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WELCOME to the second issue of the Graduate College newsletter, an electronic newsletter for the graduate students of Florida Atlantic University. The newsletter is published each semester and is designed to help you make the most of your graduate experience at FAU. In it, you will find helpful information regarding upcoming news and events, university resources, and insider tips from other graduate students.

Thank you to the many students who took the time to provide feedback about the inaugural issue. Rivka Felsher, a Doctoral Student in the College of Education, shared the following: "I thought the information was useful, the tone friendly without being either obtuse or condescending, and the special interest story very interesting." Another graduate student wrote: "Your staff obviously put a great deal of thought into the types of information that would be interesting and helpful to grad students." We welcome your comments and suggestions; please email us at [graduateneews@fau.edu](mailto:graduateneews@fau.edu).

The Graduate College recognizes the following individuals for their contributions to the newsletter: Katie Burke, Dr. Patricia Heydet-Kirsch, Susan Fulks, Dr. Deborah Raines, Rosemary Dunbar, and Janet Yuen.

## Introducing **GradTalk!**

Congratulations to Chris Gayle for submitting the winning entry for the Name the Newsletter contest! **GradTalk** was the name selected by the communications committee for the newsletter.

The Graduate College staff is grateful to the many students and staff who took the time to submit nam-

ing suggestions for the newsletter. A wide variety of names were provided for consideration. The committee felt **GradTalk** best expressed the intent of the newsletter: to provide busy graduate students with concise and relevant information while completing their degree at FAU.



**The Graduate College is located on the first floor of the Student Support Services building (SU-80) on the Boca Raton campus in Room 101. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

# Outstanding Dissertation Award

FAU graduate Steven Urdegar was selected by a faculty committee within the College of Education to receive the Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award during the Spring 2009 semester. He graduated on August 5, 2008, with a Ph.D. from the Department of Educational Leadership, and his dissertation was entitled “Beyond Fidelity: Relating Educational Practices and Their Determinants to Student Learning Gains.”

Additionally, Urdegar’s dissertation received national recognition by the American Educational Research Association (AERA). AERA awarded an Outstanding Dissertation Award to Urdegar in the category of *Research, Evaluation, and Assessment in Schools*.

Dr. John R. Pisapia, Department of Educational Leadership, was Steven’s major professor.

## The Scholarship of Teaching

By Deborah A. Raines, Ph.D., RN, ANEF  
Director of the Scholarship of Teaching and Professor

So what is the scholarship of teaching? First let’s be clear: it is really the scholarship of teaching and *learning*; because if learning does not occur, then the teaching, quite frankly, is not effective or scholarly. Simply put, the scholarship of teaching is inquiry into issues that are significant to teaching and learning in a discipline, and the dissemination of the findings to colleagues. In an article by Bender and Gray (1999), they write “the scholarship of teaching means that we invest in our teaching the intellectual powers we practice in our research (p.1).”

As a graduate student, take a minute to reflect on your previous educational experiences. Think about the professor who advanced your knowledge by creating new questions, problems, information, interpretations, designs, and frameworks of understanding, and guided you to become an “active knower” prepared for life-long learning and discovery. That professor motivated you to learn. Hopefully that professor remains a model as you continue your journey of learning and discovery through your graduate work.

At Florida Atlantic University we have a *Center for Teaching and Learning* and have programs and resources to support the scholarship of teaching. These resources include:

- Scholarship of Teaching (SoT) course on the FAU blackboard server. The SoT course site includes interactive lessons, examples of innovative and

creative teaching activities, strategies for using teaching technologies, and a calendar listing FAU scholarship of teaching events. In addition, there is a discussion area just for GTAs—a special place to share your challenges and triumphs or to seek support and advice from your peers.

- Teaching with Technology Day, a collaborative project with IRM (Information Resource Management). This program features members of the FAU community who willingly share their successful use of technology to enhance student engagement and learning. Included are a number of “how to” sessions to assist you in the effective use of technology in your teaching and learning activities.
- The Center for Teaching and Learning website: <http://www.fau.edu/CTL/index.php>. This site has links to a variety of teaching/learning resources for both students and instructors.

As a graduate student, your focus is learning and advancing the knowledge of your chosen discipline of study. However, as you consider long-term career choices and scholarly pursuits, I hope you will recognize that teaching is more than just the delivery of material and embrace the scholarship of the teaching/learning process.

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Bender, E. & Gray, D. (1999). The Scholarship of Teaching. *Research and Creative Activity*, 22(1)1.

Over the last five years, 15% of FAU’s undergraduate students have chosen to stay at FAU in order to pursue a graduate degree.

# Graduate Student Workshops

Thank you to all the students who participated in the graduate student workshops held this past June — a first-ever offering from the Graduate College. Based on the positive feedback and strong student turnout, the Graduate College will again offer the following workshops free of charge to all currently enrolled graduate students at FAU. Class sizes are limited; be sure to reserve your space early. Please visit the following link for registration information: <http://www.fau.edu/graduate/workshop/index.php>.

## **Introduction to Writing and Publishing in Academia: Eight Things You Should Be Doing Now as a Graduate Student to Jump-Start Your Career**

**This workshop will be offered twice:**

*Thursday, November 12, 2009*

*3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.*

*General Classroom South, Room 110*

**AND**

*Friday, November 13, 2009*

*1 p.m. — 3 p.m.*

*College of Business, Room 203*

This workshop will introduce participants to best practices for academic reading; tools for overcoming writer's block and managing your writing time as a graduate student; systems for planning, composing, revising and editing; ways to begin preparing for the job market now; and strategies for seeking publication. Results of the workshop include a graduate writing timeline.

## **Effective Presentations**

*Thursday, November 12, 2009*

*7 p.m. – 9 p.m.*

*General Classroom South, Room 119*

This workshop will deconstruct the academic presentation or poster into its rhetorical elements: purpose, message, audience, medium, and setting. Participants will learn basic principles of visual communication, guidelines for coherent and memorable presentations, and criteria for selecting the best media for presentation. Participants are encouraged to bring 15-minute presentations or posters for friendly, constructive feedback during the second part of the workshop.

## **Thesis Writing Workshop**

**This workshop will be offered twice:**

*Thursday, November 12, 2009*

*8 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.*

*College of Business, Room 405*

**AND**

*Saturday, November 14, 2009*

*9 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

*Fleming Hall, Room 409*

Theses are challenging. Most writers only have about a year to complete them, and often writing must be juggled with coursework. We will review a game plan for completing a successful thesis project in a year's time and will learn (and practice) efficient practices for composing, revising, and editing the thesis. Participants who have already begun writing a thesis will benefit most from the hands-on sessions in this workshop, but all Master's students will gain valuable skills. Results include an outline or revision of the thesis introduction.

## **Dissertation Writing Workshop**

**This workshop will be offered twice:**

*Thursday, November 12, 2009*

*8 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.*

*College of Business, Room 405*

**AND**

*Saturday, November 14, 2009*

*9 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

*Fleming Hall, Room 409*

This workshop breaks the seemingly monumental task of writing a dissertation into manageable steps and teaches strategies for executing each one. We will consider the entire "lifespan" of the dissertation from developing a workable idea to submitting the final document. The focus, however, will be on the writing process: learning (and practicing) techniques for planning, drafting, and revision. Participants will get the most out of this hands-on workshop if they have at least one chapter of their dissertation drafted, but writers at any stage of the process will benefit. Results will include an outline or revision of one chapter.

**GradTalk** offers congratulations to George Morales for his selection as a delegate to the 2009 Florida Democratic Party State Conference. George, an Electrical Engineering doctoral student and Newell Fellow, is also the president of the Graduate Student Association Advisory Board (GSAAB). George was one of several hundred Florida Democrats that met in Orlando this month to strategize political party plans for 2010 in Florida.



# Graduate Student Association News

By Katie Burke, Director  
Graduate Student Association

Welcome to a very exciting and fast-moving fall 2009 semester! The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is working to ensure that this semester is sprinkled with diverse events and opportunities for YOU. The largest and most anticipated is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 2009 Owl Awards. This awards ceremony and reception for graduate students will be held at the Eleanor R. Baldwin House on November 18, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All graduate students are invited to attend. Please watch your myFAU e-mail for R.S.V.P. information.

Nominations are now being accepted for the awards categories listed below and can be submitted in person or by mail to the Graduate Student Association, 777 Glades Rd., Student Union, Bldg. 31, Room 234, Boca Raton, FL 33431. If you prefer to use email, send your nomination to: [gsa@fau.edu](mailto:gsa@fau.edu). Note: The award category must be listed on the subject line of your email. All nominations must include your contact information. Nominations are due no later than **Wednesday, October 21** for the following awards:

## Graduate Student Organization of the Year

- Cover letter with reason for nomination based on accomplishments, accolades, and service of the organization. Preference is given to the club or organization that has proven outstanding service to FAU and/or the community.
- References/letters of support are optional but can greatly enhance your application.

## Graduate Student Leadership Award

- Cover letter with reason for nomination (self or others) based on outstanding leadership to FAU and its students, faculty, and staff.
- References/letters of support are optional, but can greatly enhance your application.

## Graduate Student Mentor (faculty/staff nominee)

- Cover letter with reason for nomination of FAU faculty or staff for outstanding support of graduate students.

## President's Award

- Cover letter with reason for nomination (self or other) based on academic achievement and exceptional leadership and service to FAU and/or the community.
- References/letters of support are optional but can greatly enhance your application.

If you have questions about the Owl Awards or any other Graduate Student Association subject, please contact Katie Burke, GSA Director, or Janet Yuen, GSA Associate Director, at 561.297.1169.



GSA  
Advisory  
Board  
members  
at the  
2009 fall  
Graduate  
Student  
Orientation.

**FAU**  
GRADUATE STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION  
Florida Atlantic University

# Money Matters

Money Matters is a regular feature of the Graduate College newsletter and contains money-saving tips specifically for graduate students. If you have ideas for future articles, please send your suggestions to [graduateneeds@fau.edu](mailto:graduateneeds@fau.edu).

*Why Join the Student Alumni Association?*

by Janet Yuen

MBA student, College of Business

Membership in the Student Alumni Association has its privileges. Mike Burdman, a graduate student working on his Masters in Education, states, "I use it every day. It pays for itself after one month or less."

Did you know that as a student of Florida Atlantic University you can obtain discounts from your favorite retailers and restaurants simply by joining the Student Alumni Association (SAA)? Members of the Student Alumni Association receive a membership card that entitles them to discounts at local restaurants, professional and academic development centers, auto insurance, and travel and entertainment businesses.



Burdman uses his membership card to get discounts from Coyote Jack's Grill in the Student Union building, the FAU Bookstore, and Flakowitz Bagel Inn, among others places.

When you join the Student Alumni Association, you receive "The Box," which contains a SAA t-shirt, Owl pom-pom, Pride key chain, koosie, cooler bag, Owl tattoos, and exclusive access to all alumni parties and events. The fee to join the SAA is an annual \$20 fee or a \$50 lifetime matriculation fee, a one-time fee for the life of your studies at FAU. For more information, please contact the FAU Office of Alumni Relations at 888-FAU-ALUM or email [studentalumni@fau.edu](mailto:studentalumni@fau.edu).

## Got Stress?

By Rosemary Dunbar, Director  
Today & Beyond Wellness

If you took a poll of FAU students, you might find an overwhelming consensus that stress is just a way of life. Financial concerns, relationships, exams, assignments, overloaded schedules, and family responsibilities are pretty common issues. Throbbing heads, churning stomachs, tense muscles, back pain, cold or flu, road rage, depression, and anxiety are just accepted symptoms of stress. However, these are physical and emotional signs that indicate we are not taking care of ourselves; that we aren't listening to our body, mind, or spirit. If we just pay closer attention, we will realize when things are going right or when there's trouble brewing.

Toxic stress doesn't have to be a way of life. Stress doesn't just happen; we allow it to happen. If you gain better control over your life, stressful days don't have to be the norm.

Here are some simple tips to help make your world more manageable:

- **Manage your time and your day effectively.** Make a reasonable schedule and stick to it. Poor time management and over-commitment are recipes for disaster. Always build in some down time -- your body and mind need a break.
- **Exercise!** Move your body and sweat a bit. It will get rid of tension. Even if it is just a brisk walk around campus, your body will be more relaxed and better able to cope.
- **Build supportive relationships.** Sharing day-to-day hassles with others will help things seem less daunting.
- **Express your needs and emotions.** Unmet needs can lead to anger and frustration. Realize that others can't read your mind. It is up to you to express yourself.
- **Think positively.** How you view the situation will make all the difference. Negative thinking doesn't translate to positive results. Roll with the punches.
- **Feed your body, mind, and spirit.** Eat regular meals, build sleep into your routine, and take time to do things that matter to you and others. Rethink your values.
- **Laugh a lot!** Humor keeps stress at bay. Take your work seriously and yourself lightly. Humor enhances our immunity, improves blood pressure and heart rate, and reduces tension. Go ahead and have some fun today. The payoff will be great! :)

# Academic Netiquette

By Dr. Patricia Heydet-Kirsch  
Director of Assessment & Program Evaluation  
College of Education

Prof. Smith- i am going to be ur student.  
the 411 on the class, plz?  
IDK where they moved it? ASAYGT????? b/c i am afc,  
CALL ME!!!!  
TTYL ~ Z~  
Oops- LOL.....445-0000. Plz.

As institutions of Higher Education redesign course delivery to embrace technological options, email correspondence among students and faculty has become standard. Communication via the web is different than face-to-face interaction; the ease of zipping off a request or responding with a brief word may be perceived differently by the recipient than intended by the sender. It becomes most important in academic cultures to view email as any other formal method of written communication. Net etiquette, or "netiquette", is defined as the online version of accepted courtesy, and has come to represent the set of "rules" considered customary for proper online behavior.

Much has been published regarding netiquette relative to business applications, social networking, professional practices, and personal standards. Academic netiquette borrows from published documents, and several online sources dedicated to providing basic guidelines for effective online communication. In the article "Managing in the New Millennium" (Buhler, 2009) basic grammar is addressed. The author states that every email should contain a salutation and a closing, proper sentence structure, correct spelling, and capitalization, where appropriate. The email, states Buhler, is to be viewed as any other written communication, and should be carefully reviewed and considered prior to sending. An email written in haste, or to vent, is best saved for later review.

According to Judith Kallos, author of "Business E-mail Etiquette: The Manual." (2008), it is important for people to maintain clear expectations when sending e-mails or writing business instant messages. "It's up to you to set the tone to prevent any misunderstanding," she shares. For example, USING ALL CAPS MAY SEND A MESSAGE YOU DID NOT INTEND!!!!!! , as will the overuse of punctuation. The tone of your email will be interpreted by the reader. Ensure that you are not offending someone with curt, accusatory or abrupt language. Emoticons, :- ) may be fine for personal email correspondence, but may keep a professional recipient from taking you seriously, Kallos advises.

In academic settings, emails to professors often include a request for information, or a request for action. Both of these are considered professional, and should be free of "text lingo", or acronyms commonly used as word replacers in informal, personal text communication. If your academic colleagues need to log onto netlingo.com to decipher your email intent, your email is no longer professional.

While email usually implies a faster response time compared with other forms of written communication, the choice of when and how to respond belongs with the recipient, not the sender. The first few lines of an email may be the only ones read, according to Roberts and Settle-Murphy (2007). They advise using the subject line of an email to help guide a timely recipient response.

Virginia Shea (1994) offers ten core rules of Netiquette including "remember the human". "When you communicate electronically, all you see is a computer screen. You don't have the opportunity to use facial expressions, gestures, and tone of voice to communicate your meaning". She advises a filter for email, "Would you say it to the person's face?" In the context of academia, consider if the email message you are sending reflects the professional language, tone, and intention that you would offer in person.

Academic netiquette includes accepted policy for online course discussion communication as well. Professors teaching courses where an online discussion is included should clarify expected netiquette to course participants, and monitor the compliance with stated guidelines. With careful attention to common email netiquette and respectful awareness of course directives related to online course discussions, web-based communication should enhance the integrity of program delivery in higher education.

Dear Z,

We have much to discuss. Please call me 866-0000. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Harrison Smith

Buhler, P.M., (2009). Managing in the New Millenium. *SuperVision*, 70 (7) 19-21.

Kallos, J., (2008). *Business E-mail Etiquette: the Manual*. Raleigh, NC: LuLu.

Roberts, S., & Settle-Murphy, N. (2007). *Global Netiquette*. *PM Network*, 21(3) 50.

Shea, V., (1994). *Netiquette*. San Francisco, CA: Albion Books.

"Communication via the web is different than face-to-face interaction"

# Fellowship Recipients for 2009-2010

The Graduate College is pleased to announce its Fellowship recipients for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Sixteen doctoral students were awarded the **Presidential Fellowship**. The Presidential Fellowship program provides \$5,000 annually for a two-year period in addition to a research or teaching assistantship for first-year doctoral students. The 2009-2010 Presidential Fellowship awardees and their degree program are: Julianne Agonis, Counselor Education; Thomas Bennett, Electrical Engineering; Kien Cao, Finance; Yun Cheng, Accounting; Inga Chira, Finance; Dawn DeLay, Psychology; Phillip Duerr, Ocean Engineering; Lizhong Hao, Accounting; Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, Computer Science; Anthony Kingsolver, Public Administration; Carlo Guy Parker, Nursing; Ashley Richmond, Psychology; Alana Smentek, Ocean Engineering; Joseph Smith, Public Administration; Shoba Thachil, Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry; and Wei Zhang, Mathematics.

The **Provost Fellowship** is another recruitment fellowship offered by the Graduate College to outstanding masters or doctoral students. The Provost Fellowship provides \$2,500 for one year in addition to a graduate research or teaching assistantship. Applicants must have a minimum 3.5 GPA in their previous degree program. For 2009-2010, 56 Provost Fellowships were awarded. From Charles E. Schmidt Colleges of Science and Biomedical Science, Jessica Abrams, Casey Curley, Dolores Forbes, Amy Hansen, Matthew Hanson, Lauren Maurer, Michael Douglas Norman, Shivangi Prasad, Brittany Stinson, Theresa Strazisar, Emily Weston, and Xin Ye. Susan Ladd was the recipient from the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. Twelve students from the College of Engineering and Computer Science were selected: Wael Awada, Lisa Brisson, Thomas Furfaro, Lillian Gonzalez, Shaun Hurley, Zhaoquan Li, Juan Moreno, Claudia Olarte, Diego Pava, Danny Sementilli III, Randall Wald, and Wayne Watt. College of Business recipients are Bryan Deptula, John Gironda, Jared Larson, Derek Volner, and Alanna Zelinski. From the College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs, Marcus Bright, Vincent Byaruhanga, Russell Clement, Shannon Estenoz, and Jessica Ponn were awarded fellowships. College of Education: Emily Berenbaum, Betul Erkan, Adrian Falticeni, Naomi Feigenbaum, Krista Gentry, Jose Gomez, Deena Karch, Matthew Magoc, and Tal Moore. From the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, Leslie Arboleda, Samantha Baker, Birgit Fioravante, Matthew Gardner, Marie-Claude Joseph M.D.G., Kimberley Jurawan, Jason Kaplan, Melissa Lepore, Kristen McNair, Jihong Park, Jessica Pitts, and Daniel Stone.

The **Delores A. Auzenne Fellowship Program** encourages minority students to pursue graduate degrees in areas underrepresented by minorities and provides \$5,000 for one academic year for full-time students. The following graduate students received the Auzenne Fellowship for 2009-2010: Madeline Gonzalez, LaTasha Lee, Veena Looknanan-Brown, Eugenia Millender, Elizabeth Petersen, Felicia Powell, Karline Prophete, and Tricia Tibby-Edmonds.



Attendees at the 2008 Awards Reception.

The **McKnight Doctoral Fellowship** is funded and administered through the Florida Endowment Fund for Higher Education. FAU's McKnight Doctoral fellows are Phebian Davis-Culler and Walteria Tucker.

The **Lifelong Learning Fellowship** provides \$5,000 annually for two years to doctoral students with a minimum GPA of 3.5. This year's recipients are Wilker Altidor, Janell Duhaney, Jiantao Kong, Pradip Maity, and George W. Smith. The Lifelong Learning Society at FAU also funds a **Lifelong Learning Society Dissertation-Year Fellowship**. Three students from the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters are this year's recipients: Savena Budhu, Celine Guillerm and Hernando Olivares.

The **Graduate Fellowship for Academic Excellence** provides financial assistance for one academic year to outstanding graduate students. Recipients must have completed at least one semester in an FAU graduate program and be enrolled as full-time degree-seeking students with a minimum GPA of 3.5. The Graduate College is pleased to announce the selection of Emmanuel Alvarado, Christine Bedore, Kayla Causey, Ivana Ilic, Maria Jurado, Jennifer Krill, Deboprosad Mondal, Patrick Rynne, Nishantha Randunu Pathirannehelage, and Barbara Thompson as this year's Academic Excellence recipients.

Finally, the **Daniel B. Newell and Aurel B. Newell Doctoral Fellowship** recipients are: Ingrid Buckley, Amy Gardiner, George Morales, and Catherine Trivigno. This fellowship provides \$5,000 annually for up to two years for outstanding doctoral graduate students. Students must have completed nine credits in a doctoral program at FAU, be enrolled as full-time degree-seeking students, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.70.

Each year, the Graduate College recognizes all fellowship recipients at the Graduate College Awards Reception, attended by FAU faculty and staff from each of the eight colleges. This year's reception will be held on October 22, 2009.

# Student Spotlight



Scott Barnard is a Master's student in Computer Engineering.

Meet Scott Barnard from FAU's College of Engineering and Computer Science. Scott did not arrive at graduate school by the most traditional route.

After graduating from high school, Scott, a lifelong resident of Palm Beach County, enrolled in Palm Beach Community College

taking general courses in math and science. After several semesters, Scott found that his heart was not in it so he chose employment over education. During high school, Scott had worked in the restaurant industry but felt sales might provide a better career fit. For a year, Scott worked selling life and health insurance.

Recognizing his sales experience, a relative approached Scott about joining his parking lot maintenance business and helping him expand his market. At age 21, Scott became vice president of a small sweeping business. For the next three years, Scott ran his own operations. He was his own boss — securing business contracts, managing company finances, and supervising employees and contract operations. For some, this would be a dream job. Unfortunately, Scott hated it: “A business like mine is run primarily during the graveyard shift and you are alone when you work. It takes its toll on you.” But there was an upside to all of the hours spent alone: they gave Scott plenty of time to think and ponder his future.

It was time to return to education. This time, when Scott re-enrolled at Palm Beach Community College, he took classes that interested him: chemistry, calculus, and other technical courses. He found himself

taking all the calculus, chemistry and physics he could find. Completing these courses also helped Scott solidify his career choices. “I decided I wanted to be a problem solver – the person someone could go to for a design solution.” Coupled with his interest in computers, the logical choice for Scott was Computer Engineering and he transferred his studies to FAU.

Attending graduate school was not yet a thought for Scott. He came to FAU in 2006 to complete his Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering and knew it would not be easy. But his high GPA and strong work ethic got the attention of the college dean and his plans changed once again. Scott received a letter from the dean's office asking him to consider the combined Bachelor's and Master's degree program in Computer Science and Engineering. Graduate school suddenly became within Scott's reach. He was offered a Dean's Teaching Assistantship that provides tuition benefits and a small salary. As Scott expresses it, “I have been given an opportunity to achieve more than I could have hoped for just a few years ago.” This past spring semester, Scott was one of several graduate students awarded the Provost Fellowship.

Scott is on track to graduate in the fall of 2009 with a Master's degree in Computer Science and Engineering. Here's to sweeping change in Scott's future!

*“I decided I wanted to be a problem solver — the person someone could go to for a design solution.”*

Student Spotlight is a regular feature of [GradTalk](#) and will soon be added to the Graduate College website. The Graduate College is seeking graduate students from a variety of degree programs to profile. Please email Kristine Killip at [kkillip@fau.edu](mailto:kkillip@fau.edu) for additional information.

  
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