



# RURAL TRACK PIPELINE PROGRAM

## Lester R. Bryant

### A Towering Figure in School of Medicine History



Lester Bryant was the dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine from 1989-98. He passed away on May 2, 2018, at age 87.

During his tenure as dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine from 1989-98, Lester R. Bryant's powers of persuasion were legendary. He was a skilled cardiothoracic surgeon who knew what made people tick in more ways than one.

"Les would go to a meeting, and everyone would introduce themselves. The meeting would go on, and about a half an hour later, he'd say, 'Joe, don't you agree with that?'" recalled Michael Hosokawa, EdD, senior associate dean of education. "Somehow, he had all the names

down."

The trick, Bryant once told Ted Groshong, MD, senior associate dean emeritus of alumni affairs, was to say each name out loud three times. He would repeat it immediately after an introduction, bring it up again soon thereafter and say it a third time after the meeting.

Bryant remembered the name, and the person in question felt more important ... and more likely to agree with the dean.

Bryant died at age 87 on May 2, 2018, in Jonesborough, Tenn. He left behind a lasting legacy

of enduring accomplishments at MU.

"I started medical school in 1963. I've known, one way or the other, every dean since that time," Groshong said. "He's had more influence on the medical school than any dean in my memory."

Soon after taking over as dean, Bryant started the process of changing MU's lecture-based curriculum. He appointed a group, led by Hosokawa, that recommended changing to problem-based learning, a more interactive style in which students learn from real clinical cases. Some faculty members hated the idea.

"With the new curriculum, he stuck his neck out, and I have to tell you, Les Bryant had a very long neck," Groshong said. "A number of faculty said it wasn't going to work and actively opposed it. He stuck to it."

After the switch to PBL — which is now referred to at MU as patient-based learning — in 1993, board scores soon exceeded the national average and have remained there since.

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Kathleen Quinn, PhD  
Associate Dean for  
Rural Health

**C**ongratulations to the MU AHEC Rural Track Pipeline Program staff for receiving both the 2018 Excellence in Teamwork Award and the Fall 2018 Staff Advisory Council Salutes Award. The recognition of both demonstrates the passion, energy and dedication these women have for reaching our annual goals. These awards highlight the

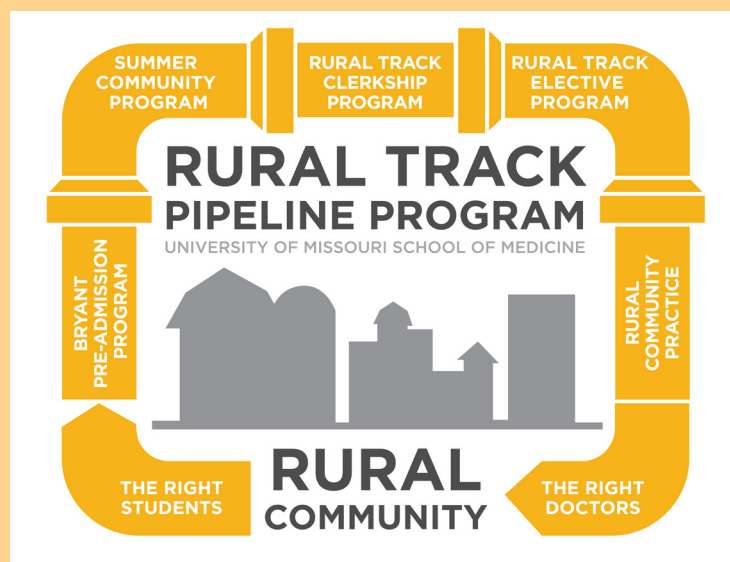
many students, physician teachers, AHECs, rural hospitals and community members who partner with us for the betterment of rural health in Missouri.

While this year has been full of successes for our program, it was very difficult to lose Dr. Lester R. Bryant in May. His passing is a true loss. However, Dr. Bryant continues to motivate us in our drive to address the physician shortage in Missouri. I did not work with Dr. Bryant when he was dean, but we communicated often and I had the opportunity to visit with him in Tennessee and Missouri. His presence, thoughtfulness and support encourages me every day to improve and innovate. He will always be an inspiration to many.

In addition to highlighting the legacy of Dr. Bryant, please read about four extraordinary alumni physicians in our “Where Are They Now?” feature. We are very proud of the legacy they have all created. All have given back to the Rural Track Pipeline Program through teaching, volunteering, lecturing, mentoring or giving interviews for publications. Dr. Lovegreen is the first graduate to be part of a multi-generation Rural Track physician family. Both of her nephews are Bryant Scholars. Way to go setting a stellar example, Jenny!

I write today to ask you to support students interested in rural medicine. Your gift, large or small, allows the MU School of Medicine to award scholarships to Rural Track participants and sustain the Rural Track Pipeline Program.

*Warmest regards,*  
**Kathleen Quinn, PhD**



## Make a Gift

Help celebrate 23 years of the Rural Track Program! Make a gift to support the program and student scholarships.

To donate online, visit:  
[medicine.missouri.edu/education/rural-track-pipeline-program/alumni/](http://medicine.missouri.edu/education/rural-track-pipeline-program/alumni/)

## Update Us

To update your information, visit:  
[medicine.missouri.edu/education/rural-track-pipeline-program/share-your-ahec-alumni-news](http://medicine.missouri.edu/education/rural-track-pipeline-program/share-your-ahec-alumni-news)

Having accurate practice information on Rural Track participants will assist us in illustrating program outcomes to stakeholders.

## Program Outcomes

Program participants are more likely to choose a primary care specialty and twice as likely to choose family medicine as their specialty when compared to non-participants.

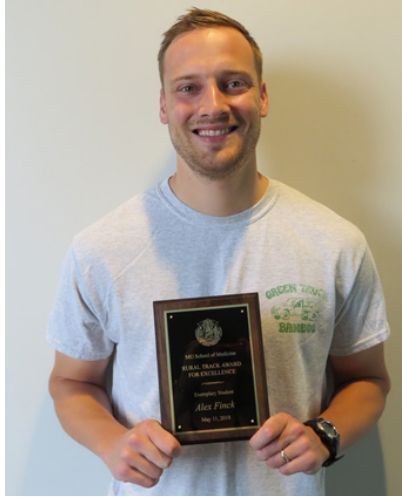
- 48% of participants practice in a rural location
- 55.5% of participants practice in Missouri

**Since its inception, the program has produced an economic impact for the state of Missouri of more than \$502 million.\***

\* The Economic Impact of Physicians in Missouri, AMA (January 2018). Calculation based on the per physician total output average for 238 rural track graduates practicing in Missouri.

## Rural Track Exemplary Student Award

Each year, the Rural Track Management Group chooses an M4 to recognize for the Rural Track Exemplary Student Award. The award recognizes MU Rural Track students who consistently demonstrate a high level of commitment and passion for learning.



These students are recognized by patients, preceptors and staff as providing outstanding patient care and demonstrating an exemplary level of professionalism. They show a high level of interest in rural medicine and actively participate in rural track-related activities. They seek out opportunities to become involved in the community and participate in service activities where available.

This year, Alexander Finck, MD '18, was the recipient of the award. Finck completed his Rural Track Clerkship rotations in Sikeston during his third year and was nominated by Dr. Kevin Blanton.

Dr. Blanton, a pediatrician from Ferguson Medical Group in Sikeston, wrote: "Alex is motivated ultimately by the desire to truly impact the lives of his patients. His earnest passion to make a difference was truly inspirational. I am excited for the future, both for Alex but also for the medical community in which he will serve and the patients he will impact."

Dr. Finck is a first-year family medicine resident at the University of Missouri Family Medicine Clinic in Fayette.

## Rural Track Award for Distinguished Community-Based Faculty



Russell Kennedy, DO, right, receives his Distinguished Community-Based Faculty Award from Kelly Risby.

Russell Kennedy, DO, received this year's Rural Track Award for Distinguished Community-Based Faculty. Dr. Kennedy is a family medicine physician from Webb City. Since 2007, Dr. Kennedy has taught 10 Rural Track medical students.

This award recognizes community-based faculty who consistently demonstrate superior commitment and skill for teaching MU Rural Track medical students. They provide the best care for their patients, demonstrate exemplary professionalism, maintain the respect of their colleagues and demonstrate active leadership and involvement in their community.

Rene Romig, MD '18, the student who nominated Dr. Kennedy, wrote: "I loved my time rotating with Dr. Kennedy. I was blown away by his compassionate approach to patient care. It was obvious that he loved his job and really cared about his patients, and his patients could tell, too. He would literally jog with joy down the hallway to go see the next patient! He truly listened and took time in every patient encounter, and his patients just adore him."

Dr. Romig is a first-year pediatrics resident at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.



The Rural Track Pipeline Program is another of Bryant's legacies. A native of Frankfurt, Ky., he used to remind colleagues that he showed up at the University of Cincinnati medical school wearing overalls.

Bryant appointed a group that included Hosokawa, Weldon Webb and Hal Williamson, MD, to create a program that recruited and developed students interested in practicing medicine in rural areas.

The first section of the Rural Track Pipeline — the Lester R. Bryant Scholars Pre-Admissions Program — was named in the former dean's honor.

"He cared so much about the program and about rural citizens getting quality care," said Kathleen Quinn, PhD, associate dean for rural health. "In the 18 years I've been here, it was very motivating to talk with him and be influenced and supported by him."

After working closely with Bryant on both successful projects, Hosokawa said the dean was interested only in the outcome, not the glory. "One of his strengths was his humility," Hosokawa said. "He let other people take credit for things."

For the latter half of his tenure at Missouri, Bryant doubled as the chief executive officer of University Hospitals and Clinics.

He also found the time to spend one day a week performing surgeries at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

One way or another, Bryant could persuade. Michael Misfeldt, PhD, recalled being summoned to Bryant's office in the mid-1990s and being asked to take over as the interim dean for research and academic affairs.

"My kids were at an age when they were in a lot of activities, and I wasn't really totally agreeable," said Misfeldt, who is now the senior associate dean for faculty affairs. "In his own way, Lester said, 'Well, I'll let you think about it overnight, but I expect you to come back in the morning and tell me yes.' That was my introduction to Dean Bryant. It was hard to say no to him."

After retiring and settling in Jonesborough, Tenn., Bryant remained interested in the happenings in Missouri. Quinn said Bryant requested multiple copies of the Rural Track Pipeline Program's annual magazine, and he kept in contact with his former colleagues at MU.

"Dean Bryant was a forward-looking administrator with a talent for turning his visions into reality," said Patrick Delafontaine, the Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stephenson Dean of the School of Medicine.

"Considering the lasting impact of some of his initiatives, such as the PBL curriculum and the Rural Track Pipeline Program, he is truly one of the most important figures in the School of Medicine's history."

— Article provided by  
MU Medicine Magazine

### Bryant Scholars Pre-Admissions Program Update

The Bryant Scholars Pre-Admissions Program began in 1995 as part of the Rural Track Pipeline Program at the MU School of Medicine to address the shortage of physicians in Missouri.

The Program encourages young people from rural backgrounds to pursue a medical education.

60% of Bryant Scholars practice in a rural location

69% of Bryant Scholars practice in Missouri

Since its inception, the program has produced an economic impact for the state of Missouri of over \$130 million.\*

\* The Economic Impact of Physicians in Missouri, AMA (January 2018). Calculation based on the per physician total output average for 65 Bryant graduates practicing in Missouri.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW BRYANT SCHOLARS!

#### ENTERING CLASS OF 2020

Jack Baumann, *Hannibal*

Abigail Beach, *Lexington*

Kalli Bolger, *Aurora*

Amanda Campbell, *Dixon*

Leon Cheng, *Caruthersville*

Sam Cheng, *Caruthersville*

Jacob Dunlap, *Poplar Bluff*

Rebecka Ernst, *Savannah*

Heaven Fowler, *Russellville*

Gage Grispino, *Maryville*

Emily Hinkle, *Morrisville*

Abigail Hopkins, *Washington*

Elizabeth Hulsey, *Sullivan*

Ryan Jobe, *Chaffee*

Delanie Jones, *Rush Hill*

Ashton Miller, *Bolivar*

Bethany Miller, *Norborne*

Daryl Parungao, *Fulton*

Leticia Rivera, *Monett*

Jayce Simoncic, *Sedalia*

Katelyn Weith, *Jefferson City*

Bingyue Zhang, *Lawson*



# Rural Immersion

## An interdisciplinary experience in Hannibal



2018 Missouri AHEC Rural Immersion students visit a bat cave at the Sodalis Nature Preserve in Hannibal.

**T**he second Missouri Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Rural Immersion Program brought 18 health professions students to Hannibal, a town of 17,500, to explore what it would be like to work in a rural community. Students studying nursing, medicine, dietetics, speech pathology, pharmacy and public health participated in this interdisciplinary experience designed to highlight the social and communal aspects of life in a rural community.

“Serving in a rural setting provides several unique benefits, but unless students have been exposed to these communities, they often aren’t aware of them,” said Kathleen Quinn, PhD, associate dean for rural health at the MU School of

Medicine. “Through the Rural Immersion Program, students will explore the non-clinical aspects of life as a health care professional in a rural area.”

During the four-day experience, students were broken into teams to explore one of four emphasis areas — business and government; education, arts and culture; agriculture, tourism and natural resources; and health care and public safety. They met with local experts to conduct interviews and participated in hands-on activities within these areas.

The students worked with community leaders and organizations, including Hannibal Regional Hospital, the Hannibal Rotary Club, the Hannibal Police

Department, Hannibal Public Schools, the Bluff City Theater, the Missouri Arts Council, Beth Haven, Douglas Community Services, the Hannibal Chamber and many other individuals during the week.

“The students should leave at the end of the program with a good idea of what it would be like to live and work in America’s Hometown. Some of these students may end up being a part of the future medical community here in Hannibal, and if not, they will go back and tell their peers what a wonderful week they had while they were here,” said Susan Wathen, vice-president of human resources at Hannibal Regional Hospital.

At the end of the four-day experience, students presented their findings to the community. Each group shared what they learned about the Hannibal community and how it may impact the things they explore when deciding where to practice when they complete their schooling. Members of the local community who supported the students during the week attended to hear what the students learned while in Hannibal.

“The Rural Immersion Program showed me the unique opportunities that a rural community has to offer to health care professionals and what it takes to be successful,” said one of the participants.

Planning for the third year of Rural Immersion is currently underway.



# A YEAR IN PHOTOS



Alex Finck, MD '18; Andrea Schuster, MD '14; Joni Adamson, Missouri Primary Care Association manager of recruitment and workforce development; Amanda Shipp, MD '11; and Amanda Turner, MD '11, spoke at the Rural Medicine Lecture Series, "Preparing for Rural Practice."



M1 Bryant Scholar Kelly Dougherty and her past physician mentor, Andrea Schuster, MD '14, attended the Rural Medicine Lecture Series.



Bryant Scholar Amanda Turner, MD '11, and James Stevermer, MD, MSPH, AHEC Medical Director, attended the Rural Medicine Lecture Series.

The Rural Track Pipeline Program staff received the School of Medicine 2018 Excellence in Teamwork Award from Patrick Delafontaine, MD, the dean of the MU School of Medicine.







The Bryant Scholars entering class of 2018 includes, front row: Logan Fluty, Jackson Voss, Jessica Sterner, Cory Smith and Danielle Yantis; back row: Chase Pitchford, Kelly Dougherty, Wyatt Whitman, Sam Holt-McNair and Eli Pratte.



Bryant Scholars from the entering class of 2018 participated in a team-building exercise at Breakout CoMo at the annual Bryant Scholars Summer Retreat.



Jon Doolittle, regional president of Northwest Medical Center, presented the keynote address at the annual Bryant Scholars Summer Retreat, where he was joined by Kathleen Quinn, PhD, associate dean for rural health.



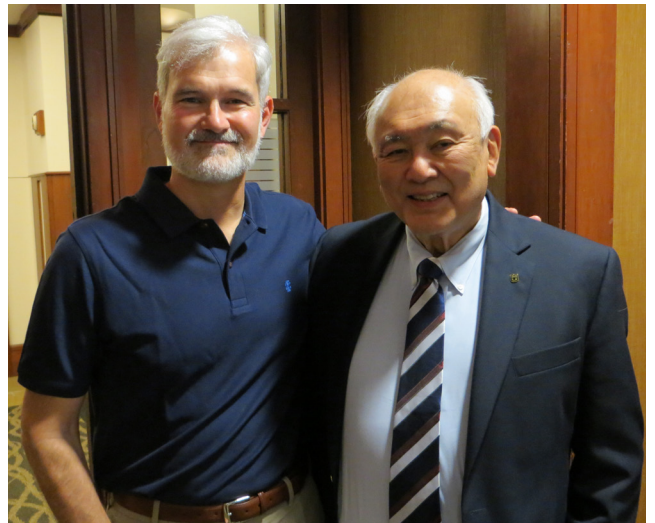
University of Missouri System President Mun Choi, PhD, gave the opening remarks at the annual Bryant Scholars Summer Retreat. He is pictured with Kathleen Quinn, PhD, associate dean for rural health, and Bryant Scholars Logan Fluty and Wyatt Whitman.



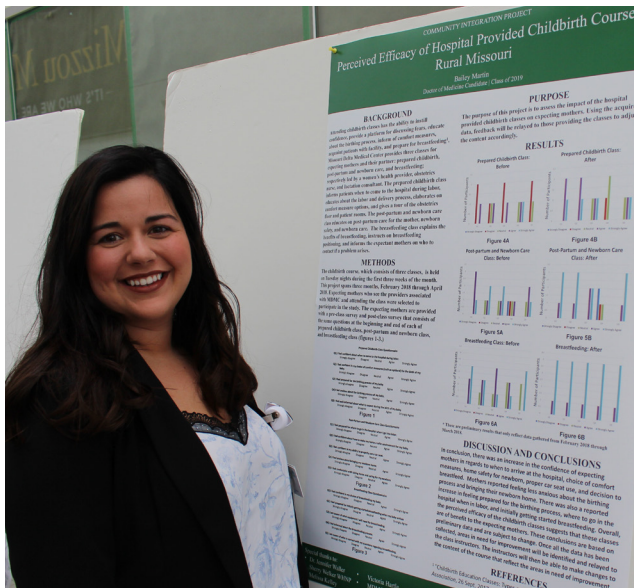
## RURAL TRACK PHOTOS



Dominic Haertling, MD '19 candidate, presented his community integration project, "Education on Importance of Blood Pressure Control."



John Moll, MD '97, Branson Rural Track Medical Director, and Michael Hosokawa, EdD, senior associate dean of education and faculty development, attended the annual Rural Track Training Site Leadership Retreat.



Bailey Martin, MD '19 candidate, presented her community integration project, "Perceived Efficacy of Hospital Provided Child Birth Course in Rural Missouri."



Second-year medical students and Bryant Scholars Eliza Smith, Kirstie Holtermann and Maggie Campbell attended the river cruise hosted at the Rural Immersion Program in Hannibal, Mo.





Melissa VanDyne, rural health manager for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; Bryant Scholar Fallan Mayabb, MD '11; and Bryant Scholar Laura Morris, MD '07, were panelists at the Rural Medicine Lecture Series, "The Changing Landscape of OBGYN Care in Rural Areas." Dr. Mayabb is an OB/GYN community-based faculty member located in Sikeston, Mo. Dr. Morris is a family medicine physician who also specializes in obstetrics at the University of Missouri Family Medicine Clinic in Fulton, Mo.



Fallan Mayabb, MD '11, and M2 medical student Kiara Rainer, met at the Rural Medicine Lecture Series, "The Changing Landscape of OBGYN Care in Rural Areas."



Jason Hagely, MD, and Child Health Clerkship Director Amie Van Morlan, MD, met on a site visit to Lake Regional Hospital in Osage Beach, Mo. Dr. Hagely is a pediatric community-based faculty member located in Eldon, Mo.



The MU Staff Advisory Council (SAC) presented the MU Rural Track Pipeline Program team with the Fall 2018 SAC Salutes Award. The award recognizes the team for epitomizing the four core values of the university: Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence.



# Where Are They Now?

Rural Track graduates were asked,  
“What prepared you most for rural practice?”

## **Michelle Kenney, MD '15**

Pediatrics

Northeast Missouri Health Council

Kirksville

I was fortunate to become involved in the Missouri AHEC program in high school. Through the AHEC program, I learned about MU's Rural Track Pipeline Program and became a Bryant Scholar. Without a doubt, the Rural Track Pipeline Program is why I am practicing in a rural clinic today. I felt the time I spent on my rural rotations in medical school helped shape my understanding of what it means to practice in a rural area and gave me the hands-on experience I needed. In residency, the rural lecture series and an opportunity to go back and do another rotation in a rural area renewed my commitment to practicing in a rural area. The experiences I gained through the rural programs at Mizzou were invaluable.



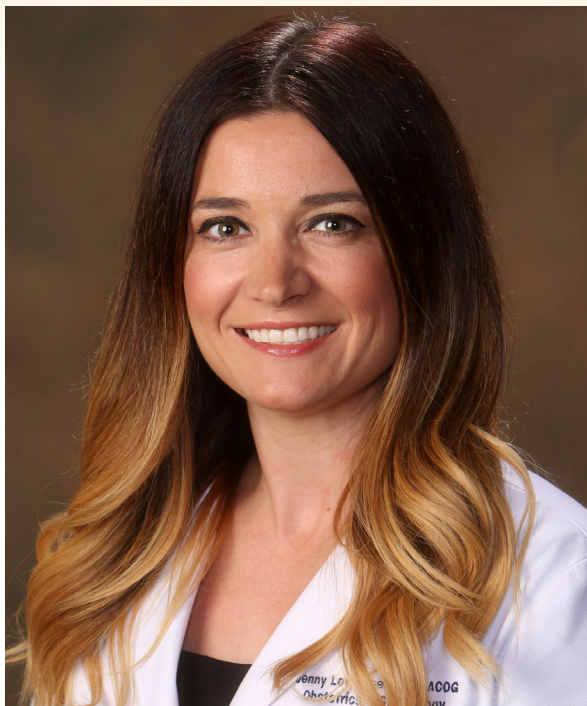
## **Jenny Lovegreen, MD '09**

OB/GYN

Women's First of Southeast Health

Cape Girardeau

I knew at a very young age that medicine was my calling. Growing up in small towns in rural Missouri allowed me the opportunity to spend time with physicians who inspired me. Beginning the Rural Track Pipeline Program in college as a Conley Scholar and progressing into the Rural Track rotations in medical school reinforced my excitement and commitment to practice as a physician in a rural area. These opportunities allowed more direct interactions with both patients and staff and gave me the foundation and experience I use daily in my current practice. Acting as a mentor for Rural Scholars now, I hope to continue the tradition set before me. Giving back to the communities that helped shape me into the physician I am is a great honor and privilege.





**Sarah Kirchhoff, MD '15**

Family Medicine  
Western Missouri Family Healthcare  
Concordia

The Rural Track Pipeline Program was a large factor in my preparation for rural practice. As a medical student, I was able to interact with many different providers in a variety of settings and was able to glean the best practices from each of them. I've been able to take the best parts from each practice I was in and apply them to my own practice. Now that I'm a rural physician, I hope to be able to share my love and passion for rural medicine with others, and I know the Rural Track Pipeline Program will continue to create practitioners that are prepared to serve the needs of rural communities.

**Jenny Crouch, MD '13**

Internal Medicine  
Parkland Health Center  
Farmington

I first considered a career as a hospitalist during the Rural Track Summer Community Program after my first year of medical school. During the program, I got to work with one of the Parkland Health Center hospitalists. I realized that I loved hospitalist work and really liked the environment at a smaller community hospital compared to a large academic medical center. I also enjoyed my time on my third- and fourth-year Rural Track rotations in West Plains. Getting to live and work in a community similar to my hometown confirmed my desire to ultimately return home to practice. Having the opportunity to spend time working in the community setting through the Rural Track Program exposed me to the challenges but also to the benefits and rewards of rural practice.

*Are you interested in being featured in, "Where Are They Now?"  
Contact Allison Fuemmeler at [fuemmeleran@health.missouri.edu](mailto:fuemmeleran@health.missouri.edu)*

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Return Service Requested

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**Thank you for your continued  
support of MU-AHEC and the  
Rural Track Pipeline Program**

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