel and this year it went from Friday, March 28 to Sunday, March 30. The students were able to attend and watch various indigenous dance groups from around the world and across the State of Alaska.

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