

MARCH
2011



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INSIDE OYA

JPPO's day spent with youth in diverse settings

Before Zak Spiegel gets to the front porch, a small boy opens the front door and a big white dog trots down the steps to meet the Linn JPPO. Spiegel is wary, remembering the time a Dalmatian bit him in the line of duty.

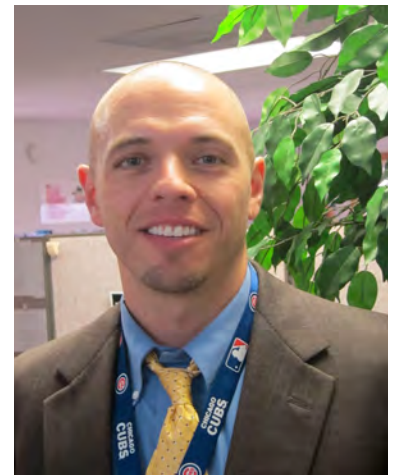
It's an example of what can happen in the field, as Spiegel spends his days working with youth in a variety of settings. Here's a snapshot of a typical day:

8:25 a.m.: In the office Spiegel is responding to e-mail and having a phone conversation about one of the 21 offenders on his caseload.

9:20 a.m.: Spiegel pulls up in front of Sweet Home High School, where he will meet an offender who lives in foster care. In the school cafeteria, they talk about the plan for transitioning home, where the youth needs to improve communications with his father. Spiegel asks the youth to e-mail him a written plan for weekly activities to improve communications, strikes a reasonable agreement on driving restrictions ("does that seem fair?" he asks), and walks with the youth to a restroom where the youth will take a random UA.

10:20 a.m.: Spiegel arrives at the Lebanon home (where he encounters the dog) of a youth who lives with her parents. They have a cordial stand-up conversation in the kitchen. The youth is working in the family business, isn't going to AA meetings, shows no interest in school, and passes her random UA. Spiegel expects her to be off parole soon.

11:20 a.m.: Sitting in the state car in front of South Albany High School, Spiegel places a check-in phone call to the foster parent of the youth he met at Sweet Home High. Then, in the school, he sits with a youth at a hallway table. The youth gives Spiegel an attitude, yet is doing well in school and articulates a realistic educational goal that probably will give her a career.



Zak Spiegel, Linn JPPO

ANNIVERSARIES

The anniversaries listed are for the month of January.

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Jim Denault

Parole and Probation Officer
Marion County

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Ron Flory

Lattice Factory Supervisor
MacLaren YCF

Jose Gonzales

Group Life Coordinator
MacLaren YCF

TWENTY YEARS

Jerry Sevey

Information Systems
Central Office

FIFTEEN YEARS

Makai Brusa

Group Life Coordinator
MacLaren YCF

Angela Denning

Parole and Probation Officer
Marion County

Chris Holman

Cook
Marion County

Director's Column



Colette S. Peters
Director

Welcome to the March issue of Inside OYA. It's always a pleasure to introduce stories about all the positive ways we are helping youth offenders

learn accountability and rebuild their lives.

I am constantly amazed at the creativity and dedication of everyone at OYA. From coming up with the idea to invite the U.S. Coast Guard to teach a class on boater safety and talk about marine-related jobs to inviting youth to build windmills and learn about green-energy jobs, we continue to open youth to the many possibilities that exist for leading productive, positive lives.

We also support the emotional and prosocial development of youth by encouraging them to learn about and celebrate their cultural heritage. February's Black History Month offered numerous opportunities to help youth get in touch with their cultures and learn about other cultures. Events throughout the agency gave youth exposure to important role models who can help inspire them to make wise decisions about their futures.

And most importantly, we are privileged to have many community members involved in helping youth find better paths. In this issue you'll read about a former youth offender who returned to MacLaren to teach a class on barber-

ing. He is someone who understands what they are experiencing and can demonstrate the opportunities for success after release.

The Native American Advisory Committee also recently reached out to honor a youth at Camp Florence who has made tremendous progress since he first entered OYA's custody. This is a wonderful example of the kind of community and cultural support that means so much to youth who are about to re-enter society.

Another transition support program that is drawing the interest of a range of community partners is the Hope Partnership at MacLaren, which, with the support of AmeriCorps, is offering youth the opportunity to participate in Toastmasters and other programs that supplement their treatment. The goal is to help youth make a smoother transition into their home communities and to experience the arts.

I also want to call your attention to the article about some of OYA's food drive events – and there will be more information in the April issue – that have helped raise thousands of dollars for the many Oregonians who live with hunger and food insecurity. The generosity of all of you who contributed to the food drive is much appreciated and will mean a great deal to our community members who rely on food banks for their nutritional needs.

It continues to be a privilege to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colette S. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Colette S. Peters
Director

Continued from page 1

Lunch hour: Spiegel warms up lasagna in the office microwave, answers e-mails, and has a phone conversation about a youth on his caseload. By 12:50 he's in the car and headed to the Linn County Courthouse.

1:10 p.m.: Before court is called to order, Spiegel has a brief, whispered conversation with a handcuffed offender from Hillcrest YCF about what to expect. Spiegel wears a souvenir Chicago Cubs lanyard, joking that it might evoke the judge's sympathy. Then, in an encounter lasting less than two minutes, the judge assigns the youth an attorney, after which a Linn County Sheriff's deputy drives the youth back to Salem. After court, Spiegel takes a Central Office visitor by the Linn County Juvenile Department, then to the county detention facility at Oak Creek YCF.

2:50 p.m.: In the office Spiegel meets with an offender's mom prior to a videoconference with her son, who is in a Pendleton residential treatment program. The videoconference with the youth and treatment manager goes well. They talk about keeping both the youth and the community safe. When the youth asks to have his phone contacts expanded, Spiegel reminds him he instead needs to concentrate on the most important person on the list – his mom.

3:45 p.m.: Spiegel participates in a videoconference with a second youth in Pendleton residential care. They talk about what happens in a typical day. When asked how he's getting along with his peers, the youth tells about conflict with one youth who makes fun of him. Spiegel tells him to walk away. "Until you figure out what isn't working for you, you're going to keep doing it," he says.

By the end of his day, Spiegel has met with six youth – two in school, one at home, one in court, and two by video. Six very different encounters, six sets of needs, and all requiring an individual approach. And tomorrow there will be more youth to meet, and more the day after that.

"You definitely have to be flexible," he says. "It's not a one-size-fits-all approach. You've got 20-21 kids and they're all different." ♦

Hillcrest celebrates Black History Month



Guest artists perform at Hillcrest

Dancers and drummers from Portland joined youth at Hillcrest YCF in February to celebrate Black History Month. John Washington, one of the guests, is editor in chief of Flossin Media, which describes its mission as bringing "healthy messages of inspiration, education and motivation" through its magazine and other outlets. ♦

ANNIVERSARIES

The anniversaries listed are for the month of January.

TEN YEARS

Deanne Baptiste

Dentist

MacLaren YCF

Arnold Colwell

Dentist

Hillcrest YCF

Tina Crawley

Fiscal Analyst

Central Office

Lloyd Miller

HVAC Control Tech

MacLaren YCF

Norm Reed

Psychologist

Hillcrest YCF

Joal Traynor

Group Life Coordinator

Oak Creek YCF

FIVE YEARS

Debbie Anderson

Parole and Probation

Officer

Lane County

Corey Barton

Group Life Coordinator

MacLaren YCF

Floyd Butts

Group Life Coordinator

MacLaren YCF

Jacqueline Cook

QMHP

MacLaren

Mike Fry

Group Life Coordinator

MacLaren YCF

Jared Hartford

Group Life Coordinator

Camp Tillamook

ANNIVERSARIES

The anniversaries listed are for the month of January.

FIVE YEARS

Terry Joyner

Group Life Coordinator
Oak Creek YCF

Augie Munoz

Group Life Coordinator
Rogue Valley YCF

Russell Rodrigues

Group Life Coordinator
MaLaren YCF

Jeff Sturgis

Maintenance Staff
Hillcrest YCF

Tex Ward

Group Life Coordinator
Eastern YCF

Barber returns to MaLaren to talk with, encourage students

"There's the school," Roger Bradford Jr. said as he spotted Lord High School. "It's interesting," he added, looking around the MaLaren YCF campus, "how things change but also stay the same."

Bradford, a successful McMinnville barber, was a MaLaren youth years ago. But on this day he is back coaching, demonstrating, and exchanging easy banter with nine youth offenders in the barbering program.

"It's not a bad gig to get into, guys," he told them of barbering. "You won't get rich, but you can earn a living for a family." He said success is dependent in part "on how good you are and how you promote yourself." A barber for 10 years, after tiring of repeated layoffs in construction and roofing, he called the barbering trade recession-proof.

"What Roger brings to them is what actually happens on the outside," said Cathy McKern, barbering instructor for MaLaren and Hillcrest YCFs. In the small-world department, McKern was Bradford's barbering instructor when she taught at the Academy of Hair Design in Salem. Bradford offered the youth tips ranging from blending and the shears-over-comb technique to how to remove the customer's cape properly when the haircut is finished.

He said his "ticket into MaLaren" was stealing his stepfather's gun as he ran away from home and – "we were broke, cold and hungry" – stealing a car in California enroute to San Diego with a buddy. He met his wife of 26 years when she was visiting her brother, another offender. With his

MaLaren background, Bradford also was able to talk with the barbering students about tag levels, buildings and the "new" MaLaren fence.

"I want them to break barriers and overcome obstacles and see they can be successful," he said. His message: "I did it – and so can you." ♦

North Coast youth qualify for boater credentials



Eight youth in North Coast YCF's South Jetty High School have qualified for the Oregon boater education card – and they gained some career ideas in the process.

The youth were enrolled in four three-hour classes taught by instructors from U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 64 in Astoria and Clatsop County Marine Deputy Matt Phillips. For one class Phillips brought in a sheriff's boat.

The youths' interactions with Deputy Phillips were awkward at first. But Robbie Porter, the high school's education director, said the deputy's openness meant that "in no time they were bombarding him with questions about opportunities in law enforcement" as well as about marine-related employment. And bringing a boat on campus cemented the relationship, she said.

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Continued from page 4

Materials for the classes were provided by the Oregon Marine Board, which issues boater education cards that are required for operators of power boats with more than 10 horsepower.

Flotilla Commander David Phillips said instructors agreed the interactions with students – “they were extremely attentive and deeply interested in boating” – were among the best the instructors had experienced. As a result, he said, the class will be offered twice a year to North Coast youth. ♦

Advisory group honors Native American youth

Native American youth Shane Wilson remembers the path that led to trouble. “I believe in my culture you’re supposed to follow the sacred path,” he said. “For many years I haven’t followed that path. After a while I lost my tradition and my culture. Drugs took over.”

On a better path today, the 24-year-old Camp Florence youth recently was recognized by the OYA Native American Advisory Committee. In a Portland ceremony led by NARA’s Philip Archambault, songs were sung, sweetgrass was burned, a blessing was said, and a Pendleton blanket was presented to Wilson.

The award is part of the advisory committee’s effort to encourage Native American youth to continue moving forward, said OYA Native American Coordinator Jack Lawson.

In his seven years in OYA close custody, Wilson has been in anti-gang and alcohol and drug groups, apologized to his victim’s mother as part of a violent offender group, gained work experience

and learned about job interviewing, and earned his high school diploma. “I dress in a better way and I carry myself with more respect now,” he said.



Wilson remembers staff members Andre Harris and Ron Weaver at Hillcrest asking what he would do if a member of a rival gang challenged him after seeing the gang tattoo on his leg. “I had nothing to say,” he remembers. “Maybe six months later I got my first treatment to take it off. They were so excited for me.

“When I saw how excited they were to see me do that, it made me feel better about myself and I thought I should do more for myself.”

He wants to become affiliated with Montana’s Blackfoot, the tribe of his late father. At OYA, he has participated in pow-wows and made regalia, dream catchers, and arts and crafts. Thanks to hides contributed by Elks Lodge members, at Camp Florence he has made six hand drums and a pow-wow drum.

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STAFF CHANGES

NEW HIRES

HILLCREST

Savannah Allen
Ivan Laib

DEPARTURES

HILLCREST

Nancy Henderson

NORTH COAST

Gordon Olson

STAFF RECOGNITION

EASTERN

Chad Bradach

Employee of the Quarter

HILLCREST

Tim Fannion

Staff of the Month

Jim White

Staff of the Month

MACLAREN

Jayson Ellis

Employee of the Month

**2010
COIN AWARD
RECIPIENTS**

A
Gloria Anderson
Peggy Asmussen

B
Scott Barnett
Julia Benjamin-High
Dan Boleyn
Tamera Bowen
Bill Bowers
Dawn Brandon
Herber Bray
Jim Buchanan

C
Rick Christensen
George Covey
Emily Cox
Shawn Coyne

D
Angie Denning
Doug Durham
Chris Duval

Continued from page 5

Among his goals are to enroll in Chemeketa Community College's autobody program and work in a car stereo store. He says he would advise other Native American youth who are tempted by gangs, drugs and alcohol to remember their culture.

"When I see myself going into those things I ask myself, 'What's more important?' It's my culture. That brings me back to focus." ♦

Cooking up special lunch for Black History Month



Youth at the two Tillamook facilities got busy in the kitchen – and had some fun doing it – preparing special meals celebrating Black History Month. A lunch menu featured smothered pork chops, Cajun rice, collard greens, and cornbread. ♦

'Hope' gives MaLaren catalog of new courses

MaLaren YCF's new Hope Partnership is a pilot project providing arts instruction and life-skills training to foster positive development and promote social, psychological, and emotional growth in youth.

Begun last November, and now becoming known around campus as simply "Hope," the Hope Partnership invites professionals into the facility to lead courses, workshops, and groups to complement treatment and transition services youth already receive.

"The Hope Partnership gives youth a safe environment not only to practice skills learned in treatment, but also to expand their horizons with both transferable skills and positive outlets for expression," said AmeriCorps Contractor Kathleen Fullerton.

She said the program's promise was played out late last year when youth artist Raphael A. sold a painting in Portland for \$300, which she described as "a whopping figure to a budding artist." His success was assisted by Hope volunteer and Artist in Residence Kanaan Kanaan.

The pilot enrolled nearly 40 youth during its October-January term. The new term that began in February had 26 new enrollees, youth from every cottage, and a total of 45 youth participating.

OYA applied for AmeriCorps grants to establish the pilot. As the full-time project facilitator, Fullerton attended new employee orientation at the OYA Training Academy to enable her to supervise youth participating in Hope programs.

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The Hope Partnership is sponsored by a team from OYA Central, OMS and MacLaren management whose members work together with Fullerton to enhance and improve the project. Because Hope is a pilot, it will rely on the research conducted by OYA's Shannon Myrick, Ph.D., during the introductory phase to determine whether the program is evidence-based. The pilot's team is working to improve program operation and welcomes input and feedback.

These workshops are being offered during the current term:

- Write Around Portland, a 12-week volunteer-led workshop (Inside OYA, February 2011);
- Artist in Residence, with Portland State University's Kanaan Kanaan;
- Calligraphy with facilitator Joe Christy;
- Theatre in Practice with professional actor Phil Stockton;
- Lyrics, a five-week course with hip hop artist Diezelp;
- Toastmasters, for which MacLaren is getting its own club charter and memberships that youth can take to clubs in the community; and
- Leadership Council, in which Fullerton is helping youth develop personal leadership qualities and seeking youths' Hope Partnership feedback. ♦

From little windmills energy learning grows



RiverBend youth Eric Hermes was impressed. Visiting a wind farm as part of a study of wind energy, Hermes wrote in an essay, "They taught us how to operate those massive vertical helicopters that never leave the ground. What blows me away is that all the operation is done by their fingertips in their cozy offices."

"In some cases, the turbine is operated from a cell phone app," added RiverBend youth Curtis Hall in his essay. "From a cell phone!" He added, "it was cool (literally) getting to check out the towers up close."

These were among the results that started with youth at several facilities building diminutive windmills from kits OYA Education Coordinator Frank Martin obtained from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Youth Hall wrote they learned about how blade size, materials, and weight affect drag and wind resistance. "It was a good team-building exercise," he

Continued on page 8

2010 COIN AWARD RECIPIENTS

E

Jacho Eaton
Colynn Elder
Rex Emery

G

Dan Gassman
Shelley Gerlach
Ron Godwin
Jordon Grant
Randy Guisinger

H

Jeff Hames
Fred Harris
RoseMarie Hausmann
Kerry Haverty
Jill Hayes
Lori Hernandez
Miguel Herrera
Irv Hersha
Rick Hess
Lisa Hinman
Rosa Howard-Mumford
Steve Huffman
Jim Hupp

J

Gabino Jimenez
Chris Johanson
April Johnson

2010 COIN AWARD RECIPIENTS

K

Ann Kupper

L

Amber LaCoursiere
Julie Leroy
Heidi Lung

M

Frank Martin
Jamie McKay
Melissa McNabb
Rob Meeks
Nancy Mills
Michelle Mintun
Joseph Mobonga
Jan Mogensen

O

Tim Olsen

P

Jeff Pickell

Continued from page 7

added, "as well as a learning experience for those of us new to renewable energy."

Based on project outcomes, Martin gave these ratings:

- RiverBend: Best in Planning and Design, Best in Show
- Hillcrest YCF: Best in Team Effort
- Eastern Oregon YCF: Best in Research and Career Planning

Martin said RiverBend High School-teacher Erin Creech incorporated wind and green-energy education into the project; Hillcrest youth on a living unit promoted the project with support of treatment manager Marcus Bigelow; and Eastern Oregon youth also did a great deal of employment-related research with Monroe High School teacher Susan Lowe. "Change happens when it comes from the youth and the staff latches onto it," Martin said.

He said he hopes an OYA facility will be able to create a partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation or a power company for a power-generating, youth-operated windmill or solar panels. ♦

Dan Robertson named Facility Operations chief



Dan Robertson, Eastern Oregon YCF superintendent since January 2010, has been named acting chief of operations responsible

for day-to-day security, staffing, and operations in OYA's 11 facilities.

Robertson has more than 30 years' experience in juvenile corrections. He came to OYA last year from Washington state's Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, where he was deputy assistant secretary.

He spent the first 20 years of his career working in residential facilities, including five years in a leadership role at Washington state's largest juvenile corrections facility. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Martin's University in Lacey, Wash.

As acting chief of operations he succeeds Ken Jerin, who was named superintendent at Rogue Valley YCF. ♦

Smith named acting superintendent at Eastern

Douglas Smith, a MacLaren YCF treatment manager since 2001, has been named acting superintendent at Eastern Oregon YCF.



Smith, who joined OYA in 1993, also has worked as assistant director and acting director at Camp Florence. Prior to that he was treatment manager at a Multnomah County facility. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and business from Willamette University in Salem.

As Eastern Oregon acting superintendent, Smith succeeds Dan Robertson, who was named acting chief of facility operations. ♦

Blissard named RiverBend superintendent



Brian Blissard, interim superintendent at the RiverBend facility for the past year, has been named superintendent.

Blissard joined OYA in 2001 and also has worked as a treatment manager, YCUC and GLC. Before that he worked seven years

in a New Jersey alternative high school preparing behaviorally and developmentally challenged students to join the work force.

He holds a two-year associate's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in organizational management and sociology. ♦

Gibson named to lead three field offices

An Oregon Department of Human Services employee with more than 25 years' experience as a child welfare worker and supervisor has joined OYA as supervisor of field offices in Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties.



Gibson had worked for DHS in Coos Bay since 2001, most recently as a community development coordinator working out of the Newmark Center. After serving in the Peace Corps, he began

his career in 1984 as a counselor at the Bob Belloni Shelter in Coos Bay. He joined DHS in 1985 as a child protective services worker in Coos Bay, and also worked for the agency in a variety of staff and supervisory roles in Roseburg, Hillsboro, Portland, and St. Helens.

Gibson's work with delinquent youth includes having been co-manager of a diversion program for delinquent youth in Washington County, intake supervisor for the Douglas County Juvenile Department, and liaison with OYA and county juvenile departments in his child protective services roles.

Gibson holds a bachelor's degree in social science and a master's in correctional administration. ♦

2010 COIN AWARD RECIPIENTS

S
JoAnna Sanders
Michelle Schwarzin
Kris Scrabeck
Linda Snow
Linda Snyder
Linda Solomon
Robert Spencer

T
Alice True

W
Alan Walker
Noel Walsh
Khris Ward
Pam Weaver
Ron White
Frank Wolfburg

Y
Kara Youngblutt

OYA's creative food drive events raise thousands

At OYA and other state agencies, thousands of dollars were raised in February for the annual Governor's Food Drive.

All of the events required volunteer energy, and one of the most ambitious was a fund-raising concert held Feb. 25 at MacLaren YCF featuring the Corey Barton Band and Mark McKinney Jazz Group.

McKinney, a MacLaren QMHP, first suggested the event. Food drive coordinator Tom Anhalt then got GLC Corey Barton interested. In addition, GLC Derrick Ingram played drums throughout the concert. Pianist Brady Goss, who plays nationally, joined them for the fundraiser.

"Those guys played their hearts out," Anhalt said. "I would have paid 'real money' for a concert like that." (The suggested donation was \$5.)

Across the agency, fund-raising activities ranged from identifying co-workers' cute baby pictures and judging who cooked up the best chili to silent auctions and walk- and jog-a-thons.

At Camp Tillamook, Denessa Martin and Keith Rigaud challenged other staff members: Raise a specified number of dollars and fill the food barrel, they said, and we will cater a meal at the next staff meeting.

At Hillcrest YCF, celebrity tasters judged a chili cookoff. Donated items such as a duck hunt, Pendleton blanket, and retail gift cards supported a Hillcrest silent auction.

One event even had an acronym – the NERD event in Central Office, where staffers brought in contributions and payroll-deduction forms for the Non-Event Raising Dollars for food banks. ♦



MacLaren's fund-raising concert featured performances by (from left to right) Bill Hughes on guitar, Derrick Ingram on drums, and Mark McKinney on keyboard.

INSIDE OYA

Colette S. Peters
Director

Fariborz Pakseresht
Deputy Director

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Send your stories for the April issue by March 31. Articles received after that date will be held for the May newsletter.

