

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

**July 2008 Monthly Report**



Pictured left to right are back row Mary Anaruk, program manager, Dr. Ron Nagel, ANTHC Dental Consultant, Dr. Albert Yee Kellogg Grant Administrator, Carol Odinzoff, Assistant Director-CHAP/Rural Health, Ben Steward 1<sup>st</sup> year student, Torie Heart, Director-CHAP/Rural Health and Dr. Wayne Holden RTI, Middle row is Ooyuan Nagaruk 1<sup>st</sup> year student, Dr. Barri Burrus RTI, Dr. Scott Wetterhall RTI, and Dr. Bill Murdock RTI, and front row is Danielle Boston 2<sup>nd</sup> year student, Dr. Mary Williard, DHAT clinical coordinator, and Mary Rider coordinator of the evaluation project.

**DENTEX Training Clinic- First Year Activities**

The month of July has been relatively quiet at the training center while staff took some vacation and caught up on administrative activities such as the organization of curriculum. Rachel Schierholt, Senior Office Specialist for DENTEX, has been brushing up on her Dental Assistant skills in order to be able to support the more clinical aspects of the program as needed.

The main event of the month was the July 9<sup>th</sup> arrival of our Kellogg grant administrator Dr. Albert Yee. His visit coincided with the arrival of the RTI International evaluation team's visit to meet with representatives from Alaska Native Tribal Health Organizations which employ the 10 currently practicing Dental Health Aide Therapists. In addition, three students were available to meet with Dr. Yee during his visit; they are Benjamin Steward from Seward, Ooyuan Nagaruk from Elim and Danielle Boston from Chistochina. Dr. Yee spent time asking questions and getting a good feel for how they were doing and their plans for the future.

Mid July found the U.W. DENTEX training center turned into a film studio on two separate occasions. First, we hosted the Stone Soup Group "film crew" of Cheri Scott and Becky Branson. They are making a video for families of kids with special needs which will introduce the different sights and sounds of a dental office prior to the first visit. The idea is that the kids can watch the video before

June 2008

going to the office allowing them to get an understanding of the often stress producing noises and instruments before they encounter them, thus preparing them for a successful and low stress appointment.

The second film crew came from the Kellogg Foundation. They are making a video for their website which will highlight the work being done at DENTEX and by DHATs across the state. The crew traveled to Sitka, Angoon, Kotzebue and Kiana. They interviewed program staff and students.

The students returned to class in late July and our Summer Quarter started out with a visit by Ruth Ballweg, Director of the UW MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Training Program. She has been an ardent supporter of our program and enjoys interacting with the students. Dr. Tony Brusca began his class on pediatric Stainless Steel Crown preparation techniques.

### **Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic - Second Year Activities**

The second year students had their summer break the month of July and will begin their Summer Quarter on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Other than Danielle Boston taking time out of her summer break to meet with Dr. Yee, the other students went home to rest, relax and enjoy the summer with family and friends before returning to finish their final two quarters. We anticipate Dan Kennedy, Sheena Nelson, Christopher Evan and Danielle Boston to graduate in mid-December with a commencement ceremony in Anchorage.

For more information, contact Dr. Mary Williard, DENTEX Clinical Site Director 907-729-5600, [mewilliard@anmc.org](mailto:mewilliard@anmc.org).