

JUNE  
2011

# INSIDE OYA

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## Mother's Day lunch brings moms to Rogue Valley; youth plan event, prepare food, honor their moms

"This is going to top all Mother's Days," one mom said.

"It's been 21 months since I had a meal with my son so this is special, really special," said another.

"It was a huge thing to have him call me and invite me," said a third.

Those were among the comments of 30 mothers who attended Rogue Valley YCF's first Mother's Day luncheon. There were white tablecloths, flowers in vases, and moms and sons holding hands.

Youth made the lunch's cheesecake from scratch, assisted kitchen staff with other food preparation, and acted as servers. Mothers received wooden ring boxes made by youth in a Newbridge High School vocational class, flowers purchased by Rogue Valley managers, and pictures of themselves with their sons.

Two Medford television stations covered the event. "The change has been tremendous since he's been in this facility," one mom told KDRV(12). Another said of the facility, "You know, it's about as close as they could come to making it home for the kids."

Youth who were doing well were permitted to invite their mothers. "I know I can do a good thing and get out and it'll be for her," one youth told KOBI(5), "because I know my mom is pretty much one of my heroes." ■



## ANNIVERSARIES

*The anniversaries listed are for the month of April.*

## FIFTEEN YEARS

### Alejandro Contreras

JPPPO

Malheur Parole and Probation

### Miguel Herrera

JPPPO

Washington Parole and Probation

### Gary Westoby

GLC2

Camp Tillamook

### Kevin Wheeler

GLC2

Camp Florence

## TEN YEARS

### Michael Lambert

GLC2

Rogue Valley YCF

### Diana Martinez

GLC2

MacLaren YCF

## Director's column



Colette S. Peters

Welcome to the June issue of *Inside OYA*.

I invite you to read this issue with mixed emotions. So many stories talk about the good things our

staff are doing and the positive impacts we are making on the youth we serve. And yet we are about to begin closing close-custody beds and eliminating 119 positions.

As you know, these changes are the result of budget cuts that will take affect to prepare for the reduced service levels that will be funded during the 2011-13 biennium.

During the coming months we will be transitioning approximately 50 youth from close custody to residential programs, and we will be undergoing the **layoff process** that will result in job changes and departures.

This will be a difficult time for everyone – for our staff, for our youth, and for their families. It will be a time of change and uncertainty that will require all of us to rise to the occasion and stay focused on our jobs.

Youth and families will have many questions that we cannot answer yet – which youth will be transitioned to community placements, and where those placements will be. We will be working to build programming capacity in the community, but it will be some time before we can provide the certainty our youth and families are seeking.

In the same way, all of you are seeking more details about which units

will close, which staff will be affected, and in particular how your jobs may change. During the upcoming weeks I will be meeting with staff at the affected facilities and, along with your deputy and the Human Resources Office staff, will be sharing those details.

In the meantime, I want you to know that it means a lot to me that all of you are continuing to do so much to improve the outcomes for the youth we manage. Their need for treatment, education and other reformation services will continue, and I know I can be confident you will continue to provide those services.

I am proud of the work you do. I regularly applaud your efforts when I am talking with legislators and others. And I sincerely believe that it is because of the outcomes you are achieving that the Legislature worked so diligently to find additional funding to restore 275 of the close-custody beds that had originally been targeted for closure.

As we move forward, I encourage you to continue to focus on your work with youth. This newsletter highlights some of the many ways we serve youth and the importance of what we do. Please keep sight of how meaningful your work is and how much you accomplish for Oregon's most at-risk youth.

I thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Colette S. Peters  
Director

## OYA foster parents celebrate 30 years this spring

When Marge Scott's phone rang on Mother's Day, she knew one of the calls would be from a former OYA foster youth. Even though he's been out of the Scott home more than a dozen years, he still calls on Mother's Day and birthdays.

It's one of the rewards for Marge and Mel Scott of Bandon, who this spring are celebrating 30 years of foster parenting. "When they come to town they come to see us," she said of other former foster youth. "It makes you know they appreciate what you've done for them."

Part of what the Scotts have done over the years – they started with DHS and joined OYA when it became a separate agency – is treat 400-plus youth like family. "We try to be their parents and give them what they need," she said. "No matter where we go, the kids go. If it's a family reunion, the kids go because they're part of our family."

She said most youth in their care have graduated from high school, and some have gone on to college. She noted that Bandon High School has been highly supportive: "I've known all the teachers for years because I've had kids going there," she said. "If somebody's down in his grades or not doing the work, I get a call. Then I get all their assignments and they don't do anything until they get caught up. They learn that real fast, too."

"Marge Scott is a supportive, encouraging go-getter who makes things happen," said foster care certifier Monica Picatti. "She is a strong advocate, and she and Mel always strive to improve the lives of the youth in their care."

Mel Scott takes the boys fishing and



Marge and Mel Scott

crabbing, and helps with transporting them to counseling and medical appointments in Coos Bay. One of the Scotts' four adult sons also is a foster parent, lives next door, and the two households cover for each other as needed.

The Scotts recently got permission to take the two boys currently in their care, ages 13 and 15, on a California vacation where they toured the Jelly Belly factory in Fairfield and visited San Francisco's Chinatown. "It was the first time either of them had been out of Oregon and probably out of the area," Marge Scott said.

Marge Scott also is engaged in a great deal of community service – the food bank, Bandon Cares, leadership in the state and county foster parent associations – and said she includes the boys. "Community service teaches them to do for others and not just have people do for them," she said.

"I do not consider it a job," she added. "I consider it a privilege to work with these kids." As for what keeps the Scotts going, she said, "I think we just enjoy the boys and seeing them become a success." ■

### ANNIVERSARIES

*The anniversaries listed are for the month of April.*

#### FIVE YEARS

**Brandi Ash**

GLC2

Rogue Valley YCF

**Sanjuana Cantu**

ESS2

Business Services

**Kari Charves**

GLC2

Hillcrest YCF

**Kenneth Monk**

GLC2

North Coast YCF

**Roger Snell**

GLC2

Oak Creek YCF

**Douglas Thomas**

GLC2

Rogue Valley YCF

**Marty Tolmich**

GLC2

MacLaren YCF

**Sidney Turner**

RN

Health Services

**DEBBI MARTIN  
NAMED LANE  
FIELD SUPERVISOR**

Debbi Martin, OYA Treatment Coordinator for the past three years, is on a six-month rotation as Acting Supervisor of the Lane field office.

Martin's field experience includes 15 years in juvenile probation for Clackamas and Linn counties before joining OYA, including co-managing cases with OYA and specializing in supervising youth with sex offenses. She also worked as an on-call staff member for Multnomah County juvenile detention for four years and as a direct-care staff member for the Children's Farm Home for a year.

She holds an undergraduate degree in sociology from Oregon State University and is completing a master's in justice management from the University of Nevada-Reno.

The Lane office has a staff of 12. Angie Denning, a Marion JPPO, is on rotation in the Treatment Services position in Central Office.

## Camp Florence youth serve up tasty Asian lunch

Expecting 30 people to show up in the dining room for a special Asian meal? No problem.

In fact, Camp Florence youth Cheng Saelee made it look easy. He volunteered to cook for youth and staff to observe Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. The May 19 meal consisted of teriyaki chicken (Hawaiian), egg rolls (Chinese), sushi (Japanese), rice balls, and shish kabob.

Cheng said that, while at MaLaren YCF, he cooked for luaus during the Asian-Pacific month events and, when

he learned nothing was planned at Camp Florence, he volunteered. He began preparations the day before the meal was served.

Cheng, whose own heritage is Thai, said he learned to cook by watching and learning, viewing televised cooking shows, and trial and error. He expects to leave Camp Florence soon to enroll at Portland Community College, manage an apartment complex, and look for a job.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, celebrating Asians and Pacific

Islanders, is observed in May because it coincides with the first Japanese immigrating to the United States (1843) and completion of the transcontinental railroad (1869), for which the principal laborers were Chinese. ■

*Cheng Saelee prepares a meal to introduce Camp Florence youth and staff to a variety of Asian dishes.*



## Review finds Hillcrest program in full compliance

In a just-completed state review, Hillcrest YCF's alcohol and drug residential program received zero findings of non-compliance. The review, which resulted in a two-year license renewal, was the second in a row for Hillcrest with no findings of non-compliance.

The review was conducted by a team from the Oregon Health Authority's Addictions and Mental Health (AMH) division.

John M. Day, Hillcrest's Treatment Coordinator and Clinical Supervisor, said the review team was complimentary of treatment delivery, staff teamwork and dedication, youths' treatment knowledge, and client record management. "The team also complimented us on how smoothly we have taken on the new program rules that had been adopted by AMH in the past year," he said.

Hillcrest's Gamma and Sigma living units are among four AMH-certified OYA residential treatment facilities. The others are at MaLaren and North Coast YCFs. ■

## Behavior matrix ensures youth-refocus consistency

A year into use of the **behavior matrix** in OYA facilities, staff members say they generally like the consistency the matrix has brought to their work.

"I feel more confident about my decisions because I now know that I have management support," said a Rogue Valley YCF staffer.

The matrix is intended to ensure safe, orderly, and consistent operation across OYA's facilities by specifying possible refocus sanctions for youth misconduct. It benefits staff by giving clear, consistent guidelines at all facilities, and benefits youth who transfer between facilities by keeping expectations and sanctions consistent.

"We need to be reasonable, fair and just in how we respond," said Dan Robertson, Acting Chief of Facility Operations. "Having this type of matrix puts Oregon on the cutting edge of youth-management issues."

He said staff at Eastern Oregon YCF, where he previously was superintendent, liked knowing how to respond to specific violations, and youth benefited from learning behavior has consequences.

At MacLaren YCF, Treatment Manager David Molstad said the matrix produced more consistency and uniformity of practice among staff, although he saw no evidence that youth had moderated their behavior following the matrix's introduction. He said the matrix also elevated staff awareness of youth behavior, including those youth engaging in repeated misconduct, permitting staff to improve their monitoring and response.

"Some staff believe that consequences are too short and do not

have the impact," said MacLaren Treatment Manager Jeff Canfield, "but a majority of staff appreciate having guidelines to assist them in addressing irresponsible behaviors." He said the matrix also has made it easier for youth to accept consequences without blaming individual staff members.

Rogue Valley YCF Superintendent Ken Jerin, Chief of Facility Operations when the matrix was implemented, said the matrix gives staff clearer direction while also affording flexibility. Rogue Valley Program Director Randy Guisinger said staff are still learning to be consistent about referring to the matrix.

"I think the matrix is a good tool and gives staff more room to assist youth in making pro-social choices," said Rogue Valley GLC Jim Buchanan.

"A major conversation in any correctional setting is consequences and consistency," Robertson said. "Although prior consequences were never capricious or arbitrary, this adds consistency in how we manage youth in our care." ■



OYA's budget staff (front row, left to right) Jill Peterson, Donna Smith, Tina Crawley and Paul Berger, and (back row, left to right) Keith Dunn, Linda Gesler and John Fox display their team's award.

### BUDGET TEAM RECOGNIZED FOR PRESENTATION

Director Colette S. Peters presented Coin awards to members of the OYA budget staff for performance that affects all parts of the agency.

The budget team, led by Budget and Contracts Office Manager Linda Gesler, had primary responsibility for preparing the PowerPoint-supported presentation to the Public Safety Subcommittee of the legislative Ways and Means Committee.

In presenting the awards to Gesler, John Fox, Paul Berger, Tina Crawley, Keith Dunn, Jill Petersen and Donna Smith,

Peters said the Ways and Means presentation went well and the agency's numbers had credibility because of the budget team's outstanding work.

## OYA facilities celebrate Correctional Employees Week

### TRANSITIONS

*The following staff changes took place during April and May.*

### NEW HIRES

**Holly Cooper**  
GLC2  
MacLaren YCF

**Derek Hines**  
GLC2  
MacLaren YCF

**Jose Jimenez**  
Office Coordinator  
MacLaren YCF

**Mark Randall**  
GLC2  
MacLaren YCF

**Eugene Russell**  
GLC2  
MacLaren YCF

**Jeremy Weldon**  
GLC2  
MacLaren YCF

Awards, visits and food all were part of the experience during Correctional Employees Week in Oregon as staff at OYA facilities participated in a series of events to honor their work. The photos on pages 6 and 7 highlight just some of the many activities and award presentations that took place. ■



RiverBend Treatment Manager Bret Blanca (left in the photo above) presents the administrative team's certificate of appreciation to GLC2 Ronnie Brown.



Youth created posters to honor staff.



The Camp Florence staff (above) take a moment to enjoy the sun and pose for a group photo.



From North Coast's Dan Berger (above) to RiverBend's Brian Blisard (right), OYA's superintendents showed off their cooking skills as they hosted meals for staff.



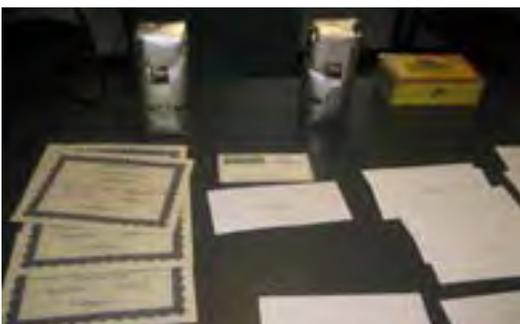


Cakes, raffles, wall displays and pancake breakfasts were just some of the many ways facilities honored the work of staff the first week of May.

As Governor John Kitzhaber, M.D., said in his proclamation, "The State of Oregon is proud to join with the rest of the nation in honoring the dedication and professionalism of the women and men" who work at OYA.

Assistant Director Karen Daniels (left in the photo to the right) and Eastern Oregon Superintendent Doug Smith present a Coin award to Treatment Manager Charmarie Bradach.

Certificates of appreciation, gift certificates and prizes await recipients.



## TRANSITIONS

The following staff changes took place during April and May.

### DEPARTURES

**Christopher Dingus**

GLC2

MacLaren YCF

**Jon Koffler**

GLC2

MacLaren YCF

**Erica Sandstrom**

GLC2

Rogue Valley YCF

## YOUTH ESSAY

A Rogue Valley YCF youth wrote the following essay to accompany art being shown during June at the Grants Pass 6th Street Coffee and Deli.

Art gives me the freedom –

art gives me the power to express

the feelings I can't explain with words.

Art gives me happiness –

I can do what I want without

people giving me a directive.

Art is the best thing I have.

## Volunteer brings Aztec dance, teachings to youth

It's a sunny evening on the MacLaren YCF campus. Out on a grassy field, a drumbeat begins filling the air and five youth start dancing. "I can see it's changing my life," one of the youth said. "I don't get in trouble anymore."

The Aztec dance group is led by Willan Cervantes of Salem, a native of Peru who teaches philosophy at Chemeketa Community College and has been a MacLaren volunteer since October 2009. "I talk to them about striving to be the best member on campus," he said. "There's a rich tradition I teach these guys."

That includes the four Toltec teachings: Speak with integrity, take nothing personally, make no assumptions, and always do your best. The group opens and closes with an Aztec prayer, and Cervantes uses the time after the intense activity to teach in his soft-spoken voice.

Sometimes he talks about Aztec history, language, spirituality or way of life. On this day he tells the youth not to let their behavior be influenced by the fact they may have been beaten or that their parents were drug addicts. He encourages them to think about

whether where they place themselves could lead to conflict. He urges following the Native American red road of right living. "When you get out of here," he said, "people who care about you will give you advice. Listen to them."

A person already advising these youth is Steve Llanes, Native American Services Coordinator at MacLaren. The youth who said he no longer gets into trouble said a key reason is he doesn't want to disappoint Llanes. Said another youth: "I'm more calm in the sense of not doing abrupt things or behavior. To keep attending this group I have to keep a clean record for myself." On New Year's Eve one former MacLaren youth, now working and completing high school in Marion County, went to Eugene to dance rather than engaging in the popular alternative. (MacLaren also has a twice-weekly sweat lodge, Aztec and pow-wow drum groups, and an Asian-Pacific Islander group, Llanes said.)

Cervantes said some of the youth in the Aztec dance group were in gangs, "and they begin to learn that a group, tribe, or what they interpret as a 'gang' dynamic can be used for positive activity and self-empowerment." Some of the MacLaren youth will be deported to Mexico, and Llanes said they can connect with an Aztec dance group there that is part of an international network of such groups. (Cervantes is in a local group that practices twice a week.)

MacLaren's Aztec dance group sometimes is as large as 20, and Cervantes figures he's reached 30 youth during the past year and a half. "I get to be a participant in watching people changing their lives," he said. ■



## Artist supports Oak Creek youths' creative energy

If you wanted to learn about writing, what better place to start than with a published poet who taught creative writing at Stanford University, where she was awarded a Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Poetry?



*Youth woodburned their words onto branches.*

Five Oak Creek YCF transitional program youth just had that experience at The Arts Center in Corvallis with poet and visual artist Jennifer Richter.

For a second consecutive year, youth had an opportunity to take classes with an artist and to have their work, along with that of other area high school students, displayed during a well-attended May public reception at The Arts Center.

Richter shared the work of female poets with the youth, gave them ideas to get them started writing, and had them use a woodburning tool to carve their poems into birch branches. She attached the branches to a mannequin like arms raised in a V for victory. The sculpture, titled *Branching Out*, "celebrates the hard-earned wisdom and strong spirits of each of these women," Richter said. "They've come a long way, and it's been thrilling for me to read their courageous words each week and witness their branching out."

The sculpture was displayed at the center's main gallery during May.

Richter gave the youth a copy of her prize-winning book of poetry, *Threshold*. Oak Creek Counselor Lori McGovern said five youth were enrolled initially. Three were paroled, so only two attended the reception.

"It was an avenue for free expression, taught positive social skills, and gave them a chance to cultivate new skills in a creative environment," McGovern said. "It also was a way to show off and say 'look at what I did' – how reinforcing is that?"

Richter said one youth dedicated her poetry to her son and "my beautiful mother who's been right by my side through thick and thin." Another dedicated hers to "everyone who has helped me in my life." ■



*The sculpture "Branching Out," which shares the words of OYA youth, is displayed in The Arts Center's main gallery.*

### YOUTH POETRY

An Oak Creek transitional program youth wrote the following poem as part of a creative writing class at The Arts Center in Corvallis.

Go by your first  
instinct

never think twice.  
That gut

feeling always turns  
you Right

even when it tingles  
inside

so listen closely or  
ya'll be

Telling yourself lies.

## STAFF RECOGNITION

*The following staff received Coin awards during April.*

**Jackie Allum  
Tom Anhalt**

**Corey Barton  
Paul Berger  
Charmarie Bradach  
Kevin Briels**

**Rhonda Cablona  
Louella Campo  
Jeff Canfield  
Bill Christy  
Shirley Chrusoskie  
Matt Clarno  
Tina Crawley  
Rev. Craig Cutting**

**Keith Dunn  
Jason Ellis  
John Fox  
Gary Freshour  
Linda Gesler  
Candy Green**

**Shanie Hill  
Dean Jones  
Jason Kost**

## Speaker tells personal story at Cinco de Mayo event

The speaker at Oak Creek YCF's annual Cinco de Mayo celebration got the youths' attention when he told his personal story. When Mexico-born Mario Magana came to the U.S. in 1983, he worked in the fields in Washington state because that was the work he had known since age 7.

When he heard about a GED program while listening to the radio, he took advantage of it and went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees. Today he is an Oregon State University 4-H Extension Educator based in Marion County.

"The message was 'get yourself on the right track, keep trying, and don't give up,'" said Oak Creek Counselor Lori McGovern. "Afterward he talked to the girls about the opportunities available to them. That piqued their interest, for sure."

This year's Cinco de Mayo celebra-

tion also featured youth speakers, dancing, and three youth preparing a traditional Mexican meal the following day.

Transition Specialist Christina Puentes and Multicultural Services Coordinator Griselda Solano worked with the youth. Solano had everyone stand up to learn a traditional dance, and awarded prizes for correct answers to questions about Mexico. Volunteer Mary Chuy Gonzalez taught dances to the youth and provided elaborate costumes for the performances, including a Guadalajara dance finale.

"I think there were benefits on many levels," McGovern said. "Youth were involved in the planning process, working collaboratively with other youth and staff to make it happen. They also had the pride of expressing 'this is my culture, I want to share this with you.'" ■



*Oak Creek youth celebrated Cinco de Mayo with speakers, a traditional Mexican meal, and dances, with costuming provided by volunteer Mary Chuy Gonzalez.*

## North Coast unit certified to provide drug and alcohol treatment

A fourth OYA living unit has earned certification as a drug and alcohol residential treatment provider from the DHS Addictions and Mental Health Division.

AMH issued the letter of approval to the Skamokawa unit at North Coast YCF, which joins two AMH-certified living units at Hillcrest YCF and one at MacLaren YCF.

"Youth are going to benefit," said Andy Wyatt, QMHP who did the clinical supervision for GLCs preparing to become ACCBO-certified drug and alcohol counselors (CADC I). "Treatment planning will be wrapped around the individual, assessment quality will go up, treatment will be more professionally delivered, and the youth who are impacted will get better outcomes." He said he would put the Skamokawa program on a par

with stand-alone hospital programs he saw while working for Salt Lake County, Utah.

Wyatt said certification was a team effort that included receiving funding for training from Central Office and consultation with MacLaren's Sherry Sullens to the 2,000 hours of supervised work by the GLCs. North Coast Superintendent Dan Berger was flexible in scheduling staff and also worked the floor himself so GLCs could meet with Wyatt.

Ten North Coast GLCs who began their CADC I training in March 2010 are now scheduled to take the exam, he said.

Lee Lederer, OYA Treatment Program Coordinator, said he also is working with representatives at the Oak Creek, RiverBend and Rogue Valley facilities for eventual AMH certification.



Members of North Coast YCF's Skamokawa unit are (kneeling, left to right) Larry Bergerson, Tamera Bowen, Danny McCarley (a CADC candidate not currently assigned to the unit), Abe Kapua, and (standing, left to right) Andrea Frantz, Jami Ayers, Tony Kopidlansky, Rene Torres, K.C. Heckenberg, Andy Wyatt, and Yancey Day. Unit members not pictured are Stephen Dyer, Chris Johanson, Jason Kost, Joshua Long, Ken Monk, and Jon Wyatt.

He said the goal is to eventually certify a second North Coast unit so one unit can specialize in drug and alcohol dependency and the other in co-occurring disorders. ■

### STAFF RECOGNITION

*The following staff received Coin awards during April.*

**Rod Martin**  
**Lori McGovern**  
**Terry McLaren**  
**Matt McLin**  
**Rachel McWilliams**

**Mike Nissen**  
**Christina Olson**  
**Dallas Pearce**  
**Jill Peterson**

**Rolando Ramirez**  
**Drew Reynolds**  
**Darrin Ryckman**

**Matt Schulze**  
**Donna Smith**  
**Shawna Smith**  
**Stan Stegall**  
**Andy Wyatt**

**Grover Unit Team**  
**MacLaren YCF**

**Troy Unit Team**  
**MacLaren YCF**

**Zeta Unit Team**  
**Hillcrest YCF**

## JPOs, JPPAs, and PSO investigators receive shields

Director Colette S. Peters presented shields in May to JPO Harry Bradshaw (Multnomah) and JPPA Ron Sandler (Josephine), who with a work group researched a proposal to provide official shields for some staff members.



JPOs Harry Bradshaw (left) and Ron Sandler join OYA Director Colette S. Peters to display OYA's new shields.

In a labor-management meeting with AFSCME, Peters said the shields, which were distributed in May, will give JPOs, JPPAs, and PSO investigators greater parity with other public safety officers and help them in identifying themselves, conducting interstate compact transportation, and performing other duties.

“They serve as a symbol of safety, professionalism, and respect in the kind of work we do,” said AFSCME President Greg Van Vlack. “I think the JPOs and JPPAs are appreciative of management’s support on this.” ■

## OYA's communications shop expands resources for staff and media

New resources are available for employees who need to make presentations, and for members of the media who are covering stories about OYA.

The Communications Office now offers two PowerPoint templates on OYANet as well as information about agency abbreviations and acronyms, common business texting abbreviations, and gender-neutral words. All of these resources can be reached through the Quick Links section on the Communications Office [home page](#).

Additional online resources can be found in the Communications Office Document Library. These include issue briefs on a variety of topics, a PowerPoint overview of OYA, and the publication *OYA at a glance*. More resources will be added soon.

In addition, the Communications Office has created a page on OYA's public Web site called [Reporters' Tools](#). This page offers links to general information about the agency as well as OYA's media policies and protocols. It can be reached from a link under “Current Topics” on OYA's home page. ■

### INSIDE OYA

Colette S. Peters  
Director

Fariborz Pakseresht  
Deputy Director

For more information, to submit ideas or to write an article, please contact the Communications Office:

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Send your stories for the July issue by June 30. Articles received after that date will be held for the August newsletter.

