Spring 2018

Classics Department Newsletter 2017-18

Classics Department
Gettysburg College

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Classics Department Newsletter 2017-18

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Alumni News
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Greetings from the Classics Department!

Many thanks to those of you who have already written to us in response to our first Newsletter. We look forward to hearing more from you and from more of you. Our current students are eager to get to know you, and we are looking into ways that we can establish more direct and regular connections with you, either by campus visits or online meetings. If you are interested in helping us develop these ideas, please do be in touch.

This year brings a big change to the Department and the College. Prof. Carolyn Snively will be graduating this spring, that is, after a long career at Gettysburg, she will be retiring at the end of this current spring semester. We will miss her. In this Newsletter please see the information about sending us your reflections and memories so that we can share them with her.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Katheryn Whitcomb will be joining us next year. Dr. Whitcomb will be Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics and History. She will be teaching courses for both Classics and History, many of them cross listed. We are very excited to have this opportunity to add a number of new courses to our historical offerings. A brief biography of Dr. Whitcomb appears in this Newsletter.

This spring we have our first student attending a new Global Education program in Rome. The IES program is located in the heart of Rome and provides opportunities for students studying Classics as well as a wide array of other disciplines. Francesca Costa ‘19 sent greetings included in this Newsletter. We have three students studying in Athens this semester—have a look at the photo Sarah Tokar ‘19 sent—I reckon it says it all!
I hope that you will drop by our website from time to time so that you can see what we are up to these days, and that you will keep us informed about your own doings. We would love to see you if you are able to visit, so please let us know if you plan to do so.

All best wishes,
Dr. Rickert

About the Faculty

Professor Carolyn Snively is RETIRING!

The Classics Department wants to celebrate Prof. Snively's career at Gettysburg College and wants you to be a part of it. Her diligence and contributions to the Classics Department and Gettysburg College have affected many of us, and we want to show our appreciation and thanks.

If you would like to share what you have valued in Prof. Snively’s teaching, her scholarship, or relationship with you, we would like to hear about it and pass it on to her. We want her to know what a difference she has made here in our lives. After all, Prof. Snively has been a part of this community for 36 years! Your personal reflections will be very meaningful to her.

Please either email Clare Crone (ccrone@gettysburg.edu) directly or submit through the Alumni Profile link on the website: http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/classics/alumni/AlumniNews.dot
Carolyn Snively –

I was on sabbatical during the 2016 2017 academic year and thus spent the winter in Gettysburg (bad planning!) and the fall, spring, and summer in the Balkans, specifically in R. Macedonia and Greece. Since 1998 Gettysburg College has sponsored an archaeological excavation in Macedonia; our partner there is the Archaeological Museum in Skopje, and I have served as the American co director of the project since its beginning. Golemo Gradište at the village of Konjuh, Kratovo county, is a Late Antique (5–6th centuries AD) city site, heavily fortified with walls and gates. Nearly 20 years of annual excavation at Golemo Gradište led me to the acquisition of an apartment in Skopje (a city with which I was somewhat familiar from work on an international project at the site of Stobi in the 1970s, back when Macedonia was one of the republics forming Yugoslavia) and a house in the village of Konjuh.

In the fall I divided my time between R. Macedonia and Greece. On 6 October, at Stobi the American ambassador to Macedonia, Jess Baily, signed the official letter awarding $89,000 from the ambassadors’ fund for conservation of the baptistery in the Episcopal Basilica at Stobi, the baptistery excavated in the 1970s. Later that month I attended the wedding of one of our work persons at Konjuh, Ivana Mitevska; the event began with a wedding breakfast at 9:30 am in the school house in the village and was still going at a party near the groom’s home at midnight! More seriously, Goran Sanev, the Macedonian co director of the Konjuh project, and I gave a paper, “Life and Death in the Late Antique City at Konjuh,” at a conference in Strumica, 4–5 November.

In Athens, while based at the American School of Classical Studies, I spent a few days in Volos, giving a public lecture, “A Late
Antique City in the Province of Dardania: Golemo Gradište at Konjuh,” at the University of Thessaly on 12 October, and visiting several sites and museums in Thessaly with an archaeologist friend, Yannis Varalis, who teaches at the University of Thessaly. Back in Athens I occasionally escaped from the library to attend a lecture and, at the end of November, the international workshop, “Amorium: Byzantine Provincial Capital in the Setting of the Empire.”

In the USA in January the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (and the Society for Classical Studies) in Toronto provided an opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues. I returned to the Balkans in March, in time to attend the annual meeting of the archaeologists of Greek Macedonia and Thrace, in Thessaloniki, 9 11 March and to spend a few days re-acquainting myself with the monuments of that city. Then back to Skopje, a few days in the village (feeding the wood stove to keep warm!) and a day at Stobi to consult with the director about manuscripts that I am proofreading and helping to edit for a volume of Studies in the Antiquities of Stobi.

In April I was in Athens again at the American School library, until the end of the month when I returned to Skopje to meet Sabrina Higgins, a member of the Konjuh staff, and to deal with some Konjuh issues. I caught a ride with an archaeologist colleague from Belgrade, Mihailo Milinković, down to Larissa in Thessaly, where I gave a paper, “The Late Antique City at Golemo Gradište, Konjuh, and the Fortification Network of the Kriva River Valley,” at a conference on “Fortified Settlements of the Justinianic period,” 5 6 May 2017, and made some good contacts as well as met old acquaintances again.

After a few days in Athens to pack and clean the friend’s apartment where I had been staying, I was back in R. Macedonia on 15 May to organize things for the beginning of excavation at Konjuh on 23 May. Our season continued until 7 July and was quite successful, in that we acquired a great deal of new information about both the residence and the basilica under investigation as well as finding our first gold coin in nearly twenty years of excavation. I returned to the USA on 9 August in order to prepare for my final year of teaching at Gettysburg College.

During my sabbatical I wrote or co-authored four articles, one which has now appeared in digital format: “Life and Death in the Late Antique City at Konjuh,” in Acta Musei Tiberiopolitani 2 (Strumica 2018) 157 163; co-authored with Goran Sanev. The other three are in

Hard copies of two published articles were waiting in my Gettysburg College office in August: “Late Antique Dardania: A Moveable Province?” in Balkanistica 30:2 (2017) 333 338; and “Golemo Gradište at Konjuh: A New City or a Relocated One?” in New Cities in Late Antiquity: Documents and Archaeology, E. Rizos, ed., Brepols, 2017, 205 219.

Benjamin Luley –

Professor Luley started a new project this past summer at the ancient site of Lattara (modern Lattes) in Mediterranean France, which was a Celtic and Roman settlement occupied from approximately 500 B.C. to A.D. 200. Previously, Professor Luley worked on a project exploring the early Roman period occupation of the settlement itself. In summer 2017, he began a new project with French colleagues to explore the port to the south of the settlement. In Roman times, there appears to be a significant expansion of the port, and this project aims to better understand the extent and chronology of this growth, focusing on an area that has never before been extensively excavated. He excavated there in
June July 2017 with three students in anthropology and classics from Gettysburg College.

In addition, Professor Luley led an archaeological excavation near the Gettysburg Battlefield which hoped to find the remains of a farmhouse, named the Riggs House built in the 1840’s and which played an important part in the first day of fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. The Riggs House is mentioned in historical records as serving as a hospital during the battle, and was part of General Lee’s headquarters. In addition, historical accounts mention that the famous Gettysburg civilian, John Burns, who fought in the first day of battle and was wounded in the fighting, was found lying on the cellar door of the Riggs House. The excavations, which ran throughout the months of September and October 2017 were a part of Professor Luley’s ANTH212: The Archaeology of Pennsylvania course, and involved both Gettysburg College students and local volunteers from the community. The excavations revealed the eastern foundation wall of the foundation, including the famous cellar door where John Burns was found lying wounded.

In addition to fieldwork, Professor Luley is also working on a manuscript for a book exploring the impact that the Roman conquest had on the local Celtic inhabitants of Lattara during the first century B.C. and first century A.D.

Rachel Lesser –

Professor Lesser teaches courses in Greek and Latin language and literature, Greek history, and gender and sexuality in ancient Greece. This fall she also taught a First Year Seminar called “Same Sex Desire: Then and Now,” which investigates the history of same sex desire and sexuality in Greco Roman antiquity and the modern western world.

Her main research interests are in ancient Greek poetry, art, and culture, and she uses a variety of critical
theories and approaches in her work. She focuses particularly on desire, gender, and narrative in Homeric epic, and is writing a book tentatively titled *Desire and Plot in the Iliad*. She also has an article on the *Odyssey* forthcoming in the journal Helios, which is called “The Pandareids and Pandora: Defining Penelope’s Subjectivity in the *Odyssey*.”

In September 2017, she was an invited lecturer at Columbia University, where she gave a talk on teaching Sappho to instructors of Columbia’s Literature Humanities course. In October, she presented a conference paper at the Classical Association of the Atlantic States’ annual meeting and a lecture at the University of Pennsylvania on her current research on intertextual connections between Penelope in the *Odyssey* and Helen in the *Iliad*.

Professor Lesser received her Ph.D. in Classics, with a designated emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality, from the University of California, Berkeley. She also holds a B.A. in Classics from Columbia University, and a second B.A. in Classics and English from Oxford University. She joined the faculty of Gettysburg College in Fall 2016 as a Visiting Assistant Professor, and in Fall 2018 she will transition to the tenure track role of Assistant Professor of Classics.

Christopher Kurfess (Adjunct Assistant Professor Fall 2017)

Having read mainly comic books in my early years, I have studied Classics and Philosophy of one sort or another since my days as an undergraduate in the Great Books Program at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland. Despite a quite intimidating first encounter with Greek and the works of Plato and Aristotle in my freshman year, a deep fascination with Greek philosophy took hold, and I eventually wrote a senior paper on Plato’s *Republic*. After graduating I enrolled in an M.A. program in Eastern Classics at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I developed keen interests in Sanskrit, the philosophy of the Upaniṣhads, and Zhuangzi.
This led, in turn, to intensive study of Greek and Latin at the Latin/Greek Institute at the City University of New York, as well as to further graduate study in East West Comparative Philosophy at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, in Philosophy at Kings College London (where I wrote an M.Phil. thesis on Plato’s *Cratylus*), and in Classics, Philosophy and Ancient Science at the University of Pittsburgh. I received a Ph.D. in Classics from Pitt, having written a dissertation, *Restoring Parmenides’ Poem*, on the fragmentary remains of the early Greek philosopher Parmenides of Elea.

At Gettysburg I have taught introductory and intermediate level language courses in Latin and Greek. I have also taught various courses in myth, classical literature, philosophy and the humanities at the University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia University, and Carroll Community College. Recent publications include the articles “The Truth about Parmenides’ Doxa” (Ancient Philosophy 36, 2016) and “An Overlooked Fragment of Parmenides in Proclus?” (forthcoming in Apeiron). Current research projects also include the dialogues of Plato, Aristotle’s philosophy of nature, and the later reception of classical thought.

I live in Westminster, Maryland with my wife, Sarah, and our son, Leonard.

**WELCOME: Dr. Katheryn Whitcomb**

Dr. Whitcomb will begin her position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics and History in Fall 2018. She holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University, and the A.B. from Bryn Mawr College. Her interests include the political and social history of the late Roman Republic and early Empire, non Roman perspectives on Rome, and Hellenistic history. Most recently, she has taught at Haverford College, Villanova University, and Franklin & Marshall College. In addition to teaching language and literature courses and Greek and Roman History, we look forward to Prof. Whitcomb adding a number of new courses at all levels for Classics and
History. We warmly welcome Prof. Whitcomb and look forward to her telling you more about herself in our next Newsletter.

Prizes and Awards

2017 Spring Honors Day Awards

Shaffer Prize in Classical Studies:  
**Caitlin T. Connelly ‘17**
Established by Mary M. Shaffer in memory of Dr. William Frederick Shaffer, Franklin Professor of Greek, and awarded to a senior who demonstrated outstanding achievement and promise in Greek, Latin, or classics.

Phi Beta Kappa:  
**Caitlin T. Connelly ‘17 and Mikki Lynne Stacey ‘17**
The Gettysburg College chapter elects to membership around five to ten percent of the senior class who have distinguished academic records and exhibit high moral character and intellectual curiosity.

2017 Fall Honors Day Awards

**Samuel Garver Latin Prize: Abigail A. Coakley ‘20**
Awarded to the student who has made the greatest progress in Latin during the first year of college; created by Rev. Austin S. Garver.

**Samuel Garver Greek Prize: Allison C. Herman ‘20**
Awarded to the student who has made the greatest progress in Greek during the first year of college; created by Rev. Austin S. Garver.

**Hassler Latin Prize: Liam P. Hamilton ‘19**
To be awarded to the best Latin student in the junior class; created by Charles W. Hassler.
Muhlenberg First Year Student Prize: Allison C. Herman ‘20
Awarded to the first year student, taking Greek or Latin, who attains the highest general quality point average; created by Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg.

Events, Organizations, Etc.

Spring Event, April 3, 2017

Virginia M. Lewis
Assistant Professor of Classics, Florida State University
Topic: “Lady, you have spoken wisely, like a sensible man’: Gender, Speech, and Character in Greek Tragedy"
Linguists have shown that speakers in modern societies use different linguistic patterns that are discernable along gendered lines. Did Ancient Greek men and women speak differently from one another, too? This talk considers variations in male and female speech in Greek Tragedy to argue that gendered elements shape and expose dynamics between characters in these plays.

Lantern Wins at Snowball 2017
Snowball, the campus winter formal, gives clubs the opportunity to decorate a lantern to represent themselves. The lanterns are then collected, hung for the dance, and a winner is announced. This past year, the Classics club lantern was decorated by sophomore Francesca Costa, with both Latin and Greek phrases, great artwork, and it won!
Francesca is seen holding the lantern, among other members of the club. Hopefully, this is just the first of many wins for the Classics Club at Snowball!

Classics Welcome Back Party
The Classics Club, led by Katie Morfill ‘18 and Sarah Tokar ‘19, put together a welcome back party for Classics majors and minors, on September 27th, 2017. Professors Lesser, Luley, and Snively, and Dean Rickert, were present to speak about the courses they teach, and to talk with students about their interests. There were activities such as charades with mythical and historical Greek and Roman figures, as well the Club’s board game that was created last Spring. There was a great turn out, and everyone enjoyed the food and had a wonderful time.

Classics Honor Society Eta Sigma Phi
A Classics honorary society for students who maintained a B or better average in at least two courses in the department, who are enrolled in an additional classics course. The faculty advisor is Professor Rachel Lesser.
Lesser_A Trip to Greece

This summer, Professor Lesser spent two weeks visiting ancient sites in Greece, including the Athenian Acropolis, Delphi, the Palace of Nestor at Pylos, and Mycenae. She enjoyed exploring ruins, looking at ancient art and artifacts in museums, and eating delicious Greek cuisine!

Luley_Excavations in Gettysburg and France

Excavations of the Riggs House, a Civil War era farmhouse on Seminary Ridge standing at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.
Professor Luley with Gettysburg College, French, and Chinese students at the archaeological site of Lattes (Mediterranean France).

Excavations of the Roman port at the ancient settlement of Lattes (Mediterranean France).

2017-18 Student Staff

The Classics History Department celebrates our returning student staff here in the Administrative Office for the Fall 2017 Academic Year. From left, Keira Koch ‘19 an Indigenous Studies major and Public History minor; Lillian Shea ‘21 a History major and Public History minor; and Maria Kurt ‘19 a Classics major and Education minor. Keira and Maria will be going abroad in the Spring 2018.
Holding down the “fort” while Maria and Keira are ABROAD is our temporary student staff, Logan Henley ‘21.

Welcome Logan!

Classics Students & Office Students Abroad

**Maria Kurt ‘19** is currently studying abroad in *Athens, Greece.* She loves the amount of history that she is constantly surrounded by; the Acropolis is only a twenty minute walk from the program's Academic Center! Many ruins can also be found on the Greek islands, one of which, Kos, is where this picture was taken. Maria is truly enjoying her time abroad and can't wait to see where the rest of the semester takes her!

![Maria Kurt in Athens](image)

**Keira Koch ‘19** is currently studying History and Indigenous Studies at the *University of Wollongong, Australia.* While staying in Wollongong, she has enjoyed learning about the local Aboriginal culture and history. Keira is pictured here in front of the Sydney skyline, complete with the Opera House and Harbor bridge in the background.

![Keira Koch in Wollongong](image)
Sarah Tokar ‘19
"Studying abroad in Athens has been one of the best possible opportunities that I could take advantage of as a Classics major at Gettysburg College. There is something so breathtaking about visiting the ancient cities and seeing the ancient artifacts that we learn about in all of our courses! Each and every day I am transported to another time and place, and the Classics major inside me squeals with delight!"

Maria Kurt and Sarah Tokar

Francesca Costa ‘19
I am having an amazing time studying in Rome right now. I am taking classes about Roman History, Pompeii, Early Christianity, and even Archaeology. This Friday I start working as an intern at the Colosseum! My job will be analyzing marble from the imperial box and trying to re-create it digitally. It is a cool assignment, because archaeologists don't know very much about it at the moment, so our work can actually help the global community. Eating lots of pizza, and missing the 'Burg! At the Roman Zoo, a venomous yet adorable Komodo Dragon decided to pose with me!
Meghan Vogel ‘19

I am currently studying in Athens, Greece as a part of the College Year in Athens program. All of my classes here are related to Ancient Greek history. One class in particular, The Topography and Monuments of Athens, is fantastic because we go to sites for every class. So far we have focused on the Acropolis but by the end of the semester we will have gone to all the major archeological sites in Athens. We also go on 3 trips with the program throughout the semester. The first weekend we arrived we went to Delphi, which was an amazing experience. We are currently on a week-long trip throughout the Peloponnese, where have been going to many different sites like Mycenae, Epidaurus, Mystras, Messene, and Olympia. It’s been a fantastic week and I’ve learned so much about the Greeks and their history! The final trip is to Thessaloniki. A taxi driver told me the other week that the best food in Greece could be found in Thessaloniki so I am looking forward to testing that theory. I am also planning to travel to some Greek Islands and to some countries throughout Europe. My abroad experience so far has been amazing and it has been such a unique experience, especially as a classics major. I have been able to learn about so much history while literally looking at and standing on the sites. I am really excited to see what the next 2 1/2 months have in store for me here in Greece!

2018 Graduating Majors and Minors

Preston Kinard ‘18 – Classics Major
Samantha Frisoli ‘18 – Art History Major and Classics Minor
Kathleen McGurty ‘18 – Anthropology Major and Classics Minor
Katherine Morfill ‘18 – Environmental Studies Major and Classics Minor

We invite you to connect with Students!

Are you willing to visit campus and talk to students? Are you willing to have students contact you? If yes, what is the best way to reach you!!!
Please fill out the online form and the Classics Department and students will be happy to get in touch and arrange to make this happen.
Click here or go to http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/classics/alumni/AlumniNews.dot
Alumni News

Thanks to all our alumni who submitted their news! We look forward to hearing back from you in the years to come, and always welcome a personal visit to campus!

Class of ‘61

Barry W. Kerchner
As a former classics major, I can attest that knowledge of Latin has been helpful in widening my ability to read and interpret several languages. I enjoyed the article from the pages of the March/April edition of “Pennsylvania Lawyer”, a quote from which highlights the significance of the language, stating that “The U.S. Constitution contains approximately 4,500 words, and the only language used other than English, is Latin”.

Click on “Latin The Legacy Language of Lawyers”, to read more.

Class of ‘68

Ken Diable
I am teaching 5 postulants at Saint Francis University in PA. The subjects are Ancient Philosophy with an emphasis on the Greeks and Romans, and Medieval Philosophy focusing on the Greek and Roman Philosophers.

Class of ‘69

Charlotte Wilcox
I continue to work as a General Manager for Broadway and touring shows as I have since graduation. The first six months of this year were spent working on multiple companies of BEAUTIFUL – The Carol King Musical as well as opening SUNSET BOULEVARD with Glenn Close and BANDSTAND on Broadway and ROMAN HOLIDAY in San
Francisco. It was a lot of work and I am happy now to be back to just handling “Beautiful” around the world. This is my year to travel. So, I started Spanish lessons. Never thought I'd start conjugating verbs again after all this time. I am loving it though I never expect to be able to speak fluently give the speed with which native speakers can handle it all.

Class of ‘72
Warren Wright
In July this year I married the former Evelyn Hoopes Streett, bought a new house and moved to Southampton, PA, and went on Rhine River cruise for our honeymoon.

Class of ‘90
Darren Poley
Classics major Darren G. Poley ’90 traveled after graduation and continued his studies, eventually earning two graduate degrees (Master of Arts in religion & Master of Science in library and information science). He has been a librarian at Villanova University in Pennsylvania since 1999, and part time faculty in Villanova’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since 2000. He has had several different roles in Falvey Memorial Library. He is currently the Assistant Director for Academic Integration, and Theology Librarian. As the subject specialist and library research expert in religion and classics, he serves as liaison librarian to the theology department and graduate theology program, the humanities department and classical studies program, the Augustinian Institute, and Villanova’s honors program. He was for many years an adjunct to the department of theology and religious studies. Currently he is an instructor in the Augustine and Culture Seminar Program.

Class of ‘96
Alyson Jones
This summer I started a new position as Director of the Altoona Public Library in northwestern Wisconsin. My husband Ryan, along with our daughters Winnie, 8, and Susannah, 5, have lived in Eau Claire, WI for the past 11 years and enjoy our time in the land of subzero temps, cheese curds, and the Packers.
Class of ‘97

Darcy Daniels

Darcy Daniels '97 teaches history at Mount Ida College in Sharon, MA. She has embarked on an oral history project, interviewing people who went to the Women's March on Washington (specifically the march in DC.) Anyone can participate, but Gettysburg Alums who participate will have their interviews donated to the Special Collections of Musselman Library at Gettysburg College and at the national repository at University of Florida. If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact her at ddaniels@mountida.edu.

Class of ‘99

Travis Kreider

I am in the middle of year 17 of teaching at Harrisburg Academy. I chair the History Department and also teach Latin and IB Theory of Knowledge. I am married to an amazing wife, Suzanne, and we have five children.

Class of ‘07

Patricia Hay

The National Junior Classical League appointed me as Chair of the Pennsylvania Junior Classical League last year. We just began our second year of a two year reorganization plan and are working to recruit new schools. We have our state convention at Penn State University every May and it is always a very rewarding educational experience for the students. In addition, Pennsylvania schools that want their students to join the NJCL Latin Honor Society must register with both PAJCL and NJCL. Anyone who is interested or would like more information can contact me at pajcl.chairperson@gmail.com. Our new website is www.pajcl.net.

Another part of our reorganization plan is to grow the Pennsylvania Senior Classical League, which is the organization for college students. Students do not have to be a Latin major/minor to join...they simply must have an interest in the Classics. Our hope is to eventually begin starting college chapters around the state. If any students might be interested, please contact me as well! It's a great resume builder and the
SCLers the go to Latin Convention are always a big help and have a great time.

**Class of ‘10**

**Kaitlyn Lyons**

After working at the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc. for four years, I began my new career outside of the non profit world with ExLibris this summer. This fall over homecoming weekend I will marry my fiancé, Dave O'Malley, at his family's farm in Gettysburg, PA. We have worked over the past year renovating their barn into the perfect venue, Rock Creek Farm PA!

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**Send Us Your News!**

Do you have some news you would like to share with the Classics Department and your fellow Classics grads in next year’s newsletter? If so, please fill in the information below and return this form to:

Classics Department Newsletter
Gettysburg College Campus Box 394
Gettysburg PA 17325

Or, visit us on the web at: [http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/classics/alumni/AlumniNews.dot](http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/classics/alumni/AlumniNews.dot)

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