

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

April 2010 Monthly Report



Pictured above Dr. Katherine Rafferty from the University of Washington Dental School teaching Head and Neck Anatomy.

Anchorage - ANTHC/ UW DENTEX Training Center

DHAT 1st year Student classes held this month were:

- Community Dentistry
- Tooth Development
- Head and Neck Anatomy
- Oral Pathology
- Basic Restorative Function

Bethel - Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic



Pictured to the left is 2nd Year DHAT student Bonnie Johnson, Kusko The Immunization Dog, and future kindergartener, Michelle Evan.

On Thursday and Friday, April 29-30, 2010 the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic assisted with Kindergarten Round-Up, providing dental screenings for 86 children who are scheduled to begin Kindergarten this fall.

Phil Weinstein, Ph.D., from the University of Washington, provided instruction for the students April 13-15, 2010. He discussed dental fears, motivational techniques for patients, and observed the students as they interacted with their patients.

Erik Linduska started his Community Dental Health project at the Bethel Regional High School on Tuesday, April 27th. He will be providing dental education to the 7th grade students throughout the year, as well as encouraging the students to seek dental services.

**Profiled this month is Ruth Ballweg
University of Washington, School of Medicine, MEDEX Northwest Director**



Ruth Ballweg MPA, PA-C is the Director of University of Washington, School of Medicine, MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program. MEDEX is one of the partners in the creation of the DENTEX Program. Ruth has been a physician assistant since the mid '70's when she was trained at MEDEX. She initially lived and worked in Ashland, Oregon where she was one of the state's first PAs. She joined the UW faculty in 1981 and became Program Director in 1985. MEDEX became the

academic home for the DHAT program within the UW. Ruth works with the DHAT students during the first year of training on issues of role transition and professional development. Ruth is nationally known as a spokesperson for primary care and has served on many federal and foundation advisory boards and commissions such as the Advisory Board to the National Health Service Corps, and the Pew Foundation's Commission on Education in the Health Professions. She strongly believes that some of the most important innovations in health care have been the direct result of local solutions strengthened by direct community involvement. She says: "The Dental Health Therapist program is a wonderful example of principle!" Ruth lives in Seattle when she's not traveling to promote primary care in the US or internationally. She has presented talks about the Dental Therapy Program to meetings of the Institute of Medicine, the American Public Health Association, national and regional meetings of the Rural Health Association, and other policy groups. Ruth is "Mom" to two grown children and "Grandma Ruth" to a granddaughter and 3 grandsons. We at Dentex greatly appreciate her contributions and dedication to, and overall support of, this very unique and much needed program.

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