

PPO CONNECTIONS

THE QUICK DETAILS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BCA
WWW.ACADEMYPPPO.COM

PPO Board Message

Happy New Year! January is off to a quick start and much has happened already in the few short weeks of the New Year. Even though we are finally feeling winter weather, we were able to think about summer for one night at the annual **BCA Summer Opportunities Fair**. This was the biggest fair to date with over 80 representatives offering opportunities ranging from pre-college courses and study abroad programs to local volunteer and internship programs and our very own BCA summer programs. Thank you to Mr. Paul Kaser and the entire guidance team for their hard work and dedication in coordinating all of these amazing opportunities for our students! We were also able to view the works of our AVPA Visual students at the annual **Print Week**. The talent displayed on the auditorium stage was incredibly impressive and we look forward to this event every year! We'd like to extend a special thank you to our custodial staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes at all our events.

February will also bring many activities to BCA. Ms. Michele Pinke has been working hard on the annual **BCA Career Day** which will be held on February 2nd. This is a great opportunity for students to speak to mentors in a variety of industries and to learn about careers that may interest them. Some of you may have been asked to serve as mentors, so we thank you in advance for your support! Our **PPO Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9th (*note the date change) and will feature our Principal, Mr. Russ Davis, and members of the faculty presenting Course Selection/Curriculum & NHS requirements. This is an important meeting as your students will soon be selecting their classes for the 2016-17 school year. The winter musical, **Evita**, will close out the month and we are so looking forward to another amazing performance! The dates are February 26th & 27th so be on the lookout for ticket sales. The directors, students and stage crew have already put in many hours to make this the best show ever!

Now that most, if not all, of the college applications have been submitted we would like to wish our Seniors the best of luck as they await their admissions decisions. We hope they can take some time now to relax and enjoy the last few months of their time at BCA and the fun events that are being planned for them. Speaking of events, our dedicated class parents are busy organizing the many activities that happen in the spring: Senior Fashion Show, Cabaret, Frosh/Soph Dance. As we always say, many hands make light work, so please volunteer your time to help if you can!

Stay warm and we hope to see you at our meeting on February 9th at 7:00 pm!

Best Regards,
Susan, Sasha, Julia, May, Sue, Connie



Academy Parent Partnership Organization
A New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation

Calendar Highlights

Jan. 20 th -21 st	Print Week – 6:00 pm Wed 3:00 pm Thurs. - BCA Stage
Jan. 23 rd	SAT Testing – Off-site
Jan 28 th	HALF DAY – Admissions
Feb. 2 nd	BCA Career Day – All Academies
Feb. 3 rd	KPPO Meeting – 7:00 pm Upper Cafeteria "Looking Beyond BCA" with Dr. Kim
Feb. 4 th	Junior Parent Guidance Meeting – 7:00 pm Auditorium
Feb. 6 th	ACT Testing – Off-site
Feb. 9 th	PPO General Meeting - 7:00pm Auditorium Course Selection/Curriculum & NHS Overview
Feb. 11 th	HALF DAY – Staff Development
Feb. 12 th -16 th	NO SCHOOL – President's Day Recess
Feb. 24 th	PPO Newsletter Available
Feb. 26 th	Winter Musical: Evita 7:30 pm Auditorium
Feb. 27 th	Winter Musical: Evita 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm Auditorium
Feb. 28 th	Snow Date for Winter Musical 2:30 pm Auditorium
Feb. 27 th -28 th	Catalyst SAT Bootcamp

Our next issue will be published on February 24th. Please submit all January calendar entries and all articles to Sue Katz at SueLKatz@gmail.com by February 18, 2016.

"My classmates liked science – I liked science fiction"

– Ryan Condal, BCA Alum, Executive Producer of "The Colony"

From the Principal's Desk

"Preparing a Globally Competent Workforce through High-Quality Career and Technical Education"

BCA was recently featured in a publication by the Association for Career and Technical Education, the Asia Society, and the Longview Foundation. The article describes how BCA is instilling in students the importance of cultural understanding through international travel, speaking a world language, and working on international research projects. Over the past five years we have continued to expand our global outreach and have several global exchanges on the horizon. Special thanks to all of our teachers and students who continue to serve as global ambassadors for our school.

Four BCA students recognized as National Intel Semi-Finalists

I am happy to report that four of the five National Intel Semifinalists from New Jersey are from BCA. My congratulations to our students, their parents, and their teachers for this noteworthy accomplishment. Please join me in congratulating our entire science staff for the tremendous job they do in preparing our students to succeed at such high levels in the area of research. Best wishes to our Semi-Finalists as they move on to the finalist round!

BCA to host NCSSS 2016 National Student Research Conference

I consider it an honor and a privilege to represent our school as President Elect of The National Consortium of Secondary STEM School (NCSSS or "NC Triple S") as we like to call it. Having just returned from the recent executive board meeting, I am happy to report that BCA has been selected to host this year's student research conference. The event which is tentatively planned for June 9th-12th will attract students from some of the top schools in the nation. The itinerary will include a tour of our state of the art labs as well as an opportunity for our own students to see and hear research presentations as well as present their own

research through poster presentations and oral presentations. We are currently working on securing a local college or university partner and will provide further details in the near future. This is a great way for students to get to practice presenting their research in preparation for the Intel and Siemens competitions. We will also be highlighting our partnership with the National Park Service and our school's work to create a virtual reality experience at Ellis Island. I am looking forward to the opportunity to highlight BCA as well as watching our students interact with other top students from across the nation.

BCA Hackathon featured by D.O.E.

The New Jersey Department of Education recently posted a video produced by Bergen County Academies students for HackBCA on their DOE website. You can view this creative video and learn more about HackBCA by clicking on the following link: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/innovateNJ/initiatives/>

Ryan Condal to visit BCA

BCA Alum Ryan Condal will be returning to campus in February to meet with students interested in screenwriting. During a recent email exchange, Ryan said "My classmates liked science – and I liked science fiction. According to wikia.com, "Ryan is currently the executive producer of USA Network's newest drama series *Colony* along with Carlton Cuse. Condal currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, Caitlin, and their black lab, Zoso. The couple is expecting their first child in November."

Follow BCA on Twitter!

To access information on School Closings and Delayed Openings as well as other pertinent school news follow me on Twitter @DavisBCA

On behalf of our teachers and staff, I wish you a happy and healthy new year!

Sincerely,
Russell Davis
Principal

Please view our Superintendent Dr. Howard Lerner's Message by using this link:

http://www.academyppo.com/uploads/1/1/1/7/11170958/superintendent_letter_1-2016.pdf



EVITA

Separating the myth of Eva Peron from the truth of a woman who, in 7 short years, changed the direction of an entire country has been the focus of this year's all-school production of **EVITA**. With no shortage of written information and documentation available to our team of over 60 student cast, crew and creatives, the task is daunting. Loved or hated, Eva Peron remains an elusive figure to those searching for some kind of truth with a capital T.

Through music, dance, song and the most elaborate use of design technology ever undertaken at BCA we are working tirelessly to bring a fresh approach to Webber and Rice's sung-through rock opera. The pleasure of working on a production as complex as this one is rooted in the process of collaboration; each student has been asked to engage. My own memories of performing in high school musicals was one of blissful compliance - waiting to be told what to do, where to move, how to sing and what to think. Here at BCA, surrounded by passionate and intelligent kids, we work in an atmosphere of intense questioning, deep research, experimentation and meaningful collaboration.

Which isn't easy. Taking the shortest route to a known musical by reproducing what has been done in thousands of productions before would get us all to bed a bit earlier. But it's not how we do things at BCA and this show continues to demand on every level. We question every lyric, make choices about each step and agonize over every choice. It's why we walk out of school each day wrung out and why we come back each morning ready to dig back in. It's also why making and watching theatre at BCA continues to be one of life's richest experiences.

Please join us Friday, February 26th at 7:30 pm and Saturday, February 27th at 2:30 and 7:30 for the magnificent **Evita**. Please visit BCA's homepage to purchase your tickets online. **Want to get involved backstage?** Email PAPA at papapresidents@gmail.com.

Victoria Pero
Performing Arts

The time has come for the third iteration of hackBCA!

If you haven't been with us before, hackBCA is a high school hackathon, a free convention lasting 24 hours where students collaborate to make incredible software and projects. The date is currently set for **April 2-3, 2016**.

Last year's event had over 550 attendees, and we're aiming for even more this year, meaning we need even more chaperones to keep things running smoothly.

If you are interested in helping chaperone or lend a hand around the event, please fill out the preliminary interest form below.

goo.gl/forms/sPZCb6fHle

More details will be relayed as we approach April.

If you have any questions, last year's website is still up at hackBCA.com and you can contact me at dan@hackbca.com.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to working with you!
Daniel Gu
HackBCA

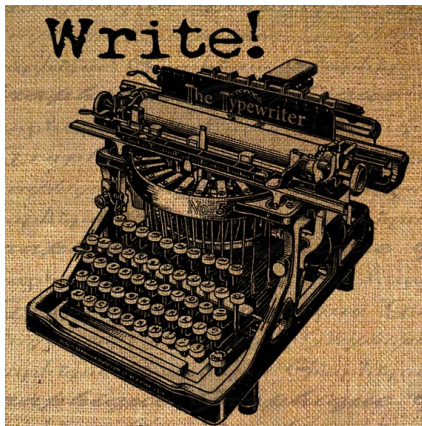
BCA Writing Accomplishments

The season for high school writing contests heats up in December and January, so no doubt a lot of good news will be coming in next month, but even in the early returns, BCA writers continue to excel:



- an AMST junior finished in the finals of the Sierra Nevada College Tahoe's High School Writing Contest
- three seniors – one in AAST, one in AMST and one in ABF – were all Topical winners in the Just Poetry American High School writing contest
- and an AEDT junior is a National winner in the Just Poetry American High School writing contest! He will now go on to compete for the \$500 scholarship prize

Richard Weems
Literature and Creative Writing



BCA Summer Writing

The 2016 BCA Summer Writing Program will offer a Fiction course as well as a Poetry course. Dates still need to be confirmed but should be posted to the program website by February 1. BCA students will get an early window of opportunity to register for this popular program that has filled up four years in a row!

Each course offers students the opportunity to work with award-winning writers in a supportive and intensive environment to develop their creative writing skills.

Visit www.bergen.org/summerwriting for general information as well as how to get on the mailing list for updates.

Richard Weems
Literature and Creative Writing

An Added Note:

One goal of our monthly PPO meetings is to feature presentations from relevant outside resources available to the community. It is not, however, a PPO practice to endorse them for your own use. We hope you will use your best judgment deciding whether you choose to utilize their services.

Celebrating the Holidays the ACAHA Way

Each year, the ACAHA Senior Class welcomes the holiday season by decorating the hallway with their extraordinary gingerbread project. Keeping up with the tradition, the Class of 2016 seniors chose to recreate "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Island of the Misfit Toys," a timeless holiday classic.

For two weeks in December, the 16 seniors were busy going in and out of the kitchen. Each student was assigned a specific role from project manager, chief engineer, creative director, executive chef and construction team. The students were assigned tasks from designing and planning the structural layout, baking the gingerbread, and creating the fondant characters. They did a superb job of collaborating with each other to make this project as efficient and successful as possible. Because everyone contributed their ideas and efforts, they were able to proudly display their culinary masterpiece in the main lobby just in time for the holidays.

The basic structural elements, such as the towering gingerbread castle, and the fine details, such as the caramelized sugar coating on the icicles, all helped to make the seniors' vision come to life. Congratulations to all of the ACAHA seniors on yet another achievement!

Mary Beth Brace & John Branda
ACAH



Class News Updates....

Class of 2016

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! It is hard to believe we are in the last six months of this four-year journey. Spring will be a very busy time for our class. We are now actively planning the annual Senior Fashion Show. We hope you have all received our email regarding models for the event. Please encourage your child to participate. All forms are due back no later than January 29th. If your child does participate, please consider volunteering to help, we need your help. Please contact us if you are interested. Don't forget to donate all of those baskets you received over the holiday season. Just drop them off in the office with a label, send us an email and we will arrange to pick them up.

We will be sending out many emails over the next several months. Please take the time to read them. There are many events during June and we will try to keep you well informed. Within the next week, you will be receiving an email about the Senior Class trip to Great Adventure on June 15th.

Lawn graduation signs are still for sale. Please see the enclosed order form in this newsletter. The last day to order signs is April 15th.

If you should have any questions, please contact us.

Warmest regards,
Maria and Laina

Maria Jasionowski mariqjasionowski@yahoo.com
Laina DeRose msdr21@yahoo.com

Class of 2017

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the holidays and were able to spend some downtime with family and friends! Spring will be a very busy time for our class. Our first two priorities are Cabaret and the Junior Prom. Cabaret is Wednesday evening, April 20th. This is a wonderful talent show showcasing our students and our staff. It will take place in the BCA Auditorium.

We hope to have many baskets to raffle as this is our major fundraiser for the year. **We appreciate all donations our parents and families can provide!** We are looking for items such as restaurant gift cards, wine, spa days, retailer gift cards, sporting event tickets, show tickets, tech items (Beats, iPads), etc, all of which will be fantastic additions to our gift baskets.

All donations are welcome and very much appreciated! FYI, all donors will be gratefully acknowledged in print in our program listing. This truly will be a class effort in order to make this event a success!

Our Junior Prom is scheduled for the evening of Friday, May 13th at the Old Tappan Manor. The student council has already formed an enthusiastic committee, which is actively planning for a wonderful night!

We are still collecting class dues. Class dues are \$200 and paid only once prior to senior year. If you have not paid your dues, please send a check made out to "Student Activity Fund - Class of 2017" and mail it to BCA at 200 Hackensack Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601 or drop it off in the main office.

Warmest regards,

D'Arcy Natale and Allison Orecchio
bcaclassof2017@gmail.com

Class of 2018

We hope you've all had a wonderful holiday break and are looking forward to a great 2016! We have a busy year ahead and look forward to spending time with all of you!

Thank you to those class parents who helped us host the National Honor Society Induction reception on November 19th. This was a wonderful evening, and we really appreciate your time and help in setting up, serving and cleaning up!

Below are some important updates. As always, please feel free to e-mail us at BCAClassof2018@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments. We always look forward to hearing from you!

Class of 2018 Parent Coffee Hour

Mark your calendars! Our next coffee hour will be held on **Wednesday, February 3rd at 12:00** at Whole Foods at Bergen Town Center in Paramus. This is always a great opportunity to meet new parents, share ideas and experiences and learn about upcoming events! We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Sophomore/Freshman Semi-Formal

Formal information will be coming out soon for the Soph/Frosh Semi-Formal on Thursday, March 24th at Powerhouse Studios in Paramus. Our students will enjoy dancing with a DJ/emcee and dance motivator, unlimited free play of all amusement and arcade games, and a full dinner with unlimited use of

Class News Continued.....

soda fountains. This one of a kind Hollywood themed event space complete with high-tech special effects & intelligent lighting, a formal dance floor with platform, on-site studio staff to manage the evening, set up the event, provide security and to coordinate clean-up. This promises to be an exciting and much-needed evening of socializing and fun for our hard working students! Mark your calendars and save the date!!

Class of 2018 dues

If you haven't already, please be sure to send in your \$200.00 class dues. This is a one-time payment to help us offset some of the costs that our students will have in Senior year.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Your Class Parents -
Rena, Christine and Cathy
BCAClassof2018@gmail.com

Class of 2019

Happy New Year **Class of 2019** parents! We hope everyone had a relaxing break. We held our second parents' coffee hour on January 19th at the Panera Bread in Paramus. It was a great opportunity to meet fellow BCA parents and exchange information and ideas. We hope to see many of you at our next coffee hour!

The next event on the horizon for our students is the Freshman/Sophomore semi formal, which is scheduled for March 24th. We will keep you posted with further details as we get closer to the date; mark your calendars!

Finally, we would like to welcome Kirstie Forcellati to the 2019 class parent team. One of the class parents stepped down and Kirstie was kind enough to take the position. Her email is kirstieforcellati@msn.com. We are excited to work together!

Pam C., Amy and Kirstie
bcaclassof2019@gmail.com

Project Graduation 2016 - Last Call!

If you have not already signed your graduate up for the all-night Project Graduation party, which will take place the evening of graduation, please send your \$195 payment today!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Lisa Leiva (201) 391-1586 Email: lisaleiva1@aol.com
Carmela Tarabocchia (201) 941-2895 Email: carmela.tarabocchia@gmail.com

Make your check payable to: **Project Graduation 2016**
Please write your child's name on the check
Mail to: Lisa Leiva, 18 Brook Avenue, Montvale, NJ 07645

-----Detach and send with payment-----

Student's Name _____ Academy _____

Parent's Name _____ Parent Email _____

Phone # _____



Parents And Patrons of the Arts

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope everyone rested up over the holiday break as PAPA has a lot going on this Winter and you won't want to miss any of it. Break out your new 2016 calendars and be sure to mark down these dates:

PRINT WEEK – Exhibit of student artwork opens Wednesday, January 20 on the Auditorium Stage at 6:00 pm. Exhibit will be available for viewing all day Thursday, January 21st, as well. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our phenomenally talented Visual students. Thank you to the PAPA parents who are helping with set up and refreshments.

PAPA January Meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m.** in Mr. Lemma's room. The focus of this meeting will be Music. We'll hear from Mr. Lemma about the latest doings in the Music Dept. and will be treated to performances by our Music students. ***What a great night – start or end the evening with a tour of the Print Week art exhibit and pop into the PAPA meeting for a musical interlude. Please join us!***

Up next....Evita!

If you'd like to place a Playbill ad and haven't done so already, there's a little time left. The deadline is **THIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 22nd**. We are happy to accept camera-ready ads or design one for you using our templates. Click here to download the form. <http://www.academypapo.com/uploads/1/1/1/7/1170958/evitaplaybillflyerfinal.pdf> We hope everyone involved in the play [cast, crew, orchestra] will buy or be responsible for selling at least \$150 worth of ads. The Playbill is PAPA's biggest fundraiser of the year and the money raised goes directly to support all BCA arts programs.

Our February PAPA meeting will follow the **Evita** rehearsal dinner on **Thursday, February 25th**. Please join us for dinner and stay for the meeting. We are going to be setting up a nominating committee for next year's officers and are looking for three people who will form that committee PLUS anyone who would like to be an officer next year. Step right up! It's great to be involved and not as time-consuming as you might think.

Watch your email and like the PAPA Facebook page [PAPA at BCA] for lots more information in the coming days and weeks as we ramp up for **Evita**. We'll need your help with everything from costumes and makeup to rehearsal dinner, concessions (snacks, flowers, kisses, DVDs, etc.) to maybe even painting the set. Please be generous with your time – we can't do this without you!

Eileen Gabriele
PAPA President

Happy 2016!

ACHAPA was happy to host a lunch for all ACAHAPA students in December, serving up lots of pizza & heroes to celebrate the completion of their amazing gingerbread creation, and the holidays. Check out this link: <http://www.bergen.com/family/bergen-county-academies-presents-2015-gingerbread-project-1.1478164?photo=1>

Your dues (suggested minimum donation of \$20 per family) help us provide fun events like this for your students. Several more are planned for the school year!

If you have not yet sent in your ACAHAPA membership form and dues, please consider sending them ASAP. If you are the parent of a Senior, we will even extend the deadline for Scholarship consideration through the end of January:

Dues Form: http://www.academyppo.com/uploads/1/1/1/7/11170958/acahapa_membership_flyer_may2015.pdf

Next, we have begun planning for Chocolate Competition, which will be held in March.

This year, as always, there will be numerous prizes for the winners, and new this year - there will be participation awards for all students who created an amazing cake but did not win a prize. We need your help filling the prize baskets! Please sign up at the link below to donate a prize and/or solicit a local business to donate a prize:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0844A8AF23ABFC1-chocolate

Thank you for supporting the ACAHA students!

Dawn, Denise and Marta

KPPO Meeting

Wednesday, February 3rd @ 7:00 pm
in the Upper Cafeteria.
Dr. Kim (Kim Deok Yang) will give a
speech on
"Looking beyond BCA."

Save the Date

College Fair
April 21st from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Jennifer Redlitz
Guidance

***BCA Yearbook 2015-2016 is making history
with its first **COLOR** yearbook!***

There's only one problem, you need to buy one by **THIS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22!!**

For \$95, not only do you get a yearbook, but you will be
entered into a raffle to

win a \$50 gift card!!!

No strings attached!

Here's the link to buy the yearbook: www.balfour.com

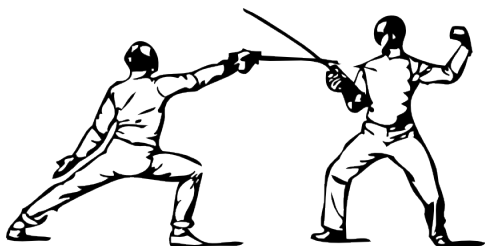
OR

you can pick up order forms in the main office.

*If you already bought a yearbook, you are already entered into the raffle.

Congratulations!

A Class of 2019 AAST student came in 6th in the under 16 age group and 17th in the under 20 age group in the US Fencing North American Cup (NAC) Tournament November 23rd held in Kansas City, Missouri. There were many people competing. The under-16 competition, 128 people competed. For the under-20 competition, 142 people competed. Congratulations!



Class of 2018 BCA SWEATSHIRTS

**** FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED—LAST CHANCE! ****

ONLY \$20 !!

Design #1- 2018 Logo



SMALL- 2 left

MEDIUM- 7 left

Design #2- "Eat, Sleep, Study Repeat" Logo



****Design on front only***

SMALL- 1 left

MEDIUM- 4 left

CATALYST'S NEW SAT BOOTCAMP

The Key to the Redesigned SAT

Catalyst's New SAT Bootcamp is a momentum-boosting two-day seminar that arms students with key strategies for the redesigned SAT & PSAT. We dissect the *entire* test, so there are no surprises on the morning of the SAT. Members of the class of 2017, 2018, and 2019 learn:

- ✓ Critical aspects of the new PSAT / SAT, including test format, scoring, calculator use, process-of-elimination strategies, and time management
- ✓ How to crack the new SAT's tricky "textual evidence" Reading Comprehension questions
- ✓ How to shortcut the new SAT's most challenging "heart of algebra" and "data analysis" math problems
- ✓ The 16 types of English questions guaranteed to appear on the redesigned test's Writing and Language sections

OUR UNIQUE GUARANTEE

Catalyst's New SAT Bootcamp is not a "mock" SAT or an infomercial for our services. Our New SAT Bootcamp is a two-day seminar designed for students who wish to unlock the key to the brand new SAT/PSAT. Catalyst's New SAT Bootcamp ignites confidence and momentum by teaching students how to outsmart every question – *and trap answer* – they'll face on the test. Students receive Catalyst's New SAT prep book, self-study materials, and diagnostic tests.

LOCATION

Bergen County Academies, Hackensack

COST

Just \$175 to enroll by Wednesday, February 24th at 6pm. We unfortunately cannot accommodate walk-in students.

SCHEDULE

Day 1: Saturday, February 27th, 9am – 1pm
Day 2: Sunday, February 28th, 9am – 1pm

Students attend both days.

TO ENROLL

Visit www.CatalystPrep.com and click on "Bootcamp Sign-Up" on the website menu bar. For more information email info@CatalystPrep.com or call **800.235.0056**.

CATALYST

Private Tutoring / Weekend Bootcamps / Small In-Home Classes
800.235.0056 / www.CatalystPrep.com

Show your Pride in your BCA GRAD!!!

Purchase a BCA 2016 Graduation Sign!



100% all weather signs are 24"x48" and come with metal stakes for lawn installation.

All orders must be received by **April 15, 2016**. Signs will be delivered to BCA in early June.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Graduate's name as you want it to appear on sign (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**):

Number of signs at \$30/sign: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Checks payable to: **BCA Student Activity Fund Class of 2016**

Mail orders to: Laina DeRose
65 South Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648

(A minimum number of 100 signs need to be ordered)