

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

**May 2008 Monthly Report**



Tatiana Barraclough practices with the intraoral camera connected to the AFCAN telemedicine network

**DENTEX Training Clinic- First Year Activities**

We welcomed back some familiar faces this quarter as Kathy Bassett, RDH of the University of Washington returned to teach Dental Anesthesia Administration with the help of SCF's Dental Department who provided clinical oversight while Dr. Williard was away on travel status.

Dr. Suzanne Eberling joined us to teach Diagnosis and Treatment Planning. And as he did last year, Dr. Anthony Bolin Assistant Professor, and Assistant Director Dental Public Health Residency Program, Baylor College of Dentistry taught courses in Cariology, Atraumatic Restorative Techniques and Dental Sealants.

Throughout the quarter, the students have been reviewing and consolidating their basic restorative skills in the clinic on mannequins. They were able to see their first patients for comprehensive examinations midway through the quarter.

Of real interest is the manner in which these DHAT students are taught to manage patients with "dental fears". In order to change the paradigm of how our patients view and access dental care, one of the main goals of DENTEX is to give our students the skills necessary to allay fear in even the youngest of their patients in order to keep them consistently coming back for a lifetime of good dental care.

Dr. Phil Weinstein of UW's Dental Fears Clinic has been an integral part of our curriculum and the outcome of his teaching has been the development of this portion of our curriculum. These are arguably among some of the most important skills that the DHAT students will learn over the course of their training.

## Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic - Second Year Activities

The students arrived back in Bethel after a two-week break at the end of April. Dr. Robert Allen quickly got the students back into academia with daily lectures and patient care. The students continue to see approximately six patients per day, providing a wide range of care, from preventive services to extraction of severely decayed teeth.

Each of the students is working on a Community Dental Health project. Christopher Evan chose to work with Senior Citizens in Bethel. As part of Chris' project, he arranged to visit the Ayalpik Apartments, residential living for seniors.

On Wednesday, March 14, three students assisted by Dr. Allen and Kathy Balasko took portable dental equipment and supplies to the apartments and set



up a temporary dental operator. Over a period of three hours, the students provided dental screening exams, oral hygiene instruction, and fluoride treatments for 10 residents. After the visit, the students commented on the success of the activity.

The students enjoyed interacting with the elders, and it appeared that the elders appreciated the students providing the screenings. During this visit, the students were able to observe some of the diverse oral conditions that Dr. Allen covered in his recent lectures on Oral Diseases.

On Monday, May 19, Dr. Anthony Brusca returned for his second rotation. Dr. Brusca has been building upon the student's existing knowledge of dental caries. He is using both an assigned textbook and a Caries Risk Manual. The Caries Risk Manual was developed in Alaska in 2003 and uses modules to present caries as a disease process with guidelines for diagnosis, intervention and most importantly prevention and risk assessment. The information provided in the classroom is then applied in the clinical setting.

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