



Mentoring Matters

JOURNALISM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION www.jea.org

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Mentee Jennifer Dryden, Iowa
Photo by Gunyaneey Xayyarath



Mentee Jon Netzler, Wisconsin
Photo by Hank Koshollek



Mentee Erika Quick, Wyoming
Photo by Emma Berry



Mentor Kay Locey & Mentee Nikki Shannon, Washington State
Photo by Joy Lessard

A HELPING HAND AT HOME: SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORT MENTORS, MENTEES

by Linda Barrington, MJE

Doing journalism for the first time can be daunting. There's fearfulness. Nagging doubtfulness. Second guessing. Loneliness. Unexpected bouts of despair.

Many, if not all, of these feelings can be mitigated or even eliminated by having a mentor and a good local or state scholastic press association (SPA) for support.

Not only do SPAs provide a financial contribution toward the stipends of the mentors in their state, they also support the mentors and mentees through their programs and events.

Mentees' Perspectives

Jennifer Dryden recently attended the Winter Thaw, an event just for advisers, sponsored by the Iowa High School Press Association.

"As a new adviser, I want to immerse myself in anything and everything that will improve my teaching and leadership skills in journalism, mainly to increase the depth of knowledge I can give to my students," Dryden said.

"The value of the Winter Thaw and being a part of the IHSPA is hands-down the fact that we as advisers from all across the state, small or big towns, can compare notes, talk about important issues and find solutions and great ideas to help our students grow," Dryden said.

" IHSPA IS A SAVING GRACE WHEN IT COMES TO MY WORK AS AN ADVISER. THE FACEBOOK GROUP HELPS IN EMERGENCIES; EVERYONE IS WILLING TO SPEAK UP. IT'S SOMETHING, AFTER HAVING IT, I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT. "

JENNIFER DRYDEN, IOWA MENTEE

These opportunities for networking are meant for any adviser but are essential for new advisers.

"I learned so much from our adviser afternoon discussion. I got advice from seasoned advisers and shared challenges with the new advisers, realizing I wasn't alone in some things," Dryden said.

At Winter Thaw advisers hear from recent graduates in journalistic fields.

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SOUTH CAROLINA AWARD WINNER

Mentee Jennifer Erxleben of South Florence High School in Florence, South Carolina, receives the Bruce Konkle Rising Star Award at the Spring 2014 South Carolina Scholastic Press Association Convention. Her mentor, Marilyn Chapman, nominated Erxleben along with recommendations from Erxleben's Principal Carol Hill and Herff Jones Yearbook representative Brandi Moss. Chapman also submitted Erxleben's last two yearbooks to attest to how much she had learned about yearbook production during their two-year mentoring association.



ABOUT MARILYN

Retired adviser Marilyn Chapman, CJE, has been a JEA mentor since 2010. She has mentored six new advisers in the past five years.

MENTEES' PERSPECTIVES

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"I liked hearing how even a high school publication/journalism class impacted them years later," Dryden said. "Even though, I'm year one in advising, I teared up silently and thought about my students I have now."

In Wisconsin, mentee Kathleen Evans attended the Fall Scholastic Journalism Conference, sponsored by the Kettle Moraine Press Association (KEMPA).

"I was very impressed by the variety and breadth of resources available for journalism advisers," Evans said. "Most helpful of all was meeting so many other advisers, including some who balanced teaching, advising and even professional writing."

Mentee Jon Netzler attended KEMPA's Winter Advisers' Seminar, which he found worthwhile.

"Being a KEMPA member and attending the major KEMPA events has enabled me to learn how to do my job," Netzler said, "I had no prior experience being a journalism instructor and adviser, and KEMPA allowed me to immerse myself in learning experiences and develop a network of colleagues to learn from and to rely on. As a result, I love being a journalism teacher and adviser."

Netzler's mentor is Dave Wallner, a strong advocate for student free

speech, who encourages students to push the envelope with challenging topics. Netzler said he appreciates Wallner's advice and support.

"Being a member of KEMPA lets me sleep well at night knowing that I have many allies willing to help me if any journalistic pieces from my students ever stirred up controversy," Netzler said.

Mentors' Perspectives

Scholastic press associations also support the mentors and their work with their mentees. Gary Lindsay mentors Iowa teachers.

"IHSPA organizes two inservice events, the Fall Conference which offers learning sessions for students and advisers, and on-the-spot contests and critiques," Lindsay said. "They also sponsor yearly contests for publications. Each winter they offer the Winter Thaw event, similar to that offered by KEMPA." These events are also beneficial to mentors, who can present sessions, meet new teachers and find potential mentees.

Marilyn Chapman is South Carolina's only mentor. Her work is supported by the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association and the Southern Interscholastic Press Association.

"SIPA and SCSPA have given

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JEA mentee Beth Marshall (Richmond-Burton Community High School in Illinois) at the Winter Advisers' Seminar in early March presented a breakout session with her mentor, Sandy Jacoby. The Kettle Moraine Press Association provides free memberships for JEA mentees in Illinois and Wisconsin and reduced registration for KEMPA events.

Photo by Hank Kosholek

Mentor Joy Lessard reviews the latest issue of The Cub with her mentee, Anna Ferdinand. Having previously worked as a professional journalist, Ferdinand was in her first year as adviser of the newspaper at Sedro Woolley High School in Washington state.

They connected at the Washington Journalism Education Association Write-Off Contest in March.

Photo by Barb Goll



Iowa High School Press Association's Winter Thaw gives mentor Gary Lindsay (center) time to connect with two of his former mentees who are both active in IHSPA: Natalie Niemeyer of Des Moines East High School and Kyle Phillips of George Washington High School in Cedar Rapids.

Photo by Meryn Fluker

MENTORS' PERSPECTIVES

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me a great deal of support, not only financially but also with good ideas to pass on to my mentees" Chapman said. "The conventions have provided lots of material to share with my mentees."

Just as the mentees value interaction with other advisers, so do the mentors.

"The personal support from SIPA and SCSPA members has been invaluable," Chapman said. "Just knowing that other advisers are interested in the Mentor Program and continue to encourage me keeps me energized."

SPA Leaders' Perspectives

Scholastic press associations acknowledge the benefits for journalism teachers in their states.

"The Mentoring Program gives veteran advisers a way to pass along a wealth of knowledge and experience to

beginning teachers," said Karen Flowers, SCSPA executive director. "In the process, the novice adviser sees, and we hope 'catches,' the underlying passion that comes from being a publication adviser."

Candace Bowen, Ohio Scholastic Media Association executive director agrees.

"I can see what a difference this program has made in Ohio," Bowen said. "Not only has it helped individual teachers in their classrooms, but it has given a boost to our state organization."

KEMPA president April van Buren said she recognizes the value of the JEA Mentor Program.

"A mentor program provides the needed support for new advisers, helps ensure less turnover in the field and shows those new advisers the direct benefits of their local scholastic press association."

Hands-on at Home

The most successful mentoring partnerships are the ones with hands-on mentors – those who "take the advisers by the hand" and help them see the opportunities available at their state and local levels. These are some of the ways mentors can be hands-on to help their mentees connect with their scholastic press associations. Mentees need to understand what each organization can do for them.

- Share with mentees the benefits of JEA and your local (and regional) SPA
- Help them with registration, transportation, fundraising, fees, etc., for SPA events
- JEA provides mentees with free membership. Encourage your SPA to do the same.
- Sit at the computer with them and go online to register the membership - or send the SPA the mentees' information, so they can put them in the SPA's membership database.
- Help them UNDERSTAND the information they get... What does the mail-in contest entail? Why should we get evaluations? What are the advantages of going to conventions? How do I get permission for a field trip? ...and so forth.
- Stay connected with your state and regional organizations: know what opportunities are available to your mentees. Attend the SPA events yourself and offer to do a session. Plan to meet your mentees there.
- Communicate with state and regional directors about your mentees. Invite them to contact the mentees.

Thanks to Karen Flowers for these ideas.

MENTEES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

MENTEES GRADUATE FROM THE PROGRAM AFTER TWO YEARS

KEY: MENTEES TEACH IN SHADED STATES.

* STATES WHERE MENTORS LIVE.

Washington

Anna Ferdinand
Sedro Wooley HS, Sedro Wooley
Mentor: Joy Lessard

Patricia Graves-Verdun
South Bend HS, South Bend
Mentor: Kay Locey

Angela Rasler
Washington HS, Tacoma
Mentor: Kay Locey

Nikki Shannon
Gov. John Rogers HS, Puyallup
Mentor: Kay Locey

Oregon

Liz Henderson
Junction City HS, Junction City
Mentor: Patty Turley

Elizabeth Kirsch
Franklin HS, Portland
Mentor: Bill Flechtner

Kate Molony
Central Catholic HS, Portland
Mentor: Bill Flechtner

Janet Nelson
Gateways HS, Springfield
Mentor: Patty Turley

Jesse Sherman
North Eugene HS, Eugene
Mentor: Patty Turley

Emily Willis
Tigard HS, Tigard
Mentor: Bill Flechtner

California

Lillian Altamirano
Seegerstrom HS, Santa Ana
Mentor: Steve Slagle

Tasha Beaudoin
Thousand Oaks HS
Thousand Oaks
Mentor: Jo Zimmerman

Heather Burris
Buena HS, Ventura
Mentor: Jo Zimmerman

David Cary
Washington HS, San Francisco
Mentor: Katharine Swan

Sarah Colombo
Westridge HS, Pasadena
Mentor: Steve Slagle

Annette Deming
Don Antonio Lugo HS, Chino
Mentor: Steve Slagle

Maya Dennis
Sacramento Charter HS
Sacramento
Mentor: Casey Nichols

Sarah Falls
Abraham Lincoln HS
San Francisco
Mentor: Katharine Swan

Cole Godwin
Crossroads HS for Arts and
Sciences, Santa Monica
Mentor: Jo Zimmerman

Mollie Hawkins
Sacramento Country Day School
Sacramento
Mentor: Casey Nichols

Larry Isaacs
Los Amigos HS, Fountain Valley
Mentor: Carol Strauss

Jennifer Kim
San Gabriel HS, San Gabriel
Mentor: Steve Slagle

Amanda Lantz
Bear River HS, Grass Valley
Mentor: Casey Nichols

Takako Mino
Rancho Cucamonga HS
Rancho Cucamonga
Mentor: Carol Strauss

Lisa Mo
West Covina HS, West Covina
Mentor: Steve Slagle

Bobby Oliver
San Pasqual HS, Escondido
Mentor: Konnie Krislock

Erin Schneider
Redwood HS, Larkspur
Mentor: Katharine Swan

Corie Shields
Classical Academy, Escondido
Mentor: Konnie Krislock

Nicole Tanner
Jordan HS, Los Angeles
Mentor: Steve Slagle

Katie Weidkamp
Woodcreek HS, Roseville
Mentor: Casey Nichols

Samantha Yu
Lowell HS, San Francisco
Mentor: Katharine Swan

Hawai'i

Jennifer Young
Roosevelt HS, Honolulu
Mentor: Bill Flechtner

Nevada

Mary Olson
Desert Pines HS, Las Vegas
Mentor: Bill Flechtner

Idaho

Leslie Cheret
Rigby HS, Rigby
Mentor: Mike Riley

Wyoming

Jillian Miller
Shoshoni HS, Shoshoni
Mentor: Mike Riley

Erika Quick
Cody HS, Cody
Mentor: Mike Riley

Steven Radabaugh
Hot Springs County HS
Thermopolis
Mentor: Mike Riley

Minnesota

Rebekah Deedrick
East Range Academy of
Technology and Science,
Eveleth
Mentor: Janice Hatfield

Wisconsin

Amy Beetstra
Parker HS, Janesville
Mentor: Babs Erickson

Sarah Berndt
Reagan IB HS, Milwaukee
Mentor: Linda Barrington

Kathleen Evans
Brookfield Central HS,
Brookfield
Mentor: Linda Barrington

Julie Felser
Marquette University HS,
Milwaukee
Mentor: Linda Barrington

Kay Lee
Dodgeville HS, Juneau
Mentor: Mary Anne McCloud

Jon Netzler
Stoughton HS, Stoughton
Mentor: Dave Wallner

Danielle Olejniczak
Laconia HS
Rosendale
Mentor: Sandy Jacoby

Jack Wepfer
Whitefish Bay HS
Whitefish Bay
Mentor: Linda Barrington

**Derek Burtch and
Rebecca Granata**
Olentangy Liberty HS Powell
Mentors: Georgia and Wayne Dunn

Kelsey Jackson
Oakwood HS, Oakwood
Mentors: Georgia and Wayne Dunn

Mary Mitton
Big Walnut HS, Sunbury
Mentors: Georgia and Wayne Dunn

Ohio

Jack Wallingford
Shaw HS, Cleveland
Mentors: Georgia and Wayne Dunn

Amber Yuen
Dublin Scioto HS, Dublin
Mentors: Georgia and Wayne Dunn

Pennsylvania

Andrea Hatter
Pine Grove HS, Pine Grove
Mentor: Kathy Zwiebel

Deborah Mainwaring
Washington HS, Washington
Mentor: Janice Hatfield

Kelly Reeder
James Buchanan HS
Mercersburg
Mentor: Kathy Zwiebel

Gail Sutton
St Basil Academy, Jenkintown
Mentor: Janice Hatfield

Washington, D.C.

Chelsea Rink
Chavez PCS - Capitol Campus
Mentor: Nancy Olson

Lauren Thut
Chavez PCS - Capitol Campus
Mentor: Nancy Olson

North Carolina

Michelle Galloway
Kinston HS, Kinston
Mentor: Carol Eanes

Joan Hoffman
Enka HS, Candler
Mentor: Phyllis Cooper

Erin Long
Madison Early College HS
Mars Hill
Mentor: Phyllis Cooper

Sabrina Martiello
Kinston HS, Kinston
Mentor: Carol Eanes

Margo Raynor
Hillside HS, Durham
Mentor: Sue Farlow

South Carolina

Tarsha Martin
Lamar HS, Lamar
Mentor: Marilyn Chapman

Joshua Noble
South Florence HS, Florence
Mentor: Marilyn Chapman



Colorado

Heather Domangue
Fountain Valley School of
Colorado, Colorado Springs
Mentor: Sheila Jones

Kate Ott
Rampart HS, Colorado Springs
Mentor: Sheila Jones

Dan Singer
George Washington HS, Denver
Mentor: Sheila Jones

Arizona

Brian Banach
Desert Vista HS, Phoenix
Mentor: Carmen Wendt

Adam Brachmann
Dysart HS, El Mirage
Mentor: Peggy Gregory

Nick Kazanas
Central HS, Phoenix
Mentor: Carmen Wendt

Renee Pickarts
Valley Vista HS, Surprise
Mentor: Peggy Gregory

Krystin Pinckard
Mountain Pointe HS, Phoenix
Mentor: Carmen Wendt

Texas

Divona Phillips
Irving HS, Irving
Mentor: Nancy Olson

Kansas

Erin Amrein
Newton HS, Newton
Mentor: Mary Anne
McCloud

Rachel Urban
Ottawa HS, Ottawa
Mentor: Mary Anne
McCloud

Iowa

Elizabeth Byers
Glenwood Community HS
Glenwood
Mentor: Gary Lindsay

Jennifer Dryden
Des Moines HS, Des Moines
Mentor: Gary Lindsay

Erin Harrity
Wilton HS, Wilton
Mentor: Gary Lindsay

Alison Leytem
New London Jr/Sr HS
New London
Mentor: Gary Lindsay

Niki Hively
Newton Community HS
Newton
Mentor: Gary Lindsay

Justin Sharp
Chariton HS, Chariton
Mentor: Gary Lindsay

Illinois

Tamela Chambers
Chicago Vocational Career
Academy, Chicago
Mentor: Carol Smith

Kristen DiGiorgio
Bradley-Bourbonnais
Community HS, Bradley
Mentor: Stan Zoller

Zach Freed
Arthur Lovington Atwood
Hammond HS, Arthur
Mentor: Carol Smith

Beth Marshall
Richmond-Burton Community HS
Richmond
Mentor: Sandy Jacoby

Julie Morrissey
Arthur Lovington Atwood
Hammond HS, Arthur
Mentor: Carol Smith

Google Map

To see the overview
map of all mentees'
locations since 2007,
go to <http://tinyurl.com/mentee-map>.



Megan Fitzgerald (second from right) joins her students in a review of the latest issue of *The Current*, the student newspaper at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. Students Faren Rajkumar, Keren Moros, Alyssa DiMaria and Randa Djabri meet weekly to work on the publication.

Photo by Nicole Cocuy

PILOTING CHANGE

COLLEGE PROFESSOR TO BECOME JEA MENTOR IN FLORIDA

From humble beginnings, like many of us, Megan Fitzgerald started as a reporter and then editor of her high school newspaper at Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in Miami.

Today she teaches the writing and journalism courses for the communications program at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale and advises the student-run newspaper on campus.

Tomorrow (well, after mentor training in July) she will also become the first person in the Mentor Program's cadre of mentors to be not only in the classroom, but also nowhere near retirement.

"I'm so grateful for my mentors, and I understand the value of it [mentoring]," Fitzgerald said. "I'd like to be able to give that to others."

Years ago she taught a seventh grade language arts class at Hialeah Middle School. Her experience did not start out well.

"I had no teaching experience and I went home every day and cried," Fitzgerald said. "If it wasn't for the more experienced people taking me under their wings with everything from lesson plans to classroom management, I never would have made it. I ended up loving it."

The JEA Mentor Program was conceived with the premise that retired teachers of excellence would have the time to travel to mentees' schools to work with them and their staffs during the school day.

Mentors have now learned that many of their mentees actually prefer to meet after school, in the evenings or on weekends. And they've learned that many mentees

are so busy that much of their communication ends up being via text or e-mail.

These are some of the reasons the Mentor Committee members gave Fitzgerald serious consideration when she approached them a year ago about becoming a mentor. Her college schedule also gives her flexibility to visit mentees during the week. The Florida Scholastic Press Association was, coincidentally, poised to join the JEA Mentor Program in the coming year, so it seemed that the timing was perfect.

"Megan has some unique challenges in her advising situation at Nova," said Linda Barrington, chair of the Mentor Committee. "Her school has no journalism department, so she's had to work with a newspaper staff of mostly volunteers with only some students taking it as part of a class."

"Megan has had to reinvent what she does with her newspaper students. I think that helps prepare her for working with mentees who also may have unusual situations and challenges at their schools."

Fitzgerald also stays connected with journalism teachers in her area by attending FSPA district events. She will focus her mentoring in southern Florida. ■



ABOUT MEGAN

- Associate professor of communication studies, Nova Southeastern University
- Adviser for student-run newspaper
- M.A. in journalism from Syracuse University
- Ph.D. in Mass Communication from Florida State University

MENTEES' COMMENTS: THIS IS WHAT HAVING A JEA MENTOR MEANS TO US

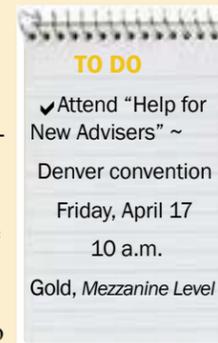
"My mentor, Mike Riley, has been a great support. He came from Wyoming to Idaho just to spend an hour with my journalism class! He has emailed resources, given suggestions and answered questions. He has also volunteered to teach a workshop or two at our first summer journalism boot-camp this August. One of the best things he has done for me and my class is to edit our papers once they are printed. He goes through every word in every story. His comments have helped my students see where they can improve. I try to tell them, but it's the old adage- 'The wise man always comes from another town!' His feedback has led to great discussions and it's nice to have back-up for my suggestions. Having a mentor helps me carry the burden of inexperience. It's comforting to know I have someone to ask questions of and I know I'll get good feedback. ☺"

Leslie Cheret, *Rigby High School, Rigby, Idaho*



Meet JEA mentees at convention

At the "Help for New Advisers" session in Denver, you can meet mentees to hear firsthand why they value their mentors. Their JEA mentors are retired advisers who are ready to work with new or nearly new advisers to help them with resources, technology, instruction, advice, advocacy — whatever is needed. Each mentor tailors support to the needs of the mentee. There are no required meetings for the new teacher — no reports, no paperwork, no extra time requirements — just your mentor offering you the support you need, when you need it. Come, hear about it. Join the program.



Liz Henderson
Junction City High School
Junction City, Ore.

"Having Patty Turley as a mentor is amazing. It gives me someone

to call when I'm ready to lose my mind, an extra hand in the classroom on her visit days and a continual sense of support. She helps me see that it is okay to not have it all together sometimes and is very reassuring. She is a huge help when working with the yearbook reps and negotiating deals. That's a part of yearbook that I had never been involved in and she is always willing to be there when I meet with the rep and help out. Her knowledge of yearbook business, eye for design and general understanding of journalism is priceless and beyond helpful for me. I dread facing next year without her (although I'm sure she'll still answer my frantic calls).



Erika Quick
Cody High School
Cody, Wyoming

"As my high school teacher, Mike Riley sparked my passion for journalism

and student voice. After working in the professional field, I went back to school and worked toward a Master's in education. I am honored that I was able to fill his position and take over a well-established program. There is never a time that Mike does not answer my call; he could be in the middle of a poker game with a Royal Flush and he'd answer my call. He is supportive, knows his stuff and has been the best mentor I could have asked for. The JEA mentor program is a great resource for any new journalism educator. With a medium as specialized as broadcast, there were not many resources available at my school for guidance. I am thankful my administration agreed to the program and could see the benefit the program holds."



Adam Brachmann
Dysart High School
El Mirage, Arizona

"Peggy Gregory has been a mentor to me ever since I have met her,

whether she knows it or not. I have worked with her throughout multiple curriculum development opportunities and language arts implementations throughout our district in my 11 years' time as an educator. She has always shared a love for learning with all whom she encounters, and I've often admired that in her. Whether Mrs. Gregory admits it or not, she is a true mentor." ■

MENTEE PROFILES PROVIDE DATA

NO SUCH THING AS A 'TYPICAL' ADVISER

When new teachers become mentees in the JEA Mentor Program, they complete a mentee profile, detailing the experience they bring (or don't bring) to journalism advising, what publications they advise, and whether they volunteered for or

were assigned to their position. We ask them for their school profile for minority population and for economic disadvantage (free or reduced lunch). They may also list their gender, age and ethnicity.

We've learned that there is no such thing as a "typical" adviser. Over the past seven years, we have collected 298 profiles from which this data was summarized. Not all mentees answered all questions.

MENTEES' PUBLICATIONS

73.4% advise 1 publication.
24.4% advise 2 publications.
2% advise 3 publications.

MENTEES' BACKGROUND

15.4% said they have some professional experience in a journalism-related field.
18.4% said they have a degree in journalism or a related field.
18.7% said they had taken some college class or attended workshops or the Reynolds Institute.
18.1% said their only experience was on the staff of their high school or college publication.

Some of these mentees said they had experience in more than one area.



Mentee Erika Quick | Photo by Emma Berry

MENTEE SELF-IDENTIFICATION

34.3 average age
80.6% female | 19.3% male
9.5% non-white minority

POPULATION AT MENTEES' SCHOOLS

41.9% said their school has at least 30% minority population.
48.3% said their school has at least 30% receiving free or reduced lunch.

NO EXPERIENCE

43.9% said they have no journalism experience.
In spite of their inexperience, 60% of these advisers were assigned to journalism.



“THE MENTOR PROGRAM HAS PUT SOME OF OUR BEST RETIRED ADVISERS INTO THE CLASSROOMS OF THOSE WHO NEED HELP. WE CHAMPION THESE INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE AND TRAIN NEW ADVISERS AND WHO PROVIDE NOT ONLY RESOURCES BUT ALSO A FRIENDLY FACE IN THE SCHOOL.”

~ SALLY RENAUD, ILLINOIS JEA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABOUT US

www.jea.org jeamentoring.org

President: Mark Newton

Vice-president: Sarah Nichols

Past President: Candace Perkins Bowen

Executive Director: Kelly Furnas

Mentor Program Committee

Linda Barrington, chair

Bill Flechtner

Peggy Gregory

Gary Lindsay

Mary Anne McCloud

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