

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

February 2010 Monthly Report



Pictured here from left to right are Jana Schuerch from Kiana, Tony Stevens from Hydaburg, and Kate Kohl from Bethel as they examine a cow heart during General Health Sciences class.

Anchorage - ANTHC/ UW DENTEX

DHAT 1st year Student activities

Classes held this month were:

- Infection Control
- General Health Sciences
- Radiology
- Behavioral Sciences
- Community Based Prevention Project- Dr. Phil Weinstein from the Univ. of Washington instructing

Bethel - Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic

DHAT 2nd year Students activities included:

- The DHAT students had 135 patient encounters during the month of February and provided a variety of general dental services for their patients.
- Dr. Robert Allen, instructed the students on the atraumatic removal of primary and permanent teeth.
- The students started working on their Community Projects. Bonnie Johnson and Chelsea Shoemaker made trips to Head Start to complete screening exams, apply provide iodine and fluoride varnish, and to provide oral hygiene instruction as the start of their community project.
- Dr. Louis Fiset, from the University of Washington, completed his first site visit for the year on February 23-26, 2010.



Pictured here is Bonnie Johnson applying the fluoride, Chelsea Shoemaker and Corrina Cadzow at Head Start which is mentioned above as one of the various community projects the students do throughout the year.

Profiled this month is Dr. Louis Fiset



Dr. Louis Fiset is a dentist who has worked with the University of Washington MEDEX NW program on curriculum development for DENTEX since the beginning of our program. Dr. Fiset is well qualified for his critical role with DHAT training. He has previously been involved in dental research and published articles on topics like pain control in dentistry, use of nitrous oxide, fluoridation, and appropriate dental treatments. Dr. Fiset practiced for many years in the Dental Fears Clinic at the University of Washington. His experiences have helped to shape the vision of how DHAT training is different from traditional

dental and hygiene training in the United States, focusing on a medical model of care with prevention of disease and reduction of traumatic patient dental experiences. He now makes regular site visits to the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic to observe and advise. Dr. Fiset is one of those rare individuals who possess the academic knowledge as well as understanding the human implications of the application of that knowledge. With his passionate guidance, we have succeeded in piloting a remarkable new dental educational program to train providers for Alaska Native and American Indian communities of rural Alaska. It is worth noting that DHAT curriculum development is not the only passion that Dr. Fiset has in his life. He also has done extensive research and authored a number of books on Japanese Americans in World War II. He is an avid collector of stamps and historical letters. He is also a father of two grown children. He lives in Seattle with his wife and their mischievous cats. We are all enriched by his contributions to DHAT training. We thank him for his continuing dedication and commitment to this very special program.

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