Computational scientist named Lawton Distinguished Professor

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

Max D. Gunzburger, a world-renowned computational scientist and mathematician in Florida State University’s Department of Scientific Computing in the College of Arts and Sciences, has been named the 2015-2016 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor, the highest honor given by the university faculty to one of its own.

“As one of the best computational scientists in the world and an accomplished leader in several areas of inquiry, Max Gunzburger represents the best of academic endeavor at Florida State and we are exceptionally proud to name him as this year’s Lawton Distinguished Professor,” said John Thrasher, president of FSU.

Computational science involves the development and application of algorithms that enable the use of computers to solve science and engineering problems. As such, computational science has joined experimental and theoretical...
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“The rate of shark attacks has not changed.”

— Dean Grubbs, associate director of research at the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory, quoted April 13 by NBC News. However, the number of shark attacks, according to Grubbs, is on the rise because of the growing number of humans frolicking in the world’s oceans combined with once overfished but now rebounding shark populations.

Be sure to visit the FSU Makes News section of Florida State 24/7 at news.fsu.edu.
Florida State ranks among ‘most promising’ places to work in student affairs

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

There is fantastic news for employees and potential employees of Florida State University’s Division of Student Affairs.

The Center for Higher Education Enterprise has named Florida State among the nation’s 17 Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs for 2015.

The study, conducted in partnership with Diverse: Issues in Higher Education and the American College Personnel Association-College Student Educators International, focused on workplace diversity, staffing practices and work environment. Specifically, the CHEE research team examined categories such as family friendliness, salary and benefits, and professional development opportunities to evaluate each institution’s potential.

“Florida State has long been well respected and highly regarded among student affairs professionals across the nation because of its Student Affairs programming, but this ranking validates the Division of Student Affairs for the way it values its employees through opportunities and benefits,” said FSU President John Thrasher.

Building on Florida State’s longstanding tradition of respect for the dignity and worth of each person and the unique mission of Student Affairs to facilitate student development, the division offers a new-employee orientation geared specifically for its employees, right down to the custodial staff and graduate assistants. In addition, the division offers a range of work options and types of family leave. It also hosts a division-wide half-day spring conference with a topical focus and two-day institutes that provide Administrative and Professional staff members with opportunities for professional development and networking with colleagues across the division.

“The Division of Student Affairs goes to great lengths to cultivate excellence, not only in the way we treat our employees but also in the way we support the students of Florida State,” said Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Coburn. “These types of programs help us ensure that there is a good sense of fit among our employees so we’re all working with the same purpose toward the same goals.”

For Christopher Graham, the newly hired assistant director for fraternity and sorority life in the Oglesby Union, the decision to move from North Carolina last summer to work at Florida State was inspired in part by his desire to work with and help develop “some of the best and brightest students in the world,” but also because of the way FSU treats its employees.

“The intentional investment that has been made to ensure that I’m developed, challenged and supported is second to none,” said Graham, who earned his master’s degree in college counseling/student development in higher education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2014.

“From the vice president’s office down to my office, there is a clear sense of vision, passion and purpose,” Graham said.

The other 16 institutions recognized as Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs are: California State University Channel Islands; Fresno State University; Indiana University Southeast; McKendree University; Ohio State University; Saint Louis University; Shepherd University; Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Stony Brook University; Sweet Briar College; the University of Alabama; the University of Maine at Machias; the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; the University of Vermont; the University of West Georgia; and Youngstown State University.

How do feel-good stories inspire us?

Professor receives $1.95M grant to find out

By Kate Mullen
College of Communication and Information

Watch the evening news, scroll through Facebook or pick up a newspaper — stories, videos and posts that make us feel good are everywhere you look. While inspirational media may be quick to bring a smile, can it also help to make us better people?

Arthur Raney, the James E. Kirk Professor of Communication at Florida State University, aims to find out. In August, he will begin a three-year, $1.95 million research project to analyze the daily use and effects of inspirational media through a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, which serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the “big questions” of human purpose and ultimate reality.

“Lab studies show that experiencing emotions like awe and admiration can promote psychological well-being,” Raney said. “Our project builds on this work by seeing how people intentionally or even unintentionally experience these emotions in their everyday lives through media and how doing so might improve their lives and the lives of those around them.”

Over the next three years, the grant will fund psychological experiments, content analyses and national surveys on inspirational media. The project will culminate in a two-day conference hosted by the FSU College of Communication and Information in 2018.

Inspirational media can take many forms: viral videos, social media, television and films, and even newspaper stories. Raney’s research will take a deeper look at what makes media inspiring, who seeks out such content and why, and how people use it to stimulate positive emotions. It will also explore how those emotional experiences might build character and promote greater care and concern for other people.

To read more about this story, visit news.fsu.edu.
American Medical Women’s Association honors two faculty members

At its Centennial Meeting in April, the American Medical Women’s Association honored two longtime members of the College of Medicine’s faculty.

Myra Hurt received the Woman in Science Award. Dr. Suzanne Harrison received an Exceptional Mentor Award.

“In its brief history, this medical school has benefited from a remarkable number of strong, talented women,” Dean John Fogarty said. “We’re delighted that AMWA is honoring two of our best.”

Hurt, senior associate dean for research and graduate programs, was one of the founders of the College of Medicine and an architect of its emphasis on apprenticeship-style learning, collegiality and service to the underserved. She was the college’s first interim dean.

“Professor Myra Hurt has dedicated her scientific career to two main foci of research: improving medical education in the United States and biomedical research leading to the understanding of mechanisms regulating cellular growth and proliferation, key factors involved in the occurrence and progression of cancer,” read Hurt’s nomination, written by Harrison with contributions from other faculty members. “She has been instrumental in her support for the female faculty at FSU at both a local level and a national level, as the institutional representative to the Group on Women in Medicine and Science at the Association of American Medical Colleges.”

Harrison, associate professor, is the medical school’s education director for family medicine and the University of Tennessee. She’s involved in many service organizations, but probably none more than AMWA. At the school level, she is the faculty advisor for the College of Medicine’s student branch of AMWA. On the national level, she serves on AMWA’s board of directors and as co-chair of not only Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans but also AMWA’s Mentorship Committee and its editorial board.

Harrison had eight nominations from students. This is an excerpt from one of them: “She has been my mentor in every sense. She has shared with me her experiences, has advised me on professional decisions, has championed my choices, has aided me in networking, and has also been there for me as emotional support as I deal with my mother’s cancer. ... She provides a safe space for all students.”

The awards were presented April 25.

GUNZBURGER, from 1

science as means for scientific discovery and technological design. Computational mathematicians especially contribute to algorithm development and further put those algorithms on firm mathematical foundations.

Gunzburger has developed and analyzed novel algorithms that he and others have applied to a variety of scientific and engineering areas, including aerodynamics, superconductivity, climate, image processing, subsurface flows, system control and design, and quantification of uncertainty and risk.

“Computational scientists like Max contribute their scholarly efforts in two areas,” said Joseph Travis, former dean of the college and 1996-1997 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor. “First, they study the physical phenomena being modeled, such as the transfer of electricity. Second, they develop computational models that can be deployed in a wide variety of applications that use similar mathematics.”

“Max has been a leader in tackling both types of challenges — specific computational models and more general computational methods,” Travis said.

Gunzburger joined the university’s faculty in 2002 as a professor in the math department, a researcher in the School of Computational Science and Information Technology and as a Francis Eppes Professor of Mathematics, a designation given to the university’s most newly hired eminent scholars. He served as director of the School of Computational Science from 2005 to 2008. Then, in 2008, he became the founding chair of the Department of Scientific Computing and the Frances Eppes Professor of Scientific Computing, posts he still holds today.

Gunzburger came to Florida State from Iowa State University where he was a distinguished professor and chairman of its math department. Before Iowa State, he was on the faculty of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State, Carnegie Mellon University, and the University of Tennessee. A three-time alumnus of New York University, Gunzburger earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1966, a Master of Science degree in 1967 and a doctorate in 1969. Afterward, he held positions at the Institute for Computer Applications in Science and Engineering and the Naval Ordnance Laboratory.

Gunzburger has directed the studies of 37 doctoral students and 27 postdoctoral researchers. Because of Gunzburger’s tutelage, many of these also have distinguished records.

One of Gunzburger’s former students, Clayton Webster, is not only a professor of mathematics at the University of Tennessee but also head of the Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Webster characterized Gunzburger as a very widely recognized mathematician and he commended Gunzburger for his caring attitude toward his students.

“He has been like a second father to me. He is my most trusted mentor and one of my closest friends,” said Webster in a letter supporting Gunzburger’s nomination. “Even though Max is an extremely famous mathematician, he genuinely cares about his students, their well-being, and considers it his responsibility to mentor them well beyond the completion of their studies.”

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Florida State University honored graduate student excellence in teaching, research, creativity and scholarship at the annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence April 8.

Criminology and Criminal Justice Professor Kevin Beaver gave the plenary speech at the event, which was hosted by Graduate School Dean Nancy Marcus and co-sponsored by the Graduate School, the Office of Research, the Program for Instructional Excellence and the Congress of Graduate Students.

Recalling early challenges in academia and personal experiences with his family members, Beaver's address focused on the importance of preserving individuality, creating goals, overcoming obstacles, learning from others, sharing successes, enjoying hobbies and acting with honesty and integrity.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards

Faculty, staff and students nominated the recipients of the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, recognized for excellence in teaching and contributions to student learning: Logan Bearden (English), Catherine Greeley-Bennett (School of Teacher Education), Brett Walter (School of Teacher Education), Kimberly Wiley (Public Administration), Keith Richard (Sociology) and Maize Arendsee (Art).

Graduate Student Leadership Awards

The distinguished Graduate Student Leadership Award was presented to Meagan Arrastia (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems) and Holly Widen (Geography).

Research and Creativity Awards

Research and Creativity Award recipients were recognized for outstanding research and creativity in the academic community: Marcalice Boyd (Classics), Lindsay Scott (Modern Languages and Linguistics), Kimberly Smith (Psychology/Neuroscience), Takudzwa Madzima (Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences), Xiaoyan Tan (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Zheng-wu Zhang (Statistics).

Academic Certificate Recipients

Two nationally recognized programs at the Graduate School, the Preparing Future Faculty Program and the Preparing Future Professionals Program, offer academic certificates to qualified students. In 2014-2015, 10 graduate students completed either the Preparing Future Faculty Certificate or the Preparing Future Professionals Certificate: Andrea Stathopoulos (Biological Science/Neuroscience), David Moody (English), Young Sun Lee (Communication), Abdulrahman Olwi (School of Teacher Education), Marilyn Anglade (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), Katrina Rutledge (Interior Design), James Gaboardi (Geography), Justine Gunderson (Sociology), Lindsey Baker (Interior Design) and Zouleika Knight (Retail Merchandising and Product Development).

PIE Teaching Associate Recognition

The Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Teaching Associates were recognized for serving the university’s teaching and learning community over the 2014-2015 academic year. These graduate students are Jhoanna Mendez (Modern Languages and Linguistics), Carmen Marcous (Philosophy), Timothy Pressley (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), Jeremiah Campbell (Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences), Micah Lomax (Music Theory), Mia Gormandy (Musicology), Brandon Brice (Economics), Holly Widen (Geography), Casey Delehanty (Political Science), Stephanie Bradley (Sociology), Luis Santiago (Urban and Regional Planning), Sarah Wilcoxon (Dance) and Katherine Pierson (Theatre).

The winners of the fall 2014 Three Minute Thesis competition were recognized for their outstanding research, academics, presentations and communication skills: Kimberly Smith (Psychology/Neuroscience), first place; Michael Mitchell (Computer Science), second place, and J. Hendry Miller (History), people’s choice. In addition, Smith went on to represent FSU and win first place at the regional 3MT competition March 8 at the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in New Orleans, La.

Graduate Faculty Mentor Awards

Recipients of the Graduate Faculty Mentor Award were recognized for their significant contributions to the quality of life and professional development of graduate students at FSU: Michael Shatruk (Chemistry), Anuj Srivastava (Statistics), Valerie Shute (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), John Geringer (Music Education) and Anne Barrett (Sociology).

The event also recognized 64 graduate students who have received external awards, including nationally competitive honors, grants and fellowships.
Carbon, held in frozen permafrost soils for tens of thousands of years, is being released as Arctic regions of the Earth warm and is further fueling global climate change, according to a Florida State University researcher.

Assistant Professor of Oceanography Robert Spencer writes in Geophysical Research Letters that single-cell organisms called microbes are rapidly devouring the ancient carbon being released from thawing permafrost soil and ultimately releasing it back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Increased carbon dioxide levels, of course, cause the Earth to warm and accelerate thawing.

“When you have a huge frozen store of carbon and it’s thawing, we have some big questions,” Spencer said. “The primary question is when it thaws, what happens to it? Our research shows this ancient carbon is rapidly utilized by microbes and transferred to the atmosphere, leading to further warming in the region and therefore more thawing. So we get into a runaway effect.”

Spencer and a team of researchers first began looking at this issue of what happened to the carbon as permafrost thawed several years ago. There was a gap in the scientific literature because terrestrial scientists had found that permafrost was thawing and thus releasing long-stored carbon. But, aquatic scientists found no evidence of that ancient carbon at the mouths of major rivers leading to the Arctic Ocean.

So, where did the carbon go?
The simple answer is that it became food.
The more complex answer provides an interesting glimpse into how some of the smallest living organisms can have a major effect on the planet. Microbes, single-cell organisms that are too small for the human eye to see, are the oldest form of life on Earth and carbon is a rich food source for them.

Scientists weren’t finding carbon at the mouth of major Arctic rivers because it was already consumed and released into the atmosphere.

“This material is very attractive to these microbes as a food source,” Spencer said. “As permafrost thaws, microbes are going to use this carbon with clear ramifications for climate change.”

To conduct this study, Spencer led a team of researchers who spent more than three months between 2012 and 2014 studying thawing permafrost in Siberia. Permafrost in the region is extremely deep — more than 100 feet in some places — and has remained frozen for tens of thousands of years.

At 19 different sites in the Siberia region, Spencer and his colleagues collected hundreds of water samples and conducted experiments to determine what portion of the carbon pool microbes were using as a food source — the ancient carbon coming from the thawed permafrost or new sources.

Spencer acknowledged it is exceptionally difficult for scientists to capture that process in real time, but future research will take his team to small streams dominated by permafrost thaw to see if they could quantify permafrost carbon inputs before microbes gobble it up.

“We have to capture this material as soon as it thaws because that’s where we see its unique compositional features which make it so attractive to microbes,” he said.

Spencer’s research is funded by the National Science Foundation. Other institutions contributing to the research are Northumbria University in the United Kingdom, University of Oldenburg in Germany, ETH Zurich in Switzerland, Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts, the Russian Academy of Science and the University of Georgia.

Geophysical Research Letters is published by the American Geophysical Union in Washington, D.C.
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RECOGNITIONS

**Eric Chicken**, Ph.D. (Statistics), has been selected as a fellow of the American Statistical Association, Class of 2015.

**Emily H. DuVal**, Ph.D. (Biological Science), has received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program Award.

**David Gants**, Ph.D. (English), has received the Alfred A. and Blanche W. Knopf Fellowship at the Harry Ransom Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.

**Hedi Mattoussi**, Ph.D. (Chemistry and Biochemistry), has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Class of 2015.

**Giray Okten**, Ph.D. (Mathematics), has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Grant for 2015-2016. He will teach and conduct research in Turkey throughout most of fall 2015.

**Annette Schwabe**, Ph.D. (Sociology), was inducted April 6 into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Schwabe is a university distinguished teaching professor and director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Sociology.

**Ladanya Ramírez Surmeier** (Oglesby Union) received the Outstanding Mid-Level Professional Award from the National Association of Student Personal Administrators Latino/a Knowledge Community at its annual conference in New Orleans, La.; made a presentation with colleagues, “The State of Latinos in Region III,” at the annual conference of NASPA, New Orleans, La.; and made a presentation, “Long-Term Assessment Success: Win Hearts and Minds,” with Michael King of the University of Southern Mississippi, at the annual conference of the Association of College Unions International, San Antonio, Texas.

BYLINES

**Charles Barrilleaux**, Ph.D. (Political Science), co-wrote an article, “Governors Who Refuse to Expand Medicaid are Doing So for Political Reasons, Despite the Needs of Their State’s Citizenry,” with Carlisle Rainey of the University of Buffalo, which was posted by the London School of Economics and Political Science on its American Politics and Policy blog. To view the post, visit http://bit.ly/1Cj1dq9.

**Hui Jin** (Biological Science) and **Hong-Guo Yu**, Ph.D. (Biological Science) co-wrote a paper, "Ndj1, A Telomere-associated Protein, Regulates Centrosome Separation in Budding Yeast Meiosis," with biological science post-doctoral associate Ping Li and graduate student Yize Shao, published in the *Journal of Cell Biology*, April 20.

**Stanley Lindsay**, Ph.D. (FSU Panama City, Professional Communications Department), has written two books, “The ArguMentor” and “Making Offers They Can’t Refuse,” both published by Say Press, 2015.


**Amanda Sargent** (Career Center) wrote a monograph review, which was published in *Career Convergence*, the magazine of the National Career Development Association, April.

PRESENTATIONS


**Joelle Dietrick** (Art) delivered a lecture at Pennsylvania State University’s Palmer Museum of Art, March 31. The lecture focused on her career since graduating from Penn
State in 1996 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In addition, Dietrick completed a mural with Pace Center for Girls near Cascades Park in Tallahassee with a $10,000 National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant, March. The mural, “Systems + Circumstance,” is a community-based, data-visualization-inspired mural about housing. In addition, Dietrick will participate in a one-artist exhibition, “Cargomobilities,” an examination of port systems and possible glitches, in the Hutto-Patterson Exhibition Hall of the Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles, June. Afterward, Dietrick will create a similar “Cargomobilities” exhibit for a Project Atrium installation in the cavernous Haskell Atrium Gallery of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) Jacksonville, Fla., July-October.

Dean Falk, Ph.D. (Anthropology), will participate in a public panel on human uniqueness at the World Science Festival, New York City, May. In addition, Falk's work detailing Albert Einstein's brain — a 2012 audit of the entire brain working from previously unseen photographs and a 2013 study, again working from photographs, of his corpus callosum, the bundle of fibers connecting the right and left hemispheres — along with the work of other researchers from the past 60 years, was detailed in the article “The Strange Afterlife of Einstein’s Brain,” published by BBC World Service, April 18.

Sandra Halvorson, Ph.D. (FSU Panama城, Professional Communications Department), presented a paper, "Gender Themes in Reality Shows," at the 45th annual conference of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA), New Orleans, April 1-4, 2015.

Deb Osborn, Ph.D., Jim Sampson, Ph.D., Janet Lenz, Ph.D., Casey Dozier, Ph.D., and Seth Hayden, Ph.D. (Career Center), made a presentation, "Career and Mental Health Counseling: Integrating Theory, Research and Practice," at a conference of the American Counseling Association, Orlando, Fla., March.

GRANTS AND PATENTS

Ewa Bienkiewicz, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), has been granted U.S. patent No. 8,993,514, "Prion Protein-based Hemin Binders and Methods of Use," which formulates the basis for a translational research project aimed at developing a therapeutic agent for stroke and other vascular injury events.

For a complete list of research awards by month, visit research.magnet.fsu.edu and click “Recent Awards.”

KEY PROMOTIONS AND HIRES

Jennifer Buchanan, Ph.D. (Faculty Development and Advancement), has been appointed associate vice president for Faculty Development and Advancement. In this role, she will work closely with the vice president for Faculty Development and Advancement in matters pertaining to management of the office and implementation of faculty, chair and dean development activities. Her major administrative responsibilities will include oversight of the development of proposals for new degrees, majors and certificate programs.

Shawn Kantor, Ph.D., will join the Department of Economics as the L. Charles Hilton Jr. Distinguished Professor of Economic Prosperity and Individual Opportunity, August.

OMNI portal retiring in May

The OMNI portal — the landing page for human resources and financials applications, accessed via omni.fsu.edu — will be retired in May. In its place, employees can use the myFSU portal to access all the familiar OMNI links. In addition, the myFSU portal provides personalized snapshots of employee paychecks, benefits and leave balances, and directly links to OMNI and other university applications, creating a more efficient, one-stop working environment.

For quick access to the myFSU portal, update all OMNI bookmarks and start exploring all that the myFSU portal has to offer at https://my.fsu.edu.

David Rasmussen, dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, honored Jill Quadagno, the Mildred and Claude Pepper Eminent Scholar in Social Gerontology and professor of sociology, during a reception to mark her retirement April 8. President John Thrasher, former department chair Pat Martin and former student Ben Kail lauded Quadagno for her achievements and contributions to the university.

Quadagno, a highly valued member of the faculty since 1987, has been an internationally recognized expert and adviser to several U.S. presidents on the issue of health care and is a member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.
BY the WAY

>> SPEARMART SUPPLIER SHOW. Faculty and staff members can meet supplier representatives and discover new products and services at Procurement Services’ inaugural SpearMart Supplier Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, in the Oglesby Union Ballroom. In addition, attendees can register to win cool door prizes, enjoy refreshments, meet team members from Procurement Services and Accounts Payable and learn more about SpearMart, the university’s online electronic procurement system.

>> EARLIER FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENTS TO BENEFIT STUDENTS. Florida State University is making changes to the financial aid disbursement schedule for all students. Beginning with the summer 2015 semester, the first financial aid disbursement for each term will occur before the term begins. In the past, the first disbursement occurred on the fifth day of a term at the end of the drop/add period. Students who are eligible for financial aid disbursements will now receive the majority of their aid early in the first week of classes, rather than the second week.

For more information, visit the Office of Financial Aid website at www.financialaid.fsu.edu.

To accommodate this earlier disbursement schedule, the university also is changing its class registration schedule so that students can register earlier. Early registration for summer and fall will now close at the end of the spring term. Students are strongly encouraged to build their summer and fall schedules during this time.

Summer 2015: Sessions A, B, C and F
• Registration closed from midnight Saturday, April 25, until 7:59 a.m. Saturday, May 9.
• Summer 2015: Sessions A, B and F only
  • Registration re-opens from 8 a.m. Saturday, May 9, until 11:59 p.m. Thursday, May 14.
• Summer 2015: Session C only
  • Registration re-opens from 8 a.m. Thursday, June 25, until 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 2.

Fall 2015
• Registration closed from midnight Saturday, April 25, until 7:59 a.m. Monday, July 13.
• Registration re-opens from 8 a.m. Monday, July 13, until 11:59 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7.
• Registration closed from midnight Saturday, Aug. 8, until 7:59 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22.
• Registration re-opens from 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, until 11:59 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27.

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