CONNECTIONS §





Department of Women and Gender Studies

Fall 2012 Newsletter

What's in a Name?

You may have noticed that there have been some big changes in the department this year, not the least of which is our departmental name change. Welcome to the University of Delaware's Department of Women and Gender Studies!

Every day the news reports on aspects of the struggle for sex and gender equality around the globe. In order to better understand these issues that affect us all, we must recognize that all members of our society should be valued and acknowledged. The faculty conducts research on these issues and we teach our students how to think critically about gender, in current societies

as well as the past, and the lessons for social change that are drawn from such knowledge.

But why is our name so important? According to Dr. Pascha Bueno-Hansen, "Some might ask-- women, gender, what is the difference? There is a difference! Gender not only addresses differences between men and women, but also a host of other questions. For example, how and why are the categories of women and men socially constructed? How and why do many people fall outside of this binary construction? How does social inequality due to gender function on structural, historical and systemic levels? How does this inequality

work in relation to other inequalities based on class, race and sexuality? And last but not least, how does power and privilege function in our globalized world?"

As we strive to find answers to these questions, our new name reflects this mission much more accurately and also signals it to the university community and the larger public. Dr. Jessica Schiffman, a key member of Women's Studies since 1990, succinctly summarized this point when she said, "Our department has been actively doing women's and gender studies for years. The name change gives the public a better sense of our breadth of scholarship and teaching."

Greetings from the Chair—Monika

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Every year in late May, I host an end-of-the-year party at my house. This is always a fun event, because the final days of the spring semester and thus the academic year carry this unique

mix of excitement, relief, and a deep sense of accomplishment. This year's party, however, attended by close to fifty faculty members and administrators, was even more special because we also celebrated **Dr. Jessica Schiffman's**



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Our first DVPS Graduates: (L to R) Amanda Longacre, Samantha Withrow, Dr. Jennifer Naccarelli, Jessica Eichholz, Deanna Quinn, Nicole Herman

DVPS Update

Jennifer Naccarelli

Our inaugural year of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Services program has been a great success. This project, while serving survivors of domestic violence, has also led to the development of a new community. This new community brings

"We are attracting academically competitive and socially active students." together individuals and organizations from state, corporate and non-profit sectors, academics and advocates, as well as students and survivors.

We have experienced tremendous growth this year. Since our launch in September we have over thirty stu-

dents enrolled in the Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Program. We are attracting academically competitive and socially active students. They possess both a commitment to academic excellence and to social service. As student activists they demonstrate the many ways that theory informs practice. Through practicums and internships our students have already provided close to 4000 hours of direct service to survivors of domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Program is making meaningful contributions to domestic violence service agencies throughout the state. In addition to our productive collaboration with the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, we have established partnerships with the Department of Justice, the Wilmington Police Department, the Department of Corrections, CHILD Inc.'s Domestic Violence Advocacy Program, the Domestic Violence Liaison Project, and the SAFE program at People's Place. Our partnerships continue to grow.

We concluded this inaugural year celebrating the graduation of our first class of Domestic Violence Prevention and Services concentration students. All of our graduates have secured jobs in the field or are pursuing relevant graduate work. This is proof that we are cultivating the next generation of advocates. We look forward to the opportunities and the further expansion that the 2012-13 academic year will bring.

Farewell and Welcome

Longtime Office Coordinator in the Women's Studies Department, Emily Hayworth, has left us for a long and happy retirement. She has been spending most of her time with family in Florida and California,

with a few stops to visit old friends and colleagues in Delaware. Most notably, she attended the Geis Student Research on Women Conference in April and the 2012 Women's Studies Convocation in May.

Emily worked in the Morris Library before serving for sixteen years as the point-person in Women's Studies. She was a priceless resource and will be greatly missed by both faculty and students.

Donna Seldomridge, formerly of DBI and Plant and Soil Sciences at UD, has assumed Emily's duties as Administrative Assistant. She looks forward to working with the students and faculty for semesters to come.

Welcome Associate Chair, Assistant Professor Jennifer Naccarelli

This fall we welcome our new Associate Chair, Assistant Professor Dr. Jennifer Naccarelli. Dr. Naccarelli has been an instructor for Women's Studies for the past four years. She most recently served as Academic Coordinator for our new Domestic Violence Prevention and Services program. She also developed a comprehensive course for the Women and Gender Studies curriculum, Theory and Methods in Feminism, in conjunction with UD's Center for Teaching Effectiveness.

Jennifer's doctoral work was in the field of Women's Studies in Religion. Her most current research explores the varied self-presentations utilized by American Catholic suffrage activists as they struggled to defend their religious identity while participating in "radical" political activism. Dr. Naccarelli's first love is teaching and advisement. She is looking forward to a long and productive career in the Department of Women and Gender Studies.

Faculty Fun

Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies, has a reputation for the theatrical. On June 15, 2012, Dr. Stetz traveled abroad to present a paper at the "Neo-Victorian Networks" conference at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. True to form, she appears in a photograph below in full Victorian regalia.

Alvina Quintana, Associate Professor, enjoyed the U Did It! luncheon on the Green earlier this year

where she posed with the University's mascot YoUDee.





Graduating Class of 2012

Majors

Colleen Allen Shelah Balakhani Jaiara Boskett Lindsay Brown Alison Demedeiros

Minors

Chelsea Coldiron Elizabeth Connor Patricia Dowd Jennifer Gallo Elizabeth Glinka Darcy Hall Colleen Dougherty
Jessica Eichholz
Allison Eliason
Rebecca Emel
Kathryn Evinger
Sarah Foster
Nicole Herman

Christine Houston Elise Jackson Dawn Johnson Colleen Kent Margaret Lee Natalie Molz Maya Orr Laura Kosan Sara Mann Sarah McLaughlin Deanna Quinn Cortney Ross Samantha Withrow

Adrienne Pinto Victoria Richardson Adriana Rodriguez Holly Scanlon Karina Shaoul Beth Toussaint Megan Tylecki



Merit Awards 2012, for Academic Excellence

Lindsay Brown, Alison Demedeiros, Rebecca Emel, Sarah Foster, Laura Kosan, and Amanda Longacre

Nellie Thompson Rudd Award, for Scholarship, Leadership and Service

Sarah Louise Foster

Announcing! Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies

The Department is proud to announce the launch of our Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies. This program will enable graduate students in any discipline to expand their understanding of issues related to gender and to utilize a feminist perspective in critical thinking.

The Certificate in Women and Gender Studies will provide training in interdisciplinary research and teaching. It will have great appeal to students who wish to enhance their interdisciplinary graduate training and will provide a platform for encouraging interdisciplinary community building on campus. The focus of the program enriches and fosters critical inquiry, encourages respect for diverse views and values, and offers opportunities for engaging in questions of social justice.

The first course offered toward the certificate will be Advanced Feminist Theory (WOMS 604) in the Spring semester of 2013. The course will explore the women's and gender studies social and political connections to activist movements focused on race, sexuality, and class. It will also examine the rise of these interdisciplinary academic fields. The aim throughout the course will be to prepare graduate students to teach issues related to gender in undergraduate courses and to use feminist perspectives in research and writing in their own particular field of study.

Thank You Donors

William Allen Mae Carter Robert Carter Suzanne Cherrin Emerald Christopher Jeanie DeLeo James DeLeo Kathryn Evinger Sarah Foster Roni L. Grill Emily Jonas Dawn Jory Donna Kelsch Caroline B. Kohl John Mayrack Donnette Mayrack Suzanne Michelle Jason Nadell
Arthur Patterson
Sandra Patterson
Carol Post
Jane Sassaman
Morissa Sher
Kenneth Whitney
Mary Margaret Williams
Stephanie Berardi Winsman
Crystal Woodford

An Open Letter to My Wonderful Students And Colleagues:

Jessica Schiffman

Sometimes people retire because they are advancing in years and want the time left to them to relax more and do things on

the proverbial bucket list. Others retire because they are not as healthy as they once were and they need to attend to their physical needs. For

"I am still amazed that I was given the privilege to teach, do research, and write about issues that continue to engage me "

about issues that continue to engage me they need to attend to their physical needs. For some retirement is a choice because they have burned out in the job and need to put inspire and mot

is also right for the Department of Women and Gender Studies.

As was typical in my generation of professional women, my path to my current position was full of twists and turns. I did not start out with a goal to teach at the university level. I came to UD first as a graduate student in 1985, directly from Olympia, WA, where I had worked for years in sexual assault and domestic violence advocacy. My move east was instigated by my parents' declining health. I was the only female child and the urge to

it behind them. Let me assure you - none

however, is complicated, and I have made

a choice that is right for me and, I believe,

of those reasons are true for me! Life.

university level. I came to UD first as a graduate student in 1985, directly from Olympia, WA, where I had worked for years in sexual assault and domestic violence advocacy. My move east was instigated by my parents' declining health. I was the only female child and the urge to provide care for my parents was strong. I came to UD as a result of geographical proximity. I had a 1-year-old child and needed to minimize my time away from her, while maximizing my time near my parents in Pennsylvania. I was clearly in the demographic of multi-generational caregiving!

I chose the field of sociology because I felt it would provide me with background to continue my work in gender violence. During my first year, Dr. Sandra Harding, then director of Women's Studies, asked me to create and teach a course on women and violence. What a stroke of luck for me! I developed a reading packet for my course that later, in partnership with a grad school colleague and friend, Dr. Laura O'Toole, became the basis for the first comprehensive text for teaching about gender violence at the college-level. When the position of program coordinator for Women's Studies opened up (Dr. Kathy Turkel was my predecessor), I applied and

Now, twenty-two years later, I am still

amazed that I was given the privilege to teach, do research, and write about issues that continue to engage me – and, I hope, that spark my students. I could not have predicted in 1985 that I would retire as Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of Women and Gender Studies. I have been given so many opportunities – and fought for others. I have traveled the country and the world to meet other scholars and feminist activists, collaborated on conferences and writing projects, taught about

Paris, and always continued to learn.

Most
of all, I am proud
to have been part
of the history of
Women and Gender
Studies at UD. I have

worked with faculty and students who inspire and motivate me to reach higher, to accomplish more, and to never accept the status quo. When I received a grant from the Verizon Foundation two years ago to initiate the first undergraduate program in the US focused on domestic violence advocacy, I felt that in many ways my efforts at UD had come full circle. I started as an advocate for victims of gender violence, and now I was helping to create a new generation of advocates.

Years ago, when I left Washington State, I promised my husband that we would return some day. It is his home and it is where his family lives. His mother is now gravely ill, and it is his turn (breaking the gender norms!) to provide some caretaking. Meanwhile, that one-year old baby of ours is a 28 year-old woman, finishing her doctorate in the sciences at the University of Washington. My son, born while I was in grad school at UD, is traveling the world to learn about sustainable farming, education, and social justice, with plans to settle in the Northwest on his return. It is time to fulfill my promise.

I am still a feminist, still an advocate, still a scholar, and always a student. I am also a family member and a caretaker. My life in Women and Gender Studies has made sense of all my identities. What more could one want of a career?

Oh – one last thing. If any of you find yourselves in the Seattle area, please get in touch. It would bring me great pleasure to show you around and make you part of my new adventures. You can continue to reach me at iesss@udel.edu, or friend me on Facebook. Let me know what you're doing and where your paths are leading you. If I am lucky, they will cross with mine.

In Gratitude, Jessica

Women's Studies in the City of Lights

A very engaged and enthusiastic group of UD students accompanied Dr. Jessica Schiffman on the Women's Studies Win-



2012 Women's Studies in Paris, France

ter 2012 session of Study Abroad in Paris. Students met with a variety of feminist groups, toured sites of artistic and historical significance,

and experienced French culture and food. In addition to Dr. Schiffman's class on French Feminisms, students took a class focused on the history of women as artists and art subjects from French art historian, Christophe Boïcos. Highlights of the experience included a night-time visit to the Eiffel Tower, a chocolate and cheese tour of Paris, and a market shopping trip culminating in an indoor picnic.

Though Dr. Schiffman is on sabbatical this year and is retiring from UD at the end of next academic year, she plans to continue to lead the study abroad program to Paris for many years to come. Students who are interested should contact her at iesss@udel.edu to sign up for Winter 2014.

Staying Connected

Dawn (Browning) Bartolucci, 1993, has been married to her husband, Noah, since 2006, and has a son, Clay. She started working for the Dept. of Justice on intelligence and counter-terrorism cases in February 2006. In 2011 she began a new job, advising 11 judges on national security cases.

Kim (Wunner) Pacini, 2002, is writing a blog for the Germantown Avenue Parents - which has partnered with WHYY's Newsworks has been hired as the Philadelphia Feminism Examiner where she posts weekly for Examiner.com. You can see an example of her work at http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/neighborhoods/mt-airychestnut-hill-/item/32224-gap-story

Emerald Christopher-Byrd, 2004, is a Graduate Assistant in the Dept. of American Studies at University of Maryland Baltimore County while finishing her PhD. She is teaching Women's Studies at Trinity University in Washington, DC this fall.

Alondra Pacheco, **2005**, is currently teaching at Capital University while finishing her Ph.D. at Ohio State University.

Sarah VonEsch, minor 2006, has been accepted to the Washington, DC Teaching Fellows program and is a special education teacher to elementary school students. She has been busy doing political consulting, studying for the Praxis II certification exam, re-learning how to drive, running her art and craft business, and traveling

Carly King, 2008, graduated in June from Drexel University with a Master's degree in higher education administration. She worked at Drexel in the Office of Multicultural Programs, and has just been offered a position at Haverford College

Tracy Garber, 2008, has graduated from Hunter College with a Master in Public Health degree. Her thesis used the New York City Community Health Survey to look at the association between HIV testing and mental distress. She has worked at the Commonwealth Fund for two years. This year she ran her first half marathon.

Andrew Christy, 2009, graduated from Georgetown Law School and is now clerking on the Fairfax Circuit Court for chief Judge Dennis Smith.

Stephanie Patterson, 2009, graduated with a Master's degree in Public Administration from UD and has started a new job as Fund Development Manager at Westside Family Healthcare in Wilmington.

Brittany Richter, 2009, is working as an account manager, social media specialist and conference speaker for PCG Digital Marketing in NJ.

Beth Steinberg, 2009, organized a reproductive rights law symposium to commemorate the 39th anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. She is a law student at Widener University School of Law.

Meridith Ambrose, 2010, has been working at Our House, a non-profit organization in NJ that assists people with developmental disabilities. This fall she begins the PhD program in clinical psychology at Adelphi University.

Katrina Sansalone, 2010, has completed her second year of law school at Rutgers. This summer Trina worked in Philadelphia at the Support Center for Child Advocates under a grant. She was elected to the Lead Research and Writing Editor position of the Law Journal at Rutgers.

Jessica Eichholz, 2012, is beginning a graduate program at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine for a degree as Master of Science in Clinical and Counseling Health Psychology. She plans to continue her work on gender violence.

Kathryn Evinger, 2012, spent her senior year serving as a Fellow in the Delaware legislature, a highly competitive position. Kiki was assigned to work in the House Majority Caucus, and she staffed the Health & Human Development, Manufactured Housing, and Veterans Affairs Committees. Starting this fall, Kiki will be attending the National University of Ireland, Galway, to attain a M. A. degree in Gender, Globalization, and Rights.

Colleen Allen, 2012, works at Greater Baltimore Medical Center in the Crisis Intervention Unit with patients who come through the Emergency Room. She will continue to serve on the Domestic Violence Advocacy Board at the hospital to strive to create better care and resources for victims in the ER.

Alison deMedeiros, 2012, is attending Temple Law School and hopes to concentrate in public and human rights law.

Rebecca Emel, 2012, is teaching elementary school in New Orleans as a member of Teach for America.

Nicole Herman, 2012, is Site Supervisor at the Family Visitation Center of CHILD, Inc., in DE. This year she welcomed the birth of daughter Kinlee

Deanna Quinn, 2012, will continue her studies at the University of Delaware in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Samantha Withrow, 2012, is attending graduate school at the University of South Carolina to pursue a Master's degree in Social Work.

Alumni Corner

Connections is our way of keeping you up to date on the happenings in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Delaware. We also love staying connected to our alumni.

The Staying Connected column in our newsletter is a great way to encourage a new generation of Women and Gender Studies scholars by demonstrating how WOMS programs can inform our decisions and enhance our futures. Please send updates about your life events and profes-



sional accomplishments to Jennifer Naccarelli at <u>inacc@udel.edu</u> or Jessica Schiffman at <u>jesss@udel.edu</u>.

Eleanor Sonderman wins the 2012 Carter Award given by the UD Office of Equity and Inclusion. Pictured L to R: Mae Carter, Eleanor Sonderman, Margaret Stetz, Robert Carter

Greetings from the Chair (continued from front page)

"This past year, we

witnessed significant

departures and arrivals

times very emotional."

and this experience was at

retirement. Yes, it is true, Jessica is retiring after twenty-two years of service to the Department and the University, and it is still difficult to believe that come fall semester we won't hear Jessica's infectious laughter in 34 West Delaware Avenue. Jessica lives and breathes feminism and Women's Studies and, as I have said many, many times this past year, she has been the heart

and soul of Women's Studies. Compassionate and wise, she has guided and taught generations of students, and I credit the success of Women's Studies to Jessica's extraordinary commitment and dedication. The faculty was thrilled to learn that Jessica received the 2012 *Trabant Award for Women's Equity*, a wonderful tribute to her outstanding work on behalf of all women at the University of Delaware. This award followed on the heels of the *Vision of Peace Award* presented in October 2011 to Jessica by the *Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Vio-*

lence. Jessica will be missed greatly but we do wish her and her family much happiness in their new life in Seattle. At the party, Dr. Margaret Stetz, known for her theatrical talent, impersonated Simone de Beauvoir reading out a letter addressed to Jessica, and I simply have to quote its most memorable line: "On ne naît pas Jessica Schiffman: on le devient," (One is not born, but rather becomes, a Jessica Schiffman.)

Most fortunately, we were able to hire **Dr. Jennifer Naccarelli** who will step into Jessica's position as of September 1st. Jennifer, who received her PhD in Religion/Women's Studies in Religion Program from Claremont Graduate University has been the coordinator for our new concentration in domestic violence prevention and services, and she also has wide-ranging experience teaching WOMS courses. My colleagues and I are excited to welcome Jennifer, who brings exceptional energy, creativity, and commitment to WOMS. We also welcome **Donna Seldomridge**, Senior Administrative Assistant who joined our Department at the end of last year. Donna has been with the UD since 2001 and she has extensive administrative experience. Like the rest of us, Donna is most enthusiastic about all aspects of Women's Studies and we look forward to her contributions.

September 1st marks not only Jennifer's official start date but also that of our new name: Department of Women and Gender Studies! This name change, initiated last year under the leadership of Dr. Carla Guerron Montero, who served as interim chair, reflects much more accurately the range of WOMS teaching and research, and it also indicates some of the major developments that have taken place in the field over the past twenty years. In a nutshell, these can be described as a much more nuanced, sophisticated, and in-depth understanding of how gender is constructed and represented.

One of the many features that make a semester unique are the guest speakers we are able to invite or co-sponsor and providing you even with a brief synopsis of all the events would go well beyond the scope of these remarks.

However, I'd like to describe one highlight of the spring semester 2012 which was a talk, entitled "Never Caught: The Life of Oney Judge Staines" given by **Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar**, Associate Professor in the Department of History. Oney Judge Staines was George Washington's slave who escaped from slavery while the Washingtons lived in Philadelphia and Dr.

Armstrong Dunbar's fascinating lecture generated a spirited discussion.

And finally, the apex of the academic year: graduation and convocation exercises. On May 25th, we celebrated our seniors, a terrific group of young women who have the skills and the passion to excel at whatever challenge they choose to pursue. We are incredibly proud of them and we wish them much happiness in their lives.

I would like to conclude by expressing my most heartfelt thanks to the colleagues, students, and staff who make WOMS such an exceptional place on campus, and I especially want to acknowledge **Dr. Carla Guerron Montero,** Associate Professor of Anthropology who was *the best* interim chair any department could wish for. Many thanks also to our donors. We so appreciate your generosity and support and the confidence you have in our work. This past year, we witnessed significant departures and arrivals and this experience was at times very emotional. But as we say *au revoir* to Jessica and Emily and *welcome* to Jennifer and Donna we also look forward to educating the next generation of students.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I extend my very best wishes.

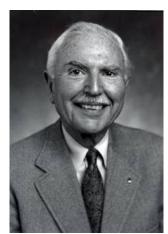
Monika Shafi, Elias Ahuja Professor of German Chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies





Dr. Jessica Schiffman receives the Vision of Peace Award presented in October 2011 by the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (L), and UD's 2012 Trabant Award for Women's Equity (R)

In Memorium



E. Arthur Trabant, President Emeritus of the University of Delaware died on July 20, 2012. Dr. Trabant was a steadfast supporter of the Women's Studies Program at the University throughout his tenure. Most notably, during a time of national social change and student unrest, he was instrumental in guiding our progression from a few courses in women's studies in the early 1970s toward our current status as a department at UD. One of the most wonderful legacies he left the students in Women and Gender Studies is the **Nellie Thompson Rudd Award** endowed in memory of his mother, an early and ardent feminist. Dr. Trabant and his family continued to offer us their support by requesting donations be made to the Nellie Thompson Rudd Award in his obituary. As many things come full circle, Women's Studies at UD started with a single desk in the lobby of Warner Hall. Therefore, it seems fitting that we are honored that Dr. Trabant's presidential desk now graces the Women and Gender Studies Department office.

In addition, the E. Arthur Trabant Institutional Award for Women's Equity, given annually to any individual, department or administrative unit or committee that has contributed to the equity and enhancement of existing services to women, was given to our own Dr. Jessica Schiffman in 2012. The award recognizes the many contributions in this area by Dr. Trabant, who served UD as its 22nd and 24th president.

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

Geis Student Research on Women Conference News

The Geis Conference, hosted for so many years by Women's Studies at UD, will be coordinated by the **Greater Philadelphia Women's Studies Consortium** beginning in Spring 2013.

The Conference gives both undergraduate and graduate students from the thirteen institutions of the Consortium a platform to present their work in research on women's or gender issues.

In 2012, we were fortunate to have Dr. Lisa Ruchti, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at West Chester University, present the keynote address for the conference attendees . The talk focused on her research for her new book, Catheters, Slurs, and Pick Up Lines: Professional Intimacy in Hospital Nursing.

The 2012 undergraduate award winners were Ellyn Rolleston 1st place and Rouaa Mohamed 2nd place, both of Ursinus College. The graduate student award winners, both from the University of Delaware, were Arielle L'Esperance in 1st place and Emily Bonistall with 2nd.

We encourage any UD students interested in submitting papers in 2013 to check the <u>UD Department of Women and Gender Studies</u> website for updates later this year where we will post further information about the 2013 Geis Conference.

Mark Your Calendars

Pamela Fitzpatrick and Paul Dix — Nicaragua: Surviving the legacy of U.S. policy. Friday, October 5, 2012.

Chrysanthi Leon, Assistant Professor, Sociology — speaking on "Sorting out the Bad Guys: Ethical and Feminist Issues in the Assessment of Sexual Offenders." Thursday, October 18, 2012

Emancipation Semester Spring 2013—planned in conjunction with the Department of History; seminar series, library collection special exhibit, symposium with Natasha Trethewey, new U.S. Poet Laureate, April 6, 2013

Rita Dove — Pulitzer-Prize winner and former U.S. Poet Laureate, April 18-20, 2013. Rita Dove will lecture on April 18th and give a reading of her work on April 19th. Rita Dove's visit is part of the lecture series *Transnational Encounters* organized by the Departments of Foreign Languages and Literatures, English, and WOMS. The series received funding from the Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Center.

Please check the <u>Women and Gender Studies website</u> for more information on upcoming events, including our Fall and Spring seminar series. We will also post information regarding locations and times as we draw nearer to these exciting events.

We look forward to seeing you there.



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