

March 2018

the  
**BEARPRINT**  
Missouri State University

**Reconnect  
Support  
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GLAS  
851



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As the 2017-18 academic year comes towards a close, it is amazing to look back at the growth of the Construction Management program, the Technology and Construction Management department, the College of Business, and the Missouri State University campus community.

The quality and quantity of students in the department's four degree programs (B.S. Construction Management, B.S. Interior Design, B.S. Mechanical Engineering Technology, and M.S. Project Management) continues to rise. The membership and activity level of the Construction Management Advisory Board (see pages four and seven for both past and upcoming events) signals the strength and support for the program and its mission.

The completion of the Glass Hall renovation/Robert Gourley Student Success Center addition project has brought new life and vitality to the College of Business. Simultaneously, the university continues to set record enrollment numbers as more

and more students choose Springfield as the place to make their MISSOURI STATEMENT.

In this issue we highlight Mr. Jacob Nelson, a full-time instructor since 2016, and his passion for mechanical and electrical systems. We share the experiences and impacts that many of your fellow Bears are making in their communities. Stories and advice from four alumni (Mrs. Michelle George, Mr. AJ Brown, Mrs. JayLynn Rehagen and Mr. Joe Boschert) spotlight the variety of opportunities and challenges that construction management graduates are successfully tackling across the industry. We also feature a current student, Ms. Emily Bozarth, and her unique journey from the pacific northwest to MSU where she has been a vital resource for the CMAB.

As always, thank you to all our students, alumni, and industry partners. It is because of your time, talent, and treasure, that the program continues to get better and better each year.

- Dr. Richard Gebken, CM Program Coordinator



## Career Fair Recap

More than 150 companies attended the College of Business (COB) Career Fair at the Springfield Expo Center last year. Construction employers made up nearly 30 percent of companies in attendance with almost all of them looking for full-time, part-time, and internship candidates.

Unique to the 2017 event was the Construction Club's first-ever industry panel discussion. This event, hosted the evening before the career fair, focused on providing students with tips and tricks on how to land that perfect job. Seven industry professionals from both advisory board and non-advisory board companies talked about the importance of researching perspective employers, having a well-rehearsed "elevator" speech, and many other useful topics.

The next Career Fair will be September 18 from 10AM to 2PM. For more information and to register, visit <http://business.missouristate.edu/Fairs.htm>.



# Stay Connected Past Events

## 1st Alumni Night Golf - September 18, 2017



Last fall was our first successful Alumni event. It was held at the Oscar Bloom Golf Course on September 18, 2017 after the CMAB meeting. For our first event, we had great attendance! Around 25 alumni members and upwards of 10 students attended. The evening started with pizza and then everyone was divided into teams and sent out on the course. For those that aren't familiar with the Oscar Bloom course, it is a 9 hole, walk-only course, that is lit up to allow for golf after dark. It was a great opportunity for some networking, catching up with fellow alumni, and some friendly competition. Based on feedback from this event, another fall is in the works so stay tuned!

## MSU Basketball Game Social - Jan. 14th, 2018

For those that were watching, or listening to the Bears Basketball game from home or the local watering hole on January 14th, you missed the best seats in the house! Several local CM Alumni got together in the Athletic Director's suite at JQH Arena for the 4th annual MSU CM Alumni Basketball Social. The game was a real nail-biter, with the lead switching back and forth several times throughout. The Bears pulled out a victory, with a final score of 76-73. It was a great opportunity for faculty and alumni to meet, reconnect, and hang out for a few hours. Thank you to all who attended, as well as everyone who helped put this event together. If you would like to join us next year, RSVP to [missouristateconstructionalumni@hotmail.com](mailto:missouristateconstructionalumni@hotmail.com). There are many exciting events coming up!



Michelle is an Oran, MO native and graduated with her BS in Construction Management and Minor in Accounting in May 2012. She has been working with McCarthy Building Companies in St. Louis for the past 5 years. Currently, Michelle is an estimator, and an average day for her consists of reviewing plans and specs to extract quantities, estimate pricing, working with subcontractors on pricing and bids, as well as collaborating with designers. She says, "Preconstruction deals a lot with coordination, both internally and with subcontractors. The more we can plan in advance the smoother the job can run in the field."

"The past year or so, I have been working on the Washington University East Campus Expansion. It is a \$250 million project that includes the construction of two new academic buildings, two multi-use pavilions, an underground parking facility, an addition to the Kemper Museum, and an expansive new landscape. I worked on some aspect of each structure, but the bulk of my time was spent on the concrete portion which McCarthy was self-performing. Prior to this project, I spent a lot of time on the St. Louis Arch Museum Project."

**What are some of the most valuable things you've learned on the job?** The devil is in the details. Reading through specs and combing through drawing details is extremely important. It has only become more apparent as I have worked on different projects just how different and unique they can be. I also can't stress enough how important communication and people skills are.

## Alumni Spotlight: Michelle George

**What have been some keys to your success since leaving MSU?** Ask questions. It's better to understand than to just be told what to do. Also being honest and genuine goes a long way. It's important to develop that rapport with people so they know they can trust and rely on you. This is a tight knit industry and the reputation you develop will follow you.

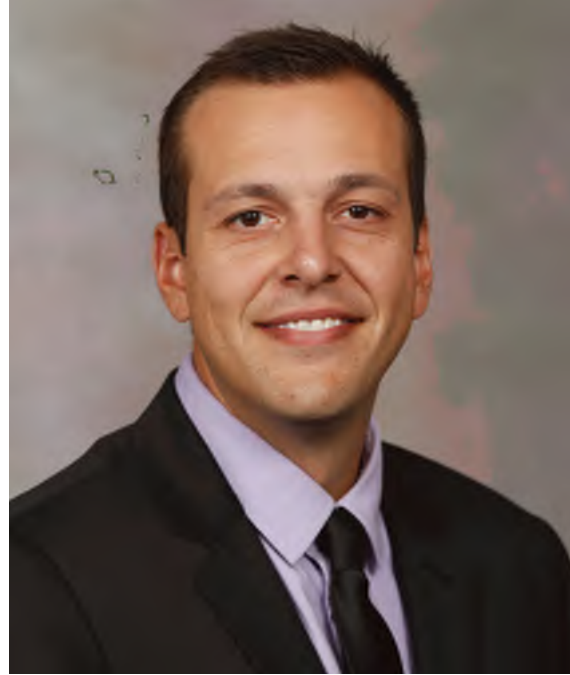
**What is the best advice you've been given?** Talk half as much as you listen. How can you learn anything new if you are always the one doing the talking?

**What advice would you give to soon-to-be graduates?** Take initiative and seize every opportunity you are given, and be willing to go above and beyond the minimum requirement. You will learn and earn so much more that way than by sitting back and waiting for the things to come to you.

**Why do you love the construction industry?** I love being a part of the intricate process that involves creating an entirely new structure from someone's vision and seeing it through the design process, preconstruction, all the way through construction. It takes a lot to get the building in place. It's an even better feeling to look back after it's built and know you were a part of what made it happen.



## Faculty Spotlight: Jacob Nelson



Region 4 Coordinator. His past 3 teams have placed 1st, 2nd, and 1st in the regional competition. Go Bears! This year he also will be taking a student group to the MCAA Convention in San Antonio, TX. Jacob teaches numerous courses within the TCM department including Construction Drawings and Quantity Takeoffs, Facility Design, Mechanical Systems for Buildings, Energy and Control Systems, and Mechanical and Electrical Estimating.

When not teaching, Jacob performs consulting service on various mechanical and electrical systems for local Architects and building Owners. When asked about what inspired Jacob to get into Architectural Engineering, he really liked math and enjoyed the design aspect of architecture and as he furthered his studies, he found that quality MEP engineers were in demand which led him to earning his degree with an emphasis in MEP. Now that Jacob is teaching, he enjoys bringing an engineering perspective to Construction Management. His commitment and enjoyment of teaching shows as students in the Construction Management program talk very highly of Jacob and his knowledge.

In Jacob's free time, he likes to enjoy spending time with his wife and three children. As a Springfield native, he enjoys many outdoor activities in the Ozarks such as playing golf, coaching little league, spending time on the lake, and mountain biking. His favorite lunch spot is Grad School and his favorite family restaurant is Cheddars.

If you'd like to reach out to Jacob Nelson, he may be reached at [JacobNelson@MissouriState.edu](mailto:JacobNelson@MissouriState.edu).

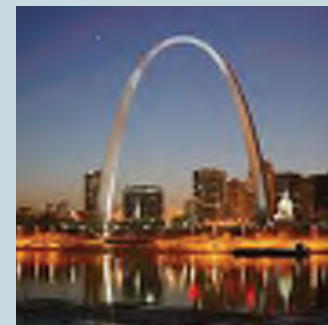
Jacob Nelson is an Instructor for the Department of Technology and Construction Management. He started teaching at Missouri State in 2016. Jacob has a BS of Architectural Engineering and a MS of Architectural Engineering from Kansas State University. Jacob recommends to his students that to be successful in class you must do the homework, come to class and take notes. He learned that hard work takes time to develop and that long term hard work does pay off. In the classroom he brings applied learning and real world experiences to form a bridge to curriculum and industry. On advice for soon to be graduates, Jacob says to have patience. He also states that sometimes you learn as much from bad experiences as you do the good experiences.

Along with other faculty of TCM, Jacob has an active involvement in the MEP Club, CMAB Industry Committee, and student ASC competitions. Jacob mentors the MSU MEP ASC Competition Team and serves as Specialty Division



### Regional Alumni Happy Hour July 19th, 2018

For those who live in the St. Louis area and can't always make it to Springfield for the annual alumni events, here is your chance to catch up with your fellow CM Alumni! Come hang out, watch the Cards play the Cubs, and enjoy some brews in the Lou at the MSU CM Regional Happy Hour! Happy hour will take place Thursday, July 19th at The Wheelhouse in Downtown St. Louis. The event will start at 5pm. Check the Alumni Facebook page for more details



as the event approaches! We can't wait to see you there!

The Wheelhouse  
1000 Spruce St  
St Louis, MO  
63102

## Looking Ahead Upcoming Events

### Construction Club Golf Outing - May 11th, 2018

Over the past 16 years, the Construction Club has hosted the Annual TCM Alumni Golf Tournament for students, faculty, alumni, and industry professionals. This year's golf tournament will be held on May 11th, 2018 at the Hidden Valley Golf Course in Clever, MO. Attendance continues to grow each year. This is another great event to catch up with fellow alumni and faculty, all while supporting the Construction Club and meeting many of the outstanding students in the department. Please contact Club President Ted Harrison at [harrison008@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:harrison008@live.missouristate.edu) for more information, or for a registration form. We look forward to seeing you there!



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### 1st Annual CM Alumni Banquet - May 11th, 2018



We are very excited to announce the 1st Annual CM Alumni Banquet! Join us for a fun night where alumni can reconnect and see what everybody has been up to. This will be the Friday evening after the Golf Tournament. The social will start at 6:00, and dinner & banquet to follow

at 7:00. The event will be held at our old stomping grounds - MSU Campus. Spouses and significant others are welcomed to join us for this formal event. We are currently looking for company sponsorships as well as Table Sponsors for decor and giveaways (includes recognition and logos at event):

**Platinum: \$1,000; Gold: \$500; and Silver: \$250**

Keep an eye out, invitations with more details will be sent soon! If you would like more information please email Nick Lange ([nicklange85@gmail.com](mailto:nicklange85@gmail.com)).

# 2017 Associated Schools of Construction Competition



The Annual ASC Region 4 Construction Management competition celebrated its 25th year in Nebraska City, NE on October 25th - 28th, 2017. The Missouri State University Construction Management Program entered four teams which included Commercial, Heavy/Highway, Design-Build, and Specialty (Electrical Systems) divisions. The competition brought a large and diverse group of competitors from eleven schools from the upper Midwest. There were a total of 30 teams and over 180 students in attendance. In fact, one division even had 11 teams entered!

For the 2017 competition, teams worked on estimating, scheduling, planning, and in some cases designing projects across the country. Within a 16 hour window (from 6 AM to midnight), students had the opportunity to work on either a 25,000 GSF data center, a 170,000+ GSF consolidated hospital support service building, a replacement cold storage warehouse to an existing food processing facility, or the I-430/Highway 10 Interchange in Little Rock, Arkansas.

By the end of the event, the Construction Bears were again very successful. They earned a first, second, and third place finish. The winning teams were proudly recognized and awarded plaques at the 33rd Annual Salute to Design and Construction Awards held on November 9 at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center in Springfield. Many of the students are eager to get back to work and return to Nebraska next fall to continue the Bears' long-established tradition of winning!



**1st Place Specialty Division**  
 Laura Velandia, Christian Long, Wyatt Rapp, Dylan Weddle, Andrew Spencer, and Hayden Berkstreser



**2nd Place Heavy/Highway Division**  
 Connor Kennedy, Santiago Mendez, Juan Trujillo, William Thompson, Brandon Belt, and Jordan Ford



**3rd Place Commercial Division**  
 Justin Knott, Levi Hargrove, Terry Miles, Grant Erard, Emily Bozarth, and Megan O'Leary



## Student Spotlight: Emily Bozarth

**E**mily comes to Missouri State from a small town just north of Portland, Oregon. She grew up on a farm with lots of animals and a big family. She is the youngest of five, the only girl, and ironically enough she is the only one of the family to follow in her dad's construction footsteps. Her senior year of high school she spent some time shadowing her dad on different projects and fell in love with the management side of construction. She declared her major in Construction Management as soon as she graduated high school and has been running with it ever since.

Her two favorite things about the CM program are the people and the opportunities. She has been able to travel all over Missouri, to Nebraska, San Diego, Nashville, and New Orleans for competitions, conventions, and department trips. There have also been countless opportunities to network and create connections with industry professionals.

Emily is very involved on campus. She is the Student Worker for the CMAB, President of Sigma Lambda Chi (the CM Honor Society), the Social Chairman of the Construction Club, and the Student Advisor of the MEP Club, which she helped form in 2017. She has competed AND placed in ASC competitions the past 3 years. Somehow, she finds time to enjoy some things outside of school as well, such as football and hockey. Emily is a diehard San



Francisco 49ers & Arizona Coyotes fan. She also loves to travel; one of her most recent trips was to Europe last summer!

She has done two internships with S.M. Wilson and will be joining them in St. Louis as a Project Engineer when she graduates. During her internships she has had the opportunity to work on some really cool projects. One of them being the Washington University Medical Center Campus Renewal Project. It included the brand new 500,000 SF BJC hospital and a 200,000 SF expansion on St. Louis Children's Hospital. In total, the project cost about \$550 million. During construction, that project was considered the largest and fastest healthcare construction project in the US. Through her internships she has realized her passion for healthcare construction. She says, "the best part about building a hospital is being able to say that you helped build a facility that will save lives." One of the biggest lessons she learned was that walking the site should always be a priority. You can learn so much about construction means and methods by watching a craftsman, especially if you're an intern or just starting in your career.

Emily has been an amazing help to the CMAB so we need to extend a special thanks to her and wish her well when she graduates in May and embarks on her next adventure!



## Alumni Spotlight: AJ Brown

**What have been some keys to your success since leaving MSU?** I'm fortunate enough to work for a company that not only self-performs concrete (among other trades) but allows me to spend time alternating between field and office positions. That structure has helped me become more of a true builder and not just a construction manager. I've been given the opportunity to build a foundation of knowledge of actual nuts and bolts to be able to better manage the work from the office side.

**What's the best advice you've been given?** You have to find a way to prioritize and maximize effectiveness. I had a PM give me this odd metaphor that has stuck with me. He said, "Your workload is like a big plate of spaghetti and meatballs. Every day people are going to add more spaghetti and meatballs to your plate. Eventually, the pile is will overflow, but that's alright. Once it starts overflowing, you better make sure its only spaghetti hitting the floor. Don't let the meatballs fall off the plate." While it's a bit of joke, I still use the metaphor to gauge the urgency of a situation/task – is this spaghetti or is this a meatball?

**What advice would you give to soon-to-be graduates?** Look for opportunities and don't be satisfied with the status quo. While there is value in tried-and-true methods, be eager to find a better way to crack the nut. Innovation leads to opportunities. Be respectful of the way things have been done in the past and try to truly understand why they were done that way – then use that knowledge to find a faster, cheaper, safer, more efficient, more thorough and just all-around better way of doing things. I assure you, you'll get noticed.

**Why do you love the construction industry?** How many other people can point to an empty field and say "I'm going to turn that into an airport"? We can and that's pretty cool. I also love that there are so many facets to this industry: hands-on, safety, logistics, scheduling, finance, sales, legal, marketing, etc. We do a little bit of everything every day and not many other industries can say the same thing.

**A**J graduated with his BS in December of 2012. He is a Waterloo, IL native and now lives in Orlando, FL working for Hensel Phelps as a Project Engineer. He says his days are, "spent as sort of a middleman between field and office operations. I make sure that my staff and I are giving the field the support they need. I'm responsible for submittals, material deliveries & inspections, design changes, accounting functions, and contract administration." He spent 3 years in Pensacola working on an office campus expansion for the Navy Federal Credit Union and is currently in Orlando working on a new airport expansion at MCO. "The airport authority is expanding their operations by building an entire new airport complex south of the existing airport."

**What are some of the most valuable things you've learned on the job?** For any given situation, there's a lot more than meets the eye. You're missing something important if you don't dive off into the details. Listen to the whole story, read the specs, study the drawing details, know the contract language, think about future impacts – think about the big picture, and become the master of that topic or issue. What you might think is an educated decision or an intelligent comment may very well not be if you don't really know as much as you thought you did.

► Construction Club members make Philly cheese steak subs, with delicious grilled veggies, for the last home football game.



▲ A large group of CM and Interior Design students spent a Friday helping the USMC and its Toys For Tots Drive by fulfilling orders in their Springfield warehouse.  
► Construction Club students partner with the local NAWIC chapter (#366) by helping judge its annual Block Kids event.



▲ College of Business scholarship recipients pose for a photo after the annual awards banquet.  
◀ Four club members take time to pose inside Mardi Gras World in New Orleans while attending the AGC Convention.

# MAKE YOUR MISSOURI STATEMENT™

**Construction Club**  
News and Updates

The Construction Club has put another busy semester in the books! From meetings to tailgates, service projects to field trips and student competitions, the club's schedule has been nothing short of eventful.

At the end of August, the club hosted their Annual Welcome Back BBQ bringing together the whole department to start off the beginning of the semester. A few weeks after, the club took the department trailer up to Columbia for the MSU-MU football game. Even though the Bears lost to the Tigers, fun was had by all. The club continued their tailgating tradition throughout the semester with their famous music-banging trailer every Saturday.

In September, Dr. Gebken took a few students up to Kansas City for the KC Estimating Academy and Expo. Students participated in riveting special sessions followed by an industry trade show event. After the sessions, they had the chance to network with both local and national companies.

The club has been keeping up their active service schedule by holding street clean-ups, cheering on runners at the Bass Pro Marathon, fulfilling orders with Toys for Tots and participating and winning a box building competition where proceeds benefited the homeless in the community.

November was an important month for the Department. Many

students apply for scholarships through the university every year hoping to get a department or college scholarship. A large number of TCM students received not only departmental scholarships, but also College of Business scholarships as well. These are very hard to come by due to the magnitude of students that apply for COB scholarships. The students were recognized at the COB Scholarship Banquet held on November 10th. We are very proud of the hardworking students in the department that strive to become better students and individuals every day. We look forward to seeing everyone of them succeed in their future careers.



◀ The tailgating trailer made the trip up to Columbia for the MSU-MU football game to start the season. Thanks to the Alumni Association for letting us setup at the MSU event hotel.



## Alumni Spotlight: JaLynn Rehagen

**J**aLynn recently graduated from the program with her BS in Construction Management in December 2016. She is originally from Nevada, MO but now currently resides in Orlando, FL and is working for Hensel Phelps as an Office Engineer. An average day for her consists of whatever her supervisors need from her. “My days are never the same, except when pay applications are due to my supervisor. Procrastination at it’s best, every month.”

The job she has been working on recently is the Universal Project 927 – Adventura Hotel. “The project is a 17 story hotel with 600 guest rooms and multiple pools. I oversee all interiors on the job. Construction began in January 2017 and it’s scheduled for completion in mid-summer 2018.”

**What are some of the most valuable things you’ve learned on the job?** Patience and kindness to the craftsmen.

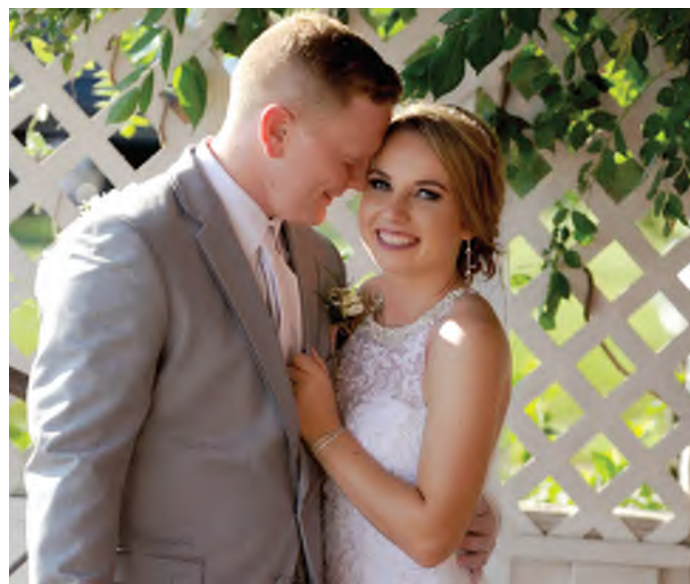
**What have been some keys to success since leaving MSU?** I have learned to be a team player. These projects don’t get built alone. Be respectful of the craftsmen; one day on the project you will need a favor. Ask questions if you don’t understand, and don’t give an answer unless you are willing to make a bet on it.



**What’s the best advice you’ve been given?** Enjoy the journey of your training in your career, because you will look back in 10 years and wish you had more.

**What advice would you offer to soon-to-be graduates?** Be proactive to help, be sincere, and go the extra mile. I have learned if you do these things in your career early, people tend to help you a lot more when you need it.

**Why do you love the construction industry?** I love that every day I am learning and being challenged; all of the projects are temporary and within a few years I will be sent to a new scenery and broaden my knowledge. I especially love the people, whether it’s my own team or the craftsmen. It feels good to be a part of something that takes such hard work.



**J**oe, a St. Charles native, graduated with his BS in Construction Management in December of 2014. He has been working with S. M. Wilson & Co in St. Louis for the past 3 years. Currently, Joe is a Project Engineer, and his current day to day responsibility is managing the submittal, RFI, and procurement process for projects. “The best part about working in construction is no two days are the same. You never know what issues or questions are going to come up every day.”

Right out of college, Joe was assigned to work on the St. Louis County Library Renovations project; renovating nine libraries in total. Now, he is currently working on the Ladue High School Renovation project that is scheduled around school activities.

**What are some of the most valuable things you’ve learned on the job?** No one person is responsible for the success or the failure of a project. Getting the job done is a team effort and takes every member to make it happen. Building relationships and rapport with the people you work with is an invaluable skill.

**What are some keys to your success since leaving**

## Alumni Spotlight: Joe Boschert

**MSU?** The key is to not just work harder, but work smarter. It is easy to complete daily tasks but in the long run it is better to take the time, understand the issue, and close it entirely. Nothing is more frustrating than dealing with a repetitive issue that could have been resolved by taking the time to do it right the first time around.


**What’s the best advice you have been given?** When in doubt, google it. Construction products are continuously improving and constantly changing. If you find yourself reviewing product data or shop drawings of a product or a system you are unfamiliar with, Google it for a better understanding.

**What advice would you offer to soon-to-be graduates?** It is very easy to shoot off emails; following up with phone calls goes a long way to expressing urgency and tone.

**Why do you love the construction industry?** The variety of people, products, and projects is what I enjoy the most about the construction industry. Every project involves a new construction team and new products to research/install. Each day is a new challenge with new issues to resolve. No two days are similar.







the  
**BEARPRINT**  
Missouri State University

*Mark your calendars for  
all of the exciting events  
planned this year!*

*CMAB Board Meeting  
Class of 2018 Senior Project  
Presentations  
May 10th, 2018*

*Construction Club Golf  
Tournament  
CM Alumni Banquet  
May 11th, 2018*

*Regional Happy Hour - St. Louis  
July 19th, 2018*

*CMAB Board Meeting  
Fall Golf Night  
September 17th, 2018*

*COB Career Fair  
September 18th, 2018*

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