

Georgia Southern University to host award-winning journalists Ted Koppel, Mara Liasson and Eugene Robinson on March 23

JANUARY 21, 2016

Georgia Southern University will host professional journalists Ted Koppel, Mara Liasson and Eugene Robinson to discuss "2016 Elections: Voting as an Informed Citizen" on Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m., at Hanner Fieldhouse. The panel of speakers is part of the University's Leadership Lecture Series, developed to expose students to insights from world-class leaders.

"We could not be more excited to welcome Ted Koppel, Mara Liasson and Eugene Robinson to Georgia Southern University," said Teresa Thompson, Ph.D., the University's vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. "At Georgia Southern, our goal is to integrate learning, service and leadership to empower our students to become global citizens who lead with a lifelong commitment to service. This panel of speakers will certainly open the eyes of our students to the current political climate and help to educate them on the issues they will be voting on in the fall."



Ted Koppel

During more than 50 years working as a professional journalist, **Ted Koppel** has embodied the term "eyewitness to history" through his coverage of important historical events including President John F. Kennedy's funeral, Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign and Martin Luther King Jr.'s civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to name a few. He also has been on the front lines of a succession of ten conflicts as an ABC News war correspondent, beginning with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and finally as an embedded correspondent with the 3rd Armored Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq. Koppel also covered President Richard Nixon's historic visit to the People's Republic of China, was with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev inside the Kremlin on the last day of the Soviet Union and was the first journalist to interview Nelson Mandela

upon his release from 26 years in a South African prison. Over the course of 26 years as anchor and managing editor of Nightline, Koppel became the longest-serving news anchor in U.S. broadcast history. He currently serves as commentator and non-fiction book reviewer for

National Public Radio. He is also a contributing columnist to *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*.

In 2012, New York University named Koppel one of the "100 outstanding journalists in the United States in the last 100 years." When he left ABC News after 42 years, he was the most honored reporter in that network's history, having received more "Overseas Press Club" awards than the previous record holder, Edward R. Murrow, and eight "George Foster Peabody" awards. Koppel has won 12 Columbia-DuPont awards, television's equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize. He has also been awarded 42 Emmys, including one for lifetime achievement.



Mara Liasson

Mara Liasson is the national political correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR) and a contributor to FOX News Channel. Liasson joined NPR in 1985 as a general assignment reporter and newscaster, covering Congress and serving as the White House correspondent during all eight years of the Clinton administration. Now, as the national political correspondent her reports can be heard on the award-winning newsmagazines, "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition." During her tenure, she has covered each presidential election since 1992 and reported on Senate and House races every election year. Following a leave of absence to attend Columbia University, she returned to NPR as its congressional correspondent. Liasson received a Bagehot Fellowship in Economics and Business Journalism and has received numerous awards and honors for her reporting, including the White House Correspondents' "Association Merriman Smith Award" in 1994, 1995 and 1997 for excellence in daily news reporting.



Eugene Robinson

Eugene Robinson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Washington Post*, was born and raised in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He remembers the culminating years of the Civil Rights Movement—the “Orangeburg Massacre.” He was educated at Orangeburg High School, where he was one of a handful of African-American students on the previously all white campus; and the University of Michigan, where during his senior year he was the first black student to be named co-editor-in-chief of the award-winning student newspaper, *The Michigan Daily*. His experiences and his remarkable storytelling ability have won him wide acclaim, most notably as the winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for his commentary on the 2008 presidential race.

Robinson began his journalism career at *The San Francisco Chronicle*, where he was one of two reporters assigned to cover the trial of kidnapped newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst. He went on to work at *The Washington Post*, and in his three decades with the newspaper, he has been city hall reporter, city editor, foreign correspondent in Buenos Aires and London, foreign editor and assistant managing editor in charge of the paper’s award winning Style section. He has written books about race in Brazil and music in Cuba, covered a heavyweight championship fight, witnessed riots in Philadelphia, sat with presidents, dictators and the Queen of England, thrusted and parried with hair-proud politicians from sea to shining sea, handicapped three editions of American Idol, acquired fluent Spanish and passable Portuguese and even, thanks to his two sons, come to an uneasy truce with hip-hop culture. During the 1987-88 academic year, on leave from *The Post*, Robinson was a Nieman Fellow in Journalism at Harvard University. In 2010, Robinson was elected to the Pulitzer Prize Board. He is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and the NABJ Hall of Fame. He is currently a regular contributor to MSNBC.

This impressive panel of leaders joins a distinguished panel of leaders to appear at Georgia Southern’s Leadership Lecture Series which includes Archie Manning, former first lady Laura Bush, former President Jimmy Carter and first lady Rosalynn Carter, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and political consultants James Carville and Mary Matalin.

Complimentary tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Students may pick up tickets Feb. 29 through March 8, faculty and staff tickets are available March 3 through 8, and members of the local community may pick up their tickets March 7 and 8 at locations in Statesboro and Savannah. Tickets will not be available at the door the evening of the event. For more information on ticket distribution, please visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/SpeakerSpotlight.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. GeorgiaSouthern.edu

Dobson wins Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award

MARCH 18, 2016



John Dobson, Ph.D., assistant professor with the School of Health and Kinesiology in the College of Health and Human Sciences, has received the Georgia Southern University Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Award for his research on teaching and learning.

The award recognizes the body of SoTL work produced by recipients, with a special emphasis being placed on research that has been completed during the past three years. As a recipient of the SoTL award, Dobson has received a monetary award and has been invited to serve as a featured speaker at the annual SoTL Commons Conference in Savannah, Georgia.

"I am thrilled to have won the SoTL Award and to have an opportunity to present my work at the 2016 SoTL Commons meeting," said Dobson. "My research focuses on a learning strategy that was developed by cognitive scientists and is called retrieval practice. In particular, I am interested in how I can use this learning strategy to enhance student learning in my kinesiology courses."

Dobson makes the third faculty member from the College of Health and Human Sciences to be awarded this honor since the award was created in 2009. The award recognizes Georgia Southern faculty members for their outstanding contributions to the SoTL. Each year a competitive selection process determines one awardee.

Posted in [Faculty](#), [My News](#), [Reward & Recognition](#), [Staff](#), [Students](#)

Board of Regents approves new Master of Science Program at Georgia Southern

MARCH 18, 2016

Georgia Southern University's College of Science and Mathematics (COSM) will soon offer a Master of Science degree program with a major in Applied Geography (MS-AG) after the program was unanimously approved at the March 9 meeting of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The program will center on geospatial technology including: Geographic Information Science (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Spatial Statistics, Spatial Modeling and Big Data. The primary objective of the program is to prepare students for professional opportunities in applied geography, specifically in the rapidly expanding field of geospatial technology applications, and in critical workforce need areas such as: national security, transportation and logistics, urban and regional planning, resource management and conservation science.

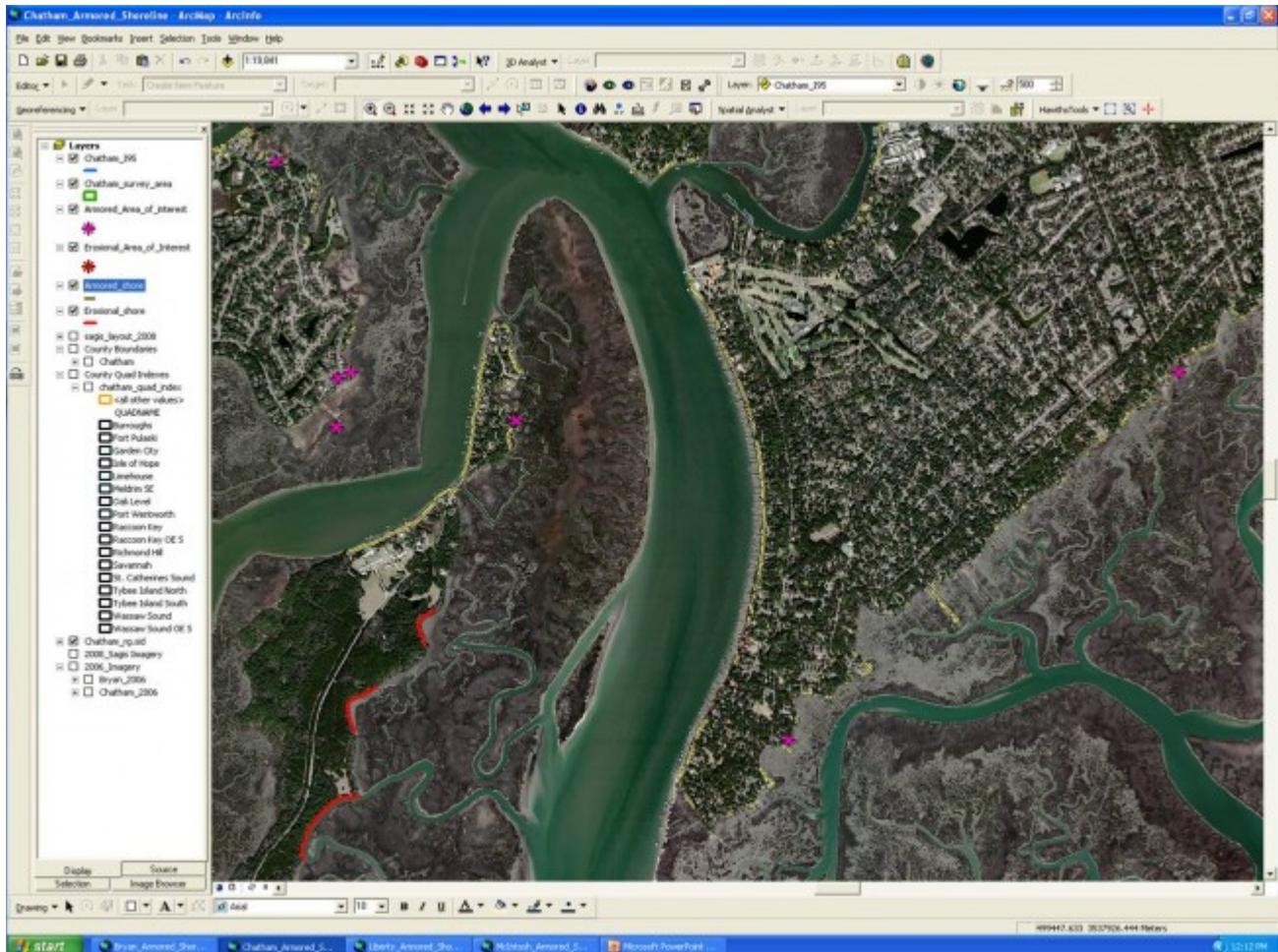
"The Master of Science Degree Program in Applied Geography will be one of the first of its kind in the Southeastern U.S.," said Jeffrey Underwood, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Geology and Geography. "The impact on Georgia Southern University should be profound. The University will quickly become the preferred destination for graduate students seeking to augment their disciplinary knowledge with advanced geospatial analysis skills. These students may arrive from disciplines as diverse as business administration, public health, biology and ecology, as well as from social sciences such as political science, economics and sociology. The program is also designed to introduce students to entrepreneurial concepts, thus producing graduates who will positively impact economic development in the region and across the state."

A broader objective of the MS-AG program is to positively impact workforce development in southeast Georgia and across the state. Graduates of the MS-AG program will meet the current and future demand for geospatial professionals at the state level and expand workforce opportunities in southeast Georgia by creating a core of geospatial professionals with auxiliary skills in biology, climatology, demographics, economics, hazard assessment, logistics, marketing, planning, resource management and other disciplines.

This core of technically competent and disciplinarily focused graduates will generate ideas, drive innovation and attract infrastructure to the region, creating a hub of geospatial expertise that will satisfy workforce demands from established businesses, agencies and municipalities in the region, and attract new businesses and entrepreneurs to the region to utilize this pool of geospatial professionals.

In addition, the new program is designed to meet qualifications for accreditation by the U.S. National Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) so that Department of Defense personnel may receive certifications for advancement by completing coursework in the new degree program.

The Department of Geology and Geography will be recruiting students for the new program and getting approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in the 2016-2017 academic year with a target starting date of fall 2017.



An example of a Geographic Information Science (GIS) Image. Geographic information systems are used for compiling and analyzing spatial data, which students can learn more about with the new MS-AG program.

Georgia Southern celebrates second annual Holi Festival

MARCH 11, 2016



THURS • MARCH 24 • 6-8 P.M.
GEORGIA AVE. AT UNIVERSITY STORE AND DINING COMMONS

FREE HOLI T-SHIRT & SUNGLASSES FOR THE FIRST 100 PEOPLE
FREE COLORS WILL BE PROVIDED • FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MUSIC • DANCING • COLORS

#GSHol16

Wear White & Leave Colorful

Georgia Southern will once again celebrate the spring season at the second annual Holi Festival on March 24, 6-8 p.m. in front of the University Store and Dining Commons.

Holi, which means "festival of colors," is a free event for students, faculty, staff and the community. This traditional holiday with ancient origins is observed by Hindus and Sikhs in India as a way to celebrate the triumph of good over bad. During the festival, participants smear a wide range of colors over each other as a mark of love and belonging, and welcome the spring season.

After a successful celebration last year, Subrajit Saha, Ph.D., assistant professor of agroecology in the Department of Biology and one of the event organizers, said people were eager to do it again.

"For a few minutes or so, the whole area was mystified with colors," he said. "Then along with playing with colors, many participants started dancing on their own with the Indian music. I received very positive feedback from both students and the community, with a common consensus that we need to do it every year."

The event is hosted by the Multicultural Student Center, the Office of International Programs and Services and the South Asian Student Organization, who will volunteer and perform in both live music and dance. In addition to the live dance and music, the event will also feature free t-shirts and sunglasses to the first 100 students. Be sure to bring your Eagle ID. Attendance verification will be provided.

Participants are advised to wear white t-shirts or clothing that they don't mind getting smeared with colored powder. The powders are non-toxic and will go away after washing. However, try to avoid getting the colors into eyes, ears, nose or mouth.

Dorsey Baldwin, director of the Multicultural Student Center, says she hopes the event will raise awareness and appreciation of diversity across the campus.

"We want to foster a climate within the campus community which recognizes the value that multicultural diversity brings to the total educational experience," she said. "The Holi Festival does exactly that."

Saha said he hopes students especially will gain knowledge and experience with international culture as a result of the event.

"This cross-cultural experience develops openness and understanding toward other cultures," he said. "The festival of colors also brings a feeling of harmony, equality and friendship among students."

Gallerist Bridget Donahue visits BFSDoArt

MARCH 15, 2016



Georgia Southern University's Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art will host emerging gallerist and curator Bridget Donahue on March 24 as part of the department's Professions in Practice lecture series.

Donahue is a co-founder of the innovative DIY Brooklyn gallery space Cleopatra's, and was gallery director at D'Amelio Terras Gallery and Gavin Brown's Enterprise. In 2015 Donahue opened her own gallery in Manhattan's Lower East Side, Bridget Donahue Gallery, which made a number of "Best of 2015" lists from such publications as the New York Times and Art in America magazine. With expertise that ranges from 2D painting, 3D sculpture and installation, new media work and more,

Donahue will be at Georgia Southern to discuss the state of the contemporary art world, and ways emerging artists can navigate its complexities.

"I'm very much looking forward to Bridget's visit to the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art," notes Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher. "Her passion for art, her knowledge of the art world at both a national and international scale, and her sharp eye will contribute immensely to our students' experience this semester, and to their big-picture understanding of what they are doing as artists."

Donahue's lecture will begin at 5 p.m. in Visual Arts Building, room 2071. The event is free and the public is invited to attend.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) is the largest of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University, and it plays a central role in every student's core of knowledge. CLASS, also described as the University's College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations and the world. CLASS offers more than 20 undergraduate degrees and several interdisciplinary minors from its 11 departments and five academic centers. CLASS offers eight master's degrees, two graduate certificates and one doctoral degree. For more information, visit class.georgiasouthern.edu.

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Posted in [Art](#), [Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art](#), [Events](#), [Lecture](#)

Green Eagle Awards

Green Eagle Awards



The Green Eagle Award for Sustainability honors individuals who exhibit excellence in supporting Georgia Southern's commitment to sustainability. Such efforts include demonstrating representative practices, sharing solutions, incorporating sustainability into current programs, and implementing innovative ideas. Candidates will be chosen from campus-wide nominations that clearly show an individual's commitment to go above and beyond to ensure campus sustainability goals. In 2016, the Sustainability Fee Committee will select two staff, two faculty/administrators and two students to be Georgia Southern University's first Green Eagle Award recipients.

Nominations are now open for 2nd Annual Green Eagle Awards!

Green Eagles are students, faculty and staff who exhibit excellence in support of Georgia Southern's commitment to sustainability. Use the online form to nominate a worthy colleague or student today! (no self-nominations, please). The award ceremony will be Thursday April 21 from 3pm to 5pm at Henderson Library.

Complete the online [Green Eagle Award Nomination Form](#)

Deadline to nominate someone is Monday, April 4, 2016 at 11:59pm

Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 Green Eagle Award **Students**

Christina Beslin

Mary Samar

Staff

Dr. Brent Tharp

Jeffrey Yawn

Faculty

Rebecca Larson

Dr. Subhrajit Saha



My Guardian Angel Second Runner up at 2016 FastPitch

MARCH 18, 2016



On March 4, two dozen entrepreneurs pitched their businesses to a panel of six judges and more than 100 audience members at the Creative Coast's Annual FastPitch event. Three Georgia Southern student teams pitched their ideas from 3 Day Startup (3DS). Once again, Layne Livingston delivered a flawless pitch for My Guardian Angel and fielded questions from the judges and audience members like a pro. Her performance landed the team second runner up overall.

Layne's team from 3DS joined her during networking hours to talk about how the My Guardian Angelchild safety seat accessory works. Computer science major Thomas Carter even created a video demonstrating the device for the team's display. The team was very supportive and all members waited together in anticipation for the final scores.

Eric Degen, ChapterEase, and Chase Chalker, LFG, also participated in the student entrepreneur category. ChapterEase engaged event-goers by collecting business cards for a t-shirt drawing. ChapterEase plans to use those connections as mentors, reaching out for advice and guidance as they grow.



"It's wonderful to see how far the students have come in such a short period of time," said Suzanne Hallman, BIG business advisor. Although the competition has a separate category for students, the Georgia Southern teams delivered as well as, if not better than, some of the seasoned entrepreneurs.

Koios creator Trey Gordner took home the top prize this year with a browser extension that alerts users when books are available at local libraries. The extension is free through participating libraries, and the product is currently being tested in 20 libraries across the country.

Angelina Patel, a junior at Savannah Country Day School, won runner up in the Student category for Savannah Kids Code, an after-school coding program.

The Creative Coast organizes FastPitch each year. The competition provides experience, contacts, coaching and feedback to entrepreneurs. The Business Innovation Group (BIG) facilitates a pitch event specifically for students in the fall and has also partnered with the Ocean Exchange to co-host the BIG Pitch collegiate competition, which is open to university students across the globe.

Posted in [In the News](#), [involvement](#), [Programs](#), [Teaching and Learning](#), [Uncategorized](#)

Tags: [3DS](#), [ChapterEase](#), [child safety device](#), [FastPitch](#), [Layne Livingston](#), [LFG](#), [Looking for Game](#), [My Guardian Angel](#), [students](#)

Third Annual Beneath the Waves Film Festival set for March 24

MARCH 11, 2016



James H. Oliver, Jr.,
Institute for Coastal Plain Science
912-478-5564

Center for
SUSTAINABILITY
Student Sustainability Fees at Work!

3rd Annual Ocean Film Festival

A series of short films followed by a discussion with
ocean experts about ocean health and what you can do
to help marine life.

6:30-8:30pm

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Russell Union Theater, Georgia Southern University

 www.facebook.com/beneaththewavesfilmfestival
www.beneaththewavesfilmfest.org

Stunning footage of manta rays, sharks, whales, coral reefs, salt marshes, as well as many other organisms and ecosystems will be on display during the third annual Beneath The Waves Film Festival at Georgia Southern University.

Set for March 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Russell Union Theater, the festival is hosted by the Institute for Coastal Plain Science in collaboration with the Center for Sustainability. Admission is absolutely free and everyone is welcome to attend.

This unique marine science and conservation event will consist of short films, ranging from five to 15 minutes long, that will address both regional and international ocean issues.

"It has often been said that if the same level of damage and destruction that is occurring in the oceans were occurring on land, humans would not tolerate it," said Danny Gleason, director of the Institute for Coastal Plain Science and one of the film festival co-organizers. "The problem is that

much of what is happening in the sea is out of sight, so out of mind. What we are hoping is that through this film festival we can give the audience a small window into how humans are directly impacting the sea and its inhabitants.”

After the films, attendees will have the opportunity to speak with ocean experts including Gleason; Michael Denmark, retired executive director of the Coastal Conservation Association of Georgia and local sport fisherman; Sarah Fangman, superintendent of Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary; Scott Noakes, research scientist at the University of Georgia; and George Sedberry, sanctuary science coordinator for Southeast Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Region.

The films shown will be provided by Beneath the Waves, Inc., a unique student-run, non-profit organization that has solicited hundreds of films from all over the world and has connected thousands of people from all walks of life and locations with the stories and issues facing our oceans. This is sure to be an educational and enjoyable evening.

For more information contact Gleason by emailing dgleason@georgiasouthern.edu, or Lissa Leege, director of the Center for Sustainability, at leege@georgiasouthern.edu. This event is made possible by Student Sustainability Fees at Work.

Posted in [Faculty](#), [My News](#), [Staff](#), [Students](#)

Georgia Southern hosts the 2016 Healthcare Symposium, “Truths and Myths behind Childhood Vaccinations”

MARCH 11, 2016

In its third year, Georgia Southern’s Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) program and the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health will sponsor the 2016 Healthcare Symposium. “Truths and Myths behind Childhood Vaccinations,” on March 24, 10 – 11:30 a.m., in the University’s Performing Arts Center (PAC). The symposium is free and open to students, staff, faculty and the community.

This year’s symposium will promote a greater understanding of childhood vaccinations and will provide stimulating information on one of the most important public health topics within our community.

Andi Shane, M.D. will serve as the program’s featured guest speaker. Dr. Shane is an associate professor of pediatrics for the Division of Infectious Disease and associate Professor of Global Health at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Shane is also the medical director for the Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

“We are most pleased to have an expert with infectious diseases such as Dr. Andi Shane to present this important symposium on children’s disease prevention,” said James Stephens, D.H.A., M.H.A, program director for the MHA. “It is an important discussion of the sciences associated with vaccinations for children which should be of value for all people in our communities.”

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