

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST TRAINING

November 2009 Monthly Report

This photo shows a majority of our current practicing Therapists, and our first year class along with visitors from the Therapy Program at Otago University in New Zealand who taught our first three groups of Therapists in NZ prior to the DENTEX Program: Professors **Tom Kardos** BDS, MDS, PhD, FFOP (RCPA) Professor (far right) Department of Oral Sciences, and **Mrs. Rosemary Kardos** (far left) Senior Teaching Fellow Department of Oral Health, and in addition we had also visiting: **Caswell Evans**, DDS, MPH, (pictured standing in back row next to students) University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Dentistry Associate Dean of Prevention and Public Health Sciences, and **Pamela Tolson**, (pictured in front row on knees on left side) Executive Director, American Association of Public Health Dentistry.



The presentation from the Kardos's of NZ was enjoyed by all, and it was a great experience for the therapists who had trained in NZ to renew friendships and experiences. Our visitors also traveled to Bethel and visited the Bethel Training Clinic (YEDTC), and also made a field trip to one of the villages in the Kuskokwim Region.

Anchorage - DENTEX - DHAT 1st year Student activities included:

Classes this month were:

- Ethics taught by Dr. Phil Weinstein and Trilby Coolidge via Videoconferencing
- Operative Emergent Dentistry by Dr. Tom Ward
- HIPPA by Deann Baker of ANTHC

Another major event was the skill competencies students needed to pass in order to move on to their second year of training in Bethel. The students were on Thanksgiving Break the week of November 23-27, 2009.

Bethel - YEDTC: DHAT 2nd year Students

During the month of November, the DHAT students were primarily working in the clinic trying to complete planned treatment for patients in active care. Over 1000 patients were seen during the 2009 academic year.

The students completed their Community Dental Health course and related projects and will present Poster Presentations on their projects at the DENTEX Training Center on December 10, 2009.

The students were on Thanksgiving Break the week of November 23-27, 2009.

Profiled this month is Dr. Anthony Brusca



Dr. Brusca graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He began working in the Public Health Service at the San Carlos Indian Hospital in San Carlos, Arizona. Following this he began contracting with Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation in the Dental Department, and also working with the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation's Dental Department in Bethel. It was while doing this work that he became interested in the new beginning Dental Therapy training program, which has

led him to teaching in both the first and second year since the first class began in 2007. Not only does he teach both classes, but also takes them on village visits where they gain the experience and insight into the seriousness of the Dental Disease in rural Alaska. He is highly respected and well liked by all the students and staff and was asked to be the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony for the first Alaska graduates from this program in 2008. Dr. Brusca is a person who works well with everyone and brings a smile regularly to us all no matter the situation.

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