

Housatonic

COMMUNITY NEWS

APRIL 2010

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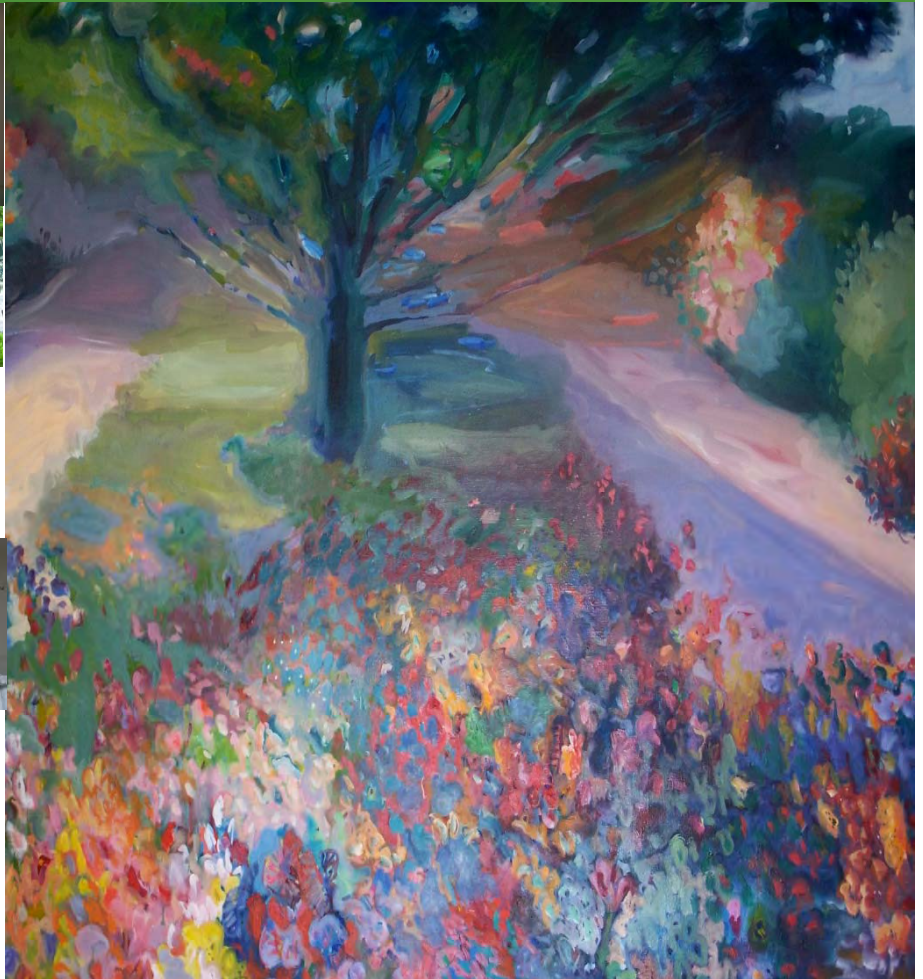
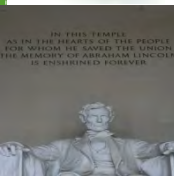
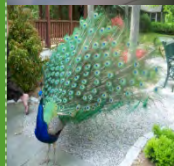
Refreshing the Art Collection

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Detail from Alberta Cifolello's "Fertile Ways" (1994) in Lafayette Hall

"Refreshed"

What's going on with the artwork? Over the years, the original art installations in Lafayette Hall have dissipated because of the changing and growing uses of the college and spaces throughout. That fact, coupled with the additional opportunities for presenting artwork throughout Beacon Hall, prompted Robbin Zella, Director of the Housatonic Museum of Art, to invite curator Terri C. Smith to REFRESH the permanent collection.



Visiting Curator, Terri C. Smith, with Robbin Zella, Director of the Housatonic Museum of Art

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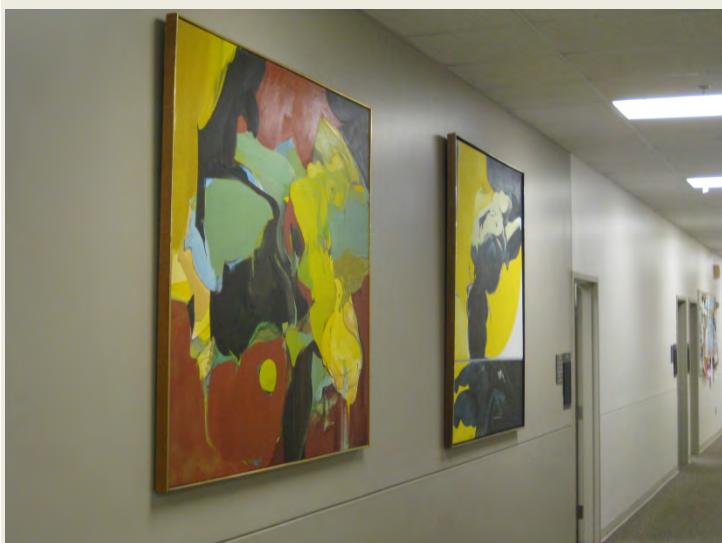
Refreshed cont'd.

Terri is an alumna of the Center for Curatorial Studies graduate program at Bard College and moved to Connecticut in February, curating shows at the Westport Arts Center. She was able to come in and view Housatonic's art collection with a fresh pair of eyes, identifying its strengths, as well as several themes throughout. Terri also spent time looking at the spaces in each of the buildings and the ways they are being used. She was then able to create discrete groupings based on theme, form or artistic significance, as well as "mini solo shows" that highlight an individual artist's works. Terri has worked directly with an installation team, which includes Dave Stevenson and Angelo Caputo from Housatonic's maintenance staff, as well as artist and part-time museum employee, Nancy Doherty, to re-hang more than 100 artworks in HCC's two buildings.

For example, Terri put together a collection about ways children are portrayed in art in the Math and Science wing, across the hall from room B234. A section of this wall was painted in a darker shade to set it apart and accent the works. There are both paintings and statues in this mini collection, from a variety of time periods. The curator also played with the theme a little by including a piece that does not physically portray a child, but is titled *Nursery Rhyme*.



A mini solo show is located in the hall outside of Media Services, down the hall from the Registrar's office. Again, the wall has been painted to frame the works, and several pieces by a single artist, in this case Frances Godowsky (who was also the little sister of music legends George and Ira Gershwin,) are displayed. Terri feels that displaying these works together gives the viewer a chance to understand Godowsky's explorations, growth, and stylistic transitions.



There are many more solo shows and discrete thematic groupings throughout both Lafayette Hall and Beacon Hall. Terri plans to create interpretive texts about the works and themes, contextualizing the works within art history, pop culture, and the Housatonic collection itself. This information will begin with wall labels and continue with an in-depth series of blogs. In the meantime, take a stroll around and see the Post-Punk/New Wave hallway and the "In Shape" area with its shaped canvases in Lafayette or the "Street Smart" and "Other Landscapes" sections in Beacon Hall.

-Jennifer Falasco

Do you have a favorite piece of artwork on campus? Send us a written appreciation of your favorite piece, accompanied by a photo if you like, and we will publish it in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Welcome Our New Colleagues



Kirk T. Hughes

Kirk T. Hughes, whose area of specialization is Comparative Literature and Religion, comes to Housatonic from Southern Connecticut State University. Professor Hughes attended Yale College and Yale Divinity School. He was a nominee for the J. Phillip Smith Award for Outstanding Teacher and won the New Haven Tutor of the Year Award. He is a board member of the Elm City Shakespeare Company.



Theodora Benezra

Theodora Benezra's professional background includes twenty years in marketing and credit risks. Prior to joining Housatonic, Professor Benezra worked as a full-time tutor and adjunct instructor for the math department at LaGuardia Community College in New York, as well as an adjunct instructor at the University of New Haven. Professor Benezra holds a Master of Science degree in Statistics and a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics.

Asher Albaz

No Photo Available

Asher Albaz was a tenured faculty member of Yavapai Community College in Arizona prior to accepting a position with Housatonic. His professional background also includes working as a controller and senior accountant in the corporate world. Professor Albaz has earned a Master of Business degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.



Karyn Smith

(Above)

Karyn Smith has taught at the University of New Mexico in the Literature Department. She has earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Psychology. Professor Smith worked for Ameri-Corps VISTA Volunteer Summer Program and was a Tutor for the University of Rhode Island.

Shelley Tomey

(Below)

Shelley Tomey has been an adjunct instructor for Housatonic Community College since 2004. Professor Tomey was previously employed as a Kindergarten Teacher in the New Canaan Public School System. She has earned a Master of Arts degree in Teaching and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Professor Tomey attended Sacred Heart University and University of Connecticut. She is currently enrolled at Southern Connecticut State University in a 6th year certification program for Remedial Reading and Language Arts.



Indira Reddy

(No Photo Available)

Indira Reddy joins Housatonic's Counseling Center. She has prior community college and university counseling and teaching experience, including teaching undergraduate student development courses and graduate counseling courses. Ms. Reddy's professional background also includes clinical residential experience with minors and parent counseling. Ms. Reddy is a member of the American Counseling Association, Illinois Mental Health Counseling Association, and Illinois Counseling Association.

**Jamilet Ortiz**

(No Photo Available)

Jamilet Ortiz joins Housatonic as Instructor of Spanish. Her background includes teaching posts as adjunct lecturer at Fordham University, Purchase College, Pace University, and Westchester Community College. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic Literature. Professor Ortiz has a Master of Arts in Spanish and Portuguese and a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in English and Spanish. She is a mother of five children.

Robert C. Ryder Jr.

(Above)

Robert C. Ryder Jr. joins Housatonic as an Instructor of Pre-Engineering, Physics and Mathematics. In addition to working as a Senior Engineer, he was the founder and President of Flow Parametrics, LLC, a position from which he negotiated a Space Act Agreement with NASA. Other accolades include the Small Business Innovative Research Award, USAF, in 2005. Professor Ryder has a Master of Arts degree in Applied Mathematics with a minor in Mechanical Engineering. He attended the Community College of Allegheny County and received a double major in Physics and Mathematics and a minor in Chemistry. Professor Ryder served in the United States Coast Guard.

Achieving the Dream Conference



Will You Stand Out at Barnes This Year?

A peacock patrolling the grounds of The Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, Connecticut, site of last year's Barnes Seminar. The two-day retreat giving community college faculty and staff a chance to reconnect with their goals and interests is sponsored by Center for Teaching of the Connecticut Community College System. Contact our Center for Teaching and Learning director, Steve Mark, for more information.

Wellness Center

The HCC Wellness Center has become increasingly popular with the students, faculty, and staff of the college. Last semester, the Wellness Center was open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings and was mildly successful. However, by tracking the hours of usage and conducting user surveys, Linda Bayusik, Acting Director of Student Activities, determined that afternoon hours might be more successful. So this semester she changed the hours to cover Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons instead of evenings and added a few more hours. As a result, the popularity of the Center has taken off! Final reports have not been compiled yet, but preliminary numbers indicate that usage has at least tripled this semester with more students on a daily basis requesting applications.

The Wellness Center consists of 29 pieces of equipment, including cardiovascular machines and a stationary weight set; a movement room; and locker rooms with showers. It is free to use, but students, faculty, and staff must fill out forms and watch a half hour video explaining use of the machines, and must present a current HCC photo ID card to get in. It is



staffed by several student workers and three HCC staff members, all trained by Bridgeport Hospital's Albhin Rehabilitation Center. They can show patrons how to use the equipment, but they are not personal trainers and cannot assist with use of the machines.

What is next for the Wellness Center? Bayusik has some ideas brewing, including hiring, contracting, or soliciting volunteers to teach yoga, kickboxing, or dance classes in the Movement Room. But #1 on her wish list? More hours for the fall semester.

–Jennifer Falasco



The greatest
WEALTH is
HEALTH

Virgil

Consultant to Budding Entrepreneurs—

“You Are Your Brand”

No matter what business you are in, you are your brand.

That was the word from Shelton business owner, HCC professor and former HCC student Mary Jane Paris to HCC business students Thursday, Feb. 25 at a panel discussion held as part of National Entrepreneurship Week. Paris, head of the Shelton-based Positive Impact Consulting Services, LLC, told students that their business begins with them.

“People like to do business with people they know, like and trust,” she said. “It’s up to you to become that person.”

This is especially true with single-owner businesses like hers, she said. But it also applies to larger businesses as well.

“Whether you’re in business for yourself, or whether you manage other people who interact with customers, your attitude sets the tone.”

Paris who appeared on a panel that included Bob Abbate of Trumbull, president of Bob Abbate Marketing, and Phyllis Haynes of West Haven, president of Southern Relishes, LLC, notes that research shows that, when it comes to business success, it all starts with a positive attitude.

“When you show a positive attitude in developing people, when they become productive, they are going to deliver finer service,” she said. “This will improve bottom-line results. It’s always people first.”

Along with a positive self-image, education and hard work should be a priority. Paris knows this from her own life.

After being a stay-at-home mom for 10 years, she wanted to return to the workforce and knew that her business skills needed sharpening. Her solution? Attend Housatonic.

“If it wasn’t for Housatonic, I wouldn’t have been able to do it,” she said. “It was affordable, and I was able to put my youngest son into the Early Childhood Laboratory School.”

Education, she emphasizes, is a necessity. It is the key to success, she says, and it is something that no one can take from you.

Her high regard for both education and Housatonic led her to return to HCC in 2004 as a business instructor... and to join the board of directors of the Housatonic Community College Foundation in 2008. “Joining the Foundation was a natural for me because of the financial help they offer students,” she said.

Paris’ desire to return to work became a necessity when she divorced. Then she began on her career, moving into recruiting. Then into banking. It is during a time like this that risk-taking can spell opportunity.

You must have a ‘yes’ policy, she said. When presented with the opportunity to do something new and different, she said, your response should be ‘yes!’ Especially in an economic environment where everyone has been affected.

“People like to do business with people they know, like and trust.”

Mary Jane Paris

It was her positive attitude that led her to turn calamity into opportunity. She was downsized from her last banking job in 2006. Having already scheduled a vacation, she decided to take it. She thought... and thought ... and thought.

The she came up with an idea: start a consulting business ... and show people the value of a positive attitude and how to build and maintain one. She hasn’t regretted it.

“My philosophy,” she said, “is that, when life gives you lemons, do not make lemonade. Make lemon meringue pie!”

-Anson Smith

HIGHER EDUCATION WATCH

Connecticut Joins Complete College Alliance

“...in just ten years, 60% of all new jobs will require a college education.
In Connecticut, 46% of adults between the ages of 25 to 46 have a college degree.”

Complete College America

College admissions have recently increased, but the United States has seen a decrease in the number of college graduates produced in the last decade. In hopes of reversing this trend, Governor Jodi M. Rell announced that Connecticut is one of seventeen states so far who have joined the Complete College Alliance, a non-profit organization committed to increasing the number of college graduates with marketable degrees as well as increasing the graduation numbers of underrepresented groups.

According to a statement released by the governor, “The rate at which Americans complete postsecondary degrees – unchanged for decades – is falling woefully short of the country’s needs and potential. By 2020, the percentage of young adults holding baccalaureate degrees is expected to be 30 percent, compared with 34 percent in 1993. After three decades of growth, education trend lines in Connecticut have also turned downward.”

The alliance is based on members’ commitment to work with colleges within their states to meet the following objectives:

Set Completion Goals for their states and specific campuses.

Develop Action Plans and Move Key Policy Levers including those that “ensure all students are ready to start freshman credit courses and develop new, shorter and faster pathways to degrees and credentials of valuing the labor market

Collect and report Common Measures of Progress which will include “publicly reporting year one benchmark data and annual progress on college completion, progression, transfer, job placement and earnings and cost and affordability measures.

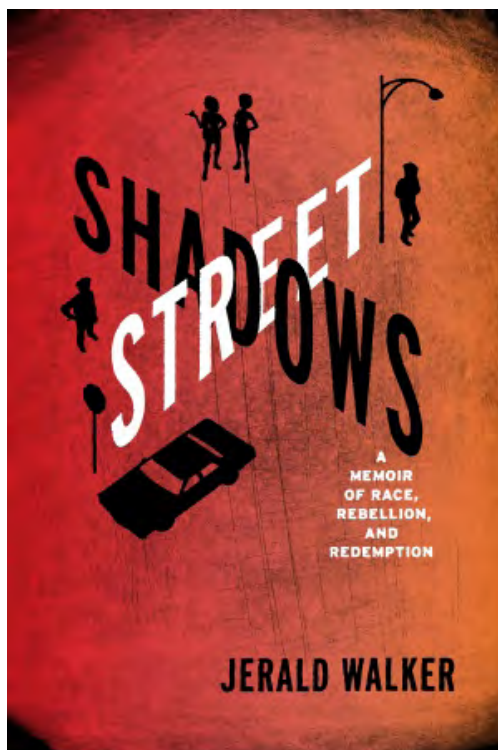
Connecticut’s work will fall under the Connecticut Commission for the Advancement of 21st Century Skills and Careers, P-20 Council, led by Higher Education Commissioner Michael P. Meotti and State Education Commissioner Mark McQuillan.



The Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding received a favorable ruling in its quest to improve public education in the state. In their 4-3 ruling in favor of the Coalition, Connecticut’s Supreme Court ruled in favor of the coalition stating that “the Connecticut constitution guarantees Connecticut’s public school students educational standards and resources suitable to participate in democratic institutions and to prepare them to attain productive employment and otherwise to contribute to the state’s economy, or to progress on to higher education.” -Susan Monroe

Writers in the Housatonic Classroom

On March 3rd the Housatonic Library and the Diversity Awareness Committee hosted author Jerald Walker who read from and discussed his memoir, *Street Shadows*, the story of a young man's descent into the "thug life" and the wake-up call that led to his finding himself again. The reading took place in the Events Center in Beacon Hall and a book signing followed.



Walker is an associate professor of English at Bridgewater State College. His work has appeared in *The Best American Essays* (2007 and 2009), *Best African American Essays* (2009 and 2010), the anthology *Brothers: 26 Stories of Love and Rivalry*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Iowa Review*, and *Mother Jones*, for which he profiled Chicago's South Side.

This was the 10th author the *Writers in the Housatonic Classroom* program has brought to the college. In 2005, librarians Peter Everett and Omaa Chukwurah collaborated with Sonia Ahuja to bring Matthew Sharpe in to read from and discuss his novel, *Sleeping Father*. This event inspired Everett and Chukwurah to create an official program to bring in an author each semester for book discussions, and the *Writers in the Housatonic Classroom* program was born.

These discussions are open to the public, and all students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend. In order to bring the event "to the classroom,"

Everett collaborates

with one or two writing professors each semester, providing them with excerpts from the work being presented or a copy of the novel. This allows these professors to use the work in their courses and then bring their classes to the event to meet the author in person. The program helps bring literature to life for the students and also provides them with a unique opportunity to hear about the techniques of writing and ask a published author about the writing process and profession. Over the years, Everett has taken over the administration of the *Writers in the Housatonic Classroom* program and calls it a "rewarding experience." He makes an effort to find authors who are either publishing their first novel, or are in the early part of their careers. These authors tend to love speaking with students and are enthusiastic about the program, Everett says.



Above: Jerald Walker reads from *Street Shadows*

-Jennifer Falasco

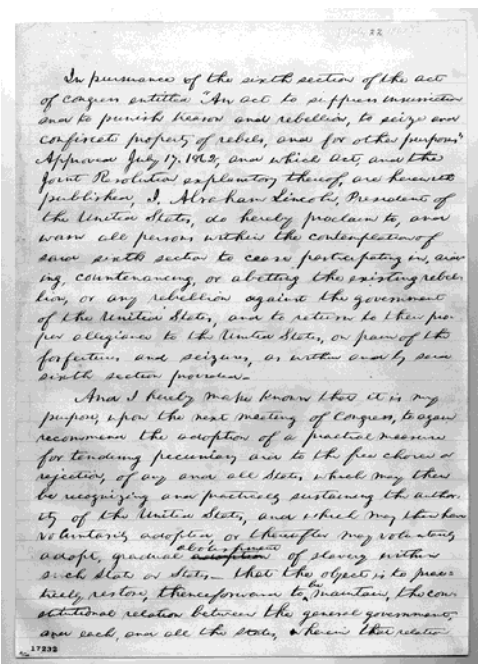
Civil War Historian

Professor David Koch

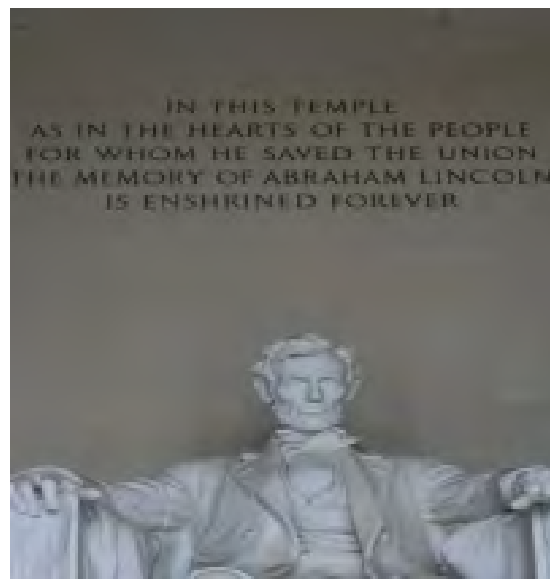
“Lincoln, the Gettysburg Address and the Transformation of the Civil War” was presented on February 11th. The talk, the first this year in HCC’s Contemporary Issues series, focused on how the Civil War began as a constitutional conflict but ended as an effort to abolish the institution of slavery.

Professor David Koch presented the talk. “It is a well-known fact that Abraham Lincoln was not an abolitionist, and in fact, resisted efforts to push emancipation through both political and military means,” Koch said. “He also advocated repatriating freed slaves to Africa, even those whose families had been in the country for over 200 years.”

However, his attitude evolved until, by the end of the war, he was considered an advocate of awarding civil rights to freed slaves, especially those who had served as soldiers, Koch said.



A page from a draft of The Emancipation Proclamation, dated July 22, 1862 (Library of Congress)



“He is thus a perfect reflection of the transformation that took place over the four years of the war, which began as a legal battle over the inviolability of the Union and ended up a crusade to purge the nation of its greatest sin, slavery.” he said.

Koch presented three documents--the Crittenden Resolution, the Gettysburg Address, and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution--and discussed how this transformation could be seen in both national and personal terms.

Koch has worked for national historical and natural sites, promoting the nation’s physical and historical heritage. He has also lectured for organizations across the country and in Europe on such topics as Civil War battles, politics in the Civil War, medicine in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln’s life and political activities, and slavery and the American Experience.

He has given specialized presentations on the Gettysburg National Cemetery, the Battle of Gettysburg, and Connecticut in the Civil War.

Historical discussions of this type are Koch’s passion, as witness his frequent appearances on the public library circuit in Connecticut. He spoke at HCC fresh on the heels of a similar talk at the Stratford Public Library. Next on his list of stops: the Easton and Terryville Public Libraries, where he will talk on “Connecticut in the Civil War.”

-Anson Smith

Housatonic Community News welcomes articles, photographs, announcements and feedback. The deadline for the May 2010 issue is April 28th.

Housatonic Community News is sponsored by the Organizational Culture Steering Committee: Anita Gliniecki, Maureen Cahill-Lamboley, Edwin G. Chapman, Brenda Alexander, Tracey Chavis, Pamela Pirog, Timothea L. Douglas, Susan Monroe, and Kathleen Toedt.

HCC Operational Values

Integrity

Communicate openly, honestly and responsibly.
Make agreements and keep them.
Admit your mistakes.

Respect

Treat others as you wish to be treated.
Communicate directly, calmly, and professionally.
Value different perspectives.

Community Member Focus

Ask questions to ensure understanding.
Make suggestions and recommendations.
Keep community members informed.
Acknowledge requests promptly.
Anticipate community member "wants."
Treat others with respect and dignity.
Make continuous improvement.

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