

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

February 2009 Monthly Report



Pictured above is Dr. Weinstein in chair with student, Corrina Cadzow, parents Tom and Vivian Baker, and student Bonnie Johnson examining baby Dayotak Baker.

Dr. Phil Weinstein was here introducing the students to disease prevention, community dentistry and behavioral sciences. A key to his technique is familiarizing young children with the dental environment and demonstrating the dental office is a friendly place. Working in non-traditional ways, such as with this child in the waiting room while he stays in his carrier is a way to begin working with kids in a comfortable setting and a non-threatening way. Daykotak was happy and interactive even when having fluoride applied to his first erupting teeth.



Pictured here on the left at the ANMC Health Fair are student Anjanette Norton from Kotzebue sponsored by Maniilaq Tribal Health Corporation and patient Diana Lewis. Anjanette is applying fluoride varnish which was offered along with oral hygiene instruction and toothbrushes.

Currently the students are in the middle of their General Sciences courses taught by the University of Alaska Anchorage WAMMI program professors. They spend half a day in the science classes and the other half working on clinical skills and prevention programs.

They are also learning infection control from Stephanie Olson, a certified dental assistant who also runs the UAA dental assisting program.

Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic



Pictured here is Dr. Allen reviewing extraction forceps with Ooyuan Nagaruk in his "Extraction of Primary and Permanent Teeth" course.

The students, as well as the staff, at the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic are surprised that seven weeks of training are already over and spring break is just around the corner. Time flies when you are busy! In these seven weeks, the students have been

learning new dental concepts and developing their skills. All of the students appear more confident and more comfortable performing a variety of dental procedures.

Dr. Brusca completed his rotation as the first clinical instructor the first week of February. The second instructor, Dr. Robert Allen, had an opportunity to overlap with Dr. Brusca during that first week. This overlap proved to be beneficial, as both instructors were able to critique the students' performance at the same time, helping to establish reliability between the instructors. These overlaps have been scheduled for the remainder of the year as instructors rotate in and out of the Bethel Clinic.

As with last year, many patients are seeking care here at the clinic. The students have been treating one or two patients daily. The services provided range from preventive care to uncomplicated tooth extractions. Patients are expressing sincere appreciation for the care they receive. The students are also appreciating the patients, as the appointments can be quite lengthy.

The students have been continuing their Community Project activities. Marian Petla and Bernadette Charles attended a Parent /Teacher meeting at the Head Start on February 23rd to talk with parents about the DHAT program and the services provided to the Head Start students. Tambre Guido and Ooyuan Nagaruk visited the Pre-Maternal Home for the first time this year on February 24th. They provided preventive services and oral hygiene education to the expectant mothers, as well as information on how to keep their baby's mouth healthy. Both visits, to the Head Start and the Pre-Maternal Home, were well received by the participants, and the students enjoyed getting out into the community.

Bernadette Charles and Ben Steward participated in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation's (YKHC) Career Pathways Brown-Bag Luncheon at the Bethel Regional

High School on February 25th. They were part of a panel discussion targeting dental careers. The other panelists were a dentist, a dental hygienist, and a dental assistant from YKHC.

In addition to all of the other end of month activities, Dr. Louis Fiset from the University of Washington conducted his first site visit of the year from February 24th to February 26th. He met with each of the students individually to discuss their training progress, sat in on morning lectures, and observed the students interactions with patients. He will give a report on his observations to the faculty and staff after he returns to Seattle.

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