

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST TRAINING PROGRAM

December 2009 Monthly Report

DENTEX and Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic Combined Report

The 2009 Graduating Class from Dentex

The Dentex Graduation took place Friday, December 11th at the ANTHC Office Building largest conference rooms. This room holds over 125 people and was standing room only. Families and friends of students, program partners such as the University of Washington MEDEX program, and funders such as Rasmuson Foundation and Bethel Community Services Foundation attended.



Pictured above is the 2009 graduating class of DHAT students, the second class to graduate from the program. Front row from left to right: Marian Petla from New Stuyahok, Tatiana Barraclough from Atka, Bernadette Charles from Mt. Village. Second row: Ooyuan Nagaruk from Elim, Ben Steward from Seward, Tambre Guido from Anchorage.

The third group of students to enter DHAT training have completed their first year of training in Anchorage. They will move to Bethel in January to begin the second and final year of training in the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic. The year in Bethel is largely clinical with the students working directly with patients for the majority of the time. They receive their white coats at the graduation to mark their transition into a clinical provider.

Pictured in front from left to right are: Alison Kaganak from Scammon Bay, Phylcia Wilde from Mt. Village, Ferdella Sharp from Manakotak, and Corrina Cadzow from Ft. Yukon. Back row is: Chelsea Shoemaker from Sand Point, Erik Linduska from Sand Point, Bonnie Johnson from Unalakleet.



The first two weeks of December may have been a blur for the students at the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic. During this time, the students were treating dental patients, preparing to graduate, and getting ready to start their preceptorships. Dr. Robert Allen provided clinical supervision for these two weeks. In addition to clinical supervision, Dr. Allen also introduced the students to dental techniques and procedures less common in daily practice; however, procedures which the students might be exposed to during their preceptorship.



Pictured here preparing for their reception in Bethel are from left to right: Marian Petla from New Stuyahok, Ben Steward from Seward, Tambre Guido from Anchorage, Ooyuan Nagaruk from Elim, Bernadette Charles from Mt. Village and Tatiana Barraclough from Atka.

On Tuesday, December 8th a reception was held at the Yuut Elitnaurviat

Technical and Support Services Building for the 2009 graduating class. The reception, which was open to the Bethel community, allowed the students and staff to say good-bye and thank you to the residents and local supporters for their kindness throughout the year.

Profile of the Month



Dr. Sarah Shoffstall joined the Dentex team in January of 09 and has been working at both the Bethel and Anchorage training centers. She is the Director of the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic where she instructs and has taken students on dental field trips to the villages so they get the experience of working in a smaller setting and also fully appreciate the huge need for Dental providers in the smaller villages. Dr. Shoffstall grew up in rural Ohio where she was very active in school and excelled in sports. The daughter of two teachers, she has a good understanding of the value of education. She is a natural teacher and has quickly become a favorite of our students. Dr. Shoffstall is a 2005 Graduate of the Ohio State University College of Dentistry. She was an I.H.S. Jr. Co-Step student extern at the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation Dental Department during dental school and after graduation took a dental staff position at YKHC.

Living and working in Southwest Alaska has been a rewarding experience for her. She fell in love with the people of the region, the culture and a bush pilot named Randy Cone. Dr. Shoffstall and Randy were married in May of 2009 in her Ohio home town. Randy and Sarah now make their home in Anchorage. In her spare time, Dr. Shoffstall is working on her Masters of Dental Public Health. We are very proud to have such a dedicated and skilled instructor on our staff.

Best Wishes for a happy and healthy 2010! ☺