

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST TRAINING PROGRAM

August 2008 Monthly Report

DENTEX Training Clinic- First Year Activities



Dr. Mark Davis, Clinical Associate Professor (ret.) of Operative Dentistry at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, Gainesville

On August 4, the summer quarter began with a full schedule. Dr. Tony Brusca who routinely teaches at the Bethel Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic was here in Anchorage to teach the art of pediatric crown preparations. Dr. Mark Davis pictured above arrived to teach adult tooth preparations.

Dr Todd Smith, who is the national IHS Periodontal Consultant, taught an Advanced Clinical Periodontics course. Bobby Curtis, practicing Dental Health Aide Therapist working in Point Hope, joined the class to assist and for some CME hours. Monica Rueben, a hygienist from Tanana Chiefs Conference dental department in Fairbanks joined the staff for the week to provide Dr. Smith with chair side assistance as he instructed the first year students.



Dr. Todd Smith, Monica Rueben, and Tatiana Barraclough, student from APIA.

We had a larger than usual number of scheduled patients and needless to say it was extremely busy. Our partners at Southcentral Foundation's dental clinic helped out by supplying an additional sterilizer and instruments. This week was very rewarding for students and staff. We had many satisfied patients as well.

We are currently recruiting for the DHAT class to begin in January 09 and will hold interviews in Anchorage on September 27, 2008.

Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic - Second Year Activities



Kathy Balasko, RDH, Clinic Manager and student Danielle Boston

The second year Dental Health Aide Therapy students also returned to class on August 4, 2008 following a much needed break. They continue to provide clinical care for patients of all ages and to increase their clinical skills throughout the month. Dr. Brusca started the quarter reviewing dental topics covered throughout the year. He reviewed diagnosis of dental pain; treatment planning and documentation; clinical skills using typodonts and learn-a-prep blocks, this was especially helpful with getting the students reacquainted with handpiece skills; and amalgam restorations.

Students are currently working on photographic documentation, the use of Telehealth technology and the review of the previous day's clinical casework using those photographs. These presentations allow students to objectively review and discuss clinical outcomes in an academic setting and develop the skills to accurately and concisely describe those encounters which will later be so instrumental in their practice.

A mini-course on professionalism started on August 11, using a book titled "Professionalism Is for Everyone: Five Keys to Being a True Professional" by James R. Ball. The course is designed to discuss 30 different topics related to professionalism in 30 days. Therefore, each student selected a total of six to eight topics to research and present one daily.

Diane Aloralrea started on August 4, as the new Office Administrative Assistant for the Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic. Diane is originally from the village of Chevak and has been living in Bethel for 11 months. She is dedicated to working with the students in training and learning more about the job.

On August 27, Dr. Ron Nagel, Clinical Director and Carol Odinzoff, Project Facilitator visited the Bethel training clinic. Dr. Nagel met with students individually, providing them with mid-year evaluations, as well as answering questions regarding their training. He also met with Dr. Brusca to discuss the students' clinical training and progress. Ms. Odinzoff met with staff from two program partners, YKHC and Yuut Elitnaurviat. Later in the day, we chanced to spend a few minutes with Senator Lisa Murkowski who happened to be in Bethel on other business. As always, Senator Murkowski was very gracious. She voiced her thanks, her support of the program and the work of the DHATs statewide.

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