

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

April 2008 Monthly Report



Pictured above is Dr. Bea Gandara from the University of Washington teaching Oral Pathology

DENTEX

The spring quarter has been very busy. Dr. Ron Nagel completed the course on Basic Restorative Function followed by Dr. Kathy Rafferty and Professor Tracy Popowics teaching Head and Neck Anatomy, Embryology and Histology. Instructors from the University of Alaska's WWAMI program returned for classes in Oral Biology. Dr. Bea Gandara followed with her class on Oral Pathology.

Dr. Williard participated in the American Association of Public Health Dentistry's National Oral Health Conference in Miami, where she was part of a panel presentation and where The Rasmuson Foundation received the Distinguished Service Award.

A late spring snowstorm in Anchorage on April 18th presented challenges for us with 16 inches of heavy wet snow. Kathy Bassett from UW arrived shortly after the storm to provide instruction on the administration of local anesthesia.

Southcentral Foundation Dental Clinic was instrumental in providing clinical supervision for the local anesthesia clinical labs in Dr. Williard's absence with Dr. Latocha as the supervising dentist. We deeply appreciate the continued support and active participation provided by Dr. Kovaleski and his staff as they support our efforts in this program.

Our six first year students continue to work together to meet the rigors of this academic challenge. This mutually supportive group is amazingly consistent in their ability to nurture and challenge one another as they grow in knowledge and skill.

April 2008

Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic

April came and went very quickly at the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic. The students were on a Winter/Spring Break from April 12 to April 27. They were excited to return home to visit family and friends over the break. When they returned to class on April 28, they appeared to be well rested; however, they did express that the two weeks went by very quickly.

Dr. Anthony Brusca completed his instruction on Friday, April 11, and Dr. Robert Allen returned to the clinic for a second rotation on April 28. Dr. Allen will continue his instruction in minor oral surgery, oral pathology, and basic restorative dental procedures.

Each year, the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation sponsors a Tribal Unity Gathering. The Gathering brings together people from every community in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to exchange ideas, concerns and expectations about improving the overall health status of the local residents. This year, the DHAT students, as well as Lillian McGilton, DHAT, participated in the Gathering. On Wednesday morning, April 2, Lillian gave a power-point presentation on Dental Therapy and the students introduced themselves to the Gathering attendees. Conference participants were able to talk to Lillian and the students over the course of the day. The group appeared to be pleased and supportive of the DHAT program and of having the training clinic in Bethel.



Second year students Daniel Kennedy, Sheena Nelson, Danielle Boston, Christopher Evan with DHAT Lillian McGilton speak with YKHC's CEO Gene Peltola at YKHC's Tribal Gathering.