

# ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST TRAINING

## October 2009 Monthly Report

In the picture below to the right is part of the A-DEC hands-on training on maintenance and repair of dental equipment. Learning the mechanics of a dental chair are from left to right: student Anjanette Norton, Dr. Sarah Shoffstall and student Bonnie Johnson.

### Anchorage - DENTEX - DHAT 1<sup>st</sup> year Student activities included:

Classes this month were:

- A-DEC training
- Operative Dentistry with Dr. Mark Davis
- Skill consolidation with Dr. Williard and Dr. Bolin
- Pharmacology taught by Louise Achley



### Bethel - YEDTC: DHAT 2<sup>nd</sup> year Students



Pictured to the left are YEDTC DHAT students in the YKHC operating room. YKHC Pediatric Dentist, Dr. Olivia Hougen, provided an orientation to operating room dentistry.

### Activities include:

- Operating room dentistry observation with Dr. Hougen
- KuC/UAA – Bethel School of Nursing Health and Safety Fair on October 8, 2009
- A-DEC training
- Site visit by Dr. Fiset of

### UW

- Clinical pediatric dentistry intensive with Dr. Beckman from Minnesota
- Village trip to Pilot Station to provide dental care with Dr. Brusca
- Community projects including visits to the Senior Center, Pre-Maternal Home and Head Start
- October 24- Faculty Retreat Workshop. Those attending were Dr. Mary Williard, Dr. Sarah Shoffstall, Dr. Robert Allen, Dr. Anthony Brusca, Dr. Anthony Bolin, Dr. Tom Beckman, Dr. Louis Fiset, and Kathy Balasko

## Profiled this month is Dr. Ron Nagel

Pictured: Dr. Nagel with the staff of Dentex from left to right, Mary Anaruk Program Coordinator DENTEX, Dr. Mary Williard, Clinical Site Director DENTEX, Dr. Nagel, Dr. Sarah Shoffstall Clinical Site Director YEDTC, and Kathy Balasko RDH, MS Program Coordinator YEDTC



Dr. Ron Nagel has worked in Alaska for much of his career, arriving here in 1998. It was his vision of a Dental Health Aide Therapy Program, in Alaska serving Alaska Native people, which eventually became a pioneering initiative for ANTHC. He is retiring from the US Public Health Service and his role as the Dental Health Aide Program Director by the end of the year. Dr. Nagel received his dental degree from Emory University in 1987. He began working for the US Public Health Services later that year, and completed an Advanced General Practice Residency at the Gallup Indian Medical Center, and completed both a Graduate Certificate in Public Health and a Masters in Public Health from the John A. Burns School of Medicine. He worked with dental nurses in the Western Pacific which led to his interest in bringing this type of mid-level dental provider to Alaska to help with the severe shortages of Dentists and to increase access in rural Alaska. Due to his leadership and commitment to his vision the Alaska program began with the 1<sup>st</sup> class of DHATS in January of 2007. We now find ourselves accepting our 4<sup>th</sup> class for 2010 and we all know none of this would be possible without Dr. Nagel's tireless work of many hours, weeks and years on behalf of this program. We thank Dr. Nagel for all his work and dedication. His legacy is improved access to dental care for Alaska Native and American Indian people in rural Alaska. The impact of his work is already being felt in many areas of the state and that impact will continue to grow as the Dental Health Aide Program continues to grow. Good wishes to Dr. Nagel in his retirement.

For more program information, please contact Dr. Mary Williard, Clinical Site Director, 907-729-5600 or email at: [mewilliard@anmc.org](mailto:mewilliard@anmc.org).