CBTA Takes on Food Waste
By Celina Scott-Buechler SP13 CB14 TA16

“Few aspects of daily life are as elemental and multifaceted as food” – so begins the 2013 TASP seminar description, “FOOD.” Food is critical not only for human nutrition but also for the construction of culture, morality, and community.

Convention Proceedings (in the early days, Convention Minutes) as early as the 1910s discuss food as a vessel for moral or immoral behavior. In 1916, the Dean of the Student Body at the Beaver River Power Company writes in his report, “Few questions are of more vital importance to the Association than that of indulgence, which springs from feeling.” He continues on to decry “a strong tendency [in the student body] to indulge yourselves; this is your weakness. You want to smoke; you want to drink; you want to be good fellows; you want to swear; you want to do as you d-n please; you want to eat candy and rich food.” He concludes by asking, “Do you say these matters are trivial? A second of time seems trivial, but time and eternity are made up of trivial seconds. Altogether these matters of indulgence constitute, perhaps, our biggest hindrance to success.” Today’s Association does not, as a whole, ascribe to such asceticism. To the contrary, good food (sometimes rich, sometimes not) has become an important consideration for its programs. Last Convention, I overheard an under-slept Association

Looking Ahead to Convention 2019
By Hammad Ahmed SP02 TA10, TA President 2018-19

One of my two goals this year as President is to make our board meetings more effective. Building off the tremendous work of recent Presidents including Amy Saltzman SP02 CB03 TA05 and Ave Leslie SP00 TA06, I have the privilege of designing further process improvements to continue our positive momentum.

In the last several years, we have ended the practice of having each Standing Committee chair read out loud their committee’s written report to Convention. Engagement and

Also in this issue:
Michigan Branchmember Stresses Value of International Exchange Programs..........................2
Birthing a Revolution with Radical Doulas ..................4
TASS Alum Wins Award, Donates Prize to Telluride......5
Telluride Welcomes New Michigan Program Manager Maria Brummel......................................6
Deep Springs Starts Presidential Search.......................7
Branchers Turn a New Leaf ..................................8
From an Upcoming zine ......................................9
Nunnians Convene in Ann Arbor ...........................10
Stay Current with the Telluride Blog .......................11
TASS and TASP Set for Summer ............................11
News and Notes ...........................................12
In Memoriam.............................................14
Before you embark on an international exchange program, people tell you all about how it will benefit you: you’ll get to know a new culture, make new friends, improve your language skills (depending on the country that you choose), and have the chance to travel. What they don’t tell you is that these benefits are reciprocal. The people you meet learn as much from you as you do from them. Attending a summer language program in Berlin alongside 80 other teenagers left me with lifelong friends in Hungary, Italy, and Russia. German was our common language as we presented our homelands, learnt about others’ cultures, and in turn questioned our own. The friends I made during my year abroad studying in Trier, Germany, would ask me questions about British politics, education, and weather, which I would return with enthusiasm. I certainly didn’t realize how British I was or indeed what it meant to be British until I started to travel: as a shy sixteen year old, I wasn’t aware that years of cultural conditioning in the UK were the reason why I found it impossible to openly tell my French host family that I was hungry or wanted to go to bed for fear of seeming rude. Instead, I sat bemused and exhausted as they watched television, not realizing that nobody would care if I just made myself food or announced I was turning in for the night. The next day, my host family told me what a pleasure it was to meet someone who was so typically British and then I started to understand: we were exchanging our cultures and our ways of viewing the world.

The ability to travel, work, and study in 27 other countries as an EU citizen with minimal paperwork and no visa requirements shaped me in ways that no formal education program could have done. As part of a team of seasonal workers at a hotel in the Black Forest, I was exposed to multiple attitudes towards work, money, and life. About to start my Bachelor’s, I realized how lucky I was when a colleague mentioned that the way higher education was structured in Croatia, her home country, had meant that it had been impossible for her to even enroll at a university after high school. During an internship in Paris, a colleague would take me on winding walks through the streets, stopping off at cafes and galleries I would never have found alone. In spite of an age gap of 24 years, we became close friends, bonding over a love of art, stories, and talking about romance. My French improved exponentially during this time. Whilst teaching English to adults as a volunteer in Poland, I swapped stories with my students. Having read about life behind the Iron Curtain, it was fascinating and often harrowing to hear about what it was really like from people who had lived through it. Then they would ask me about my family’s history and I would speak about my great grandparents’ experiences during World War Two, stories I had heard as a child before they passed away. Because their experiences are part of my own life story and something I had always taken for granted, it was hard for me to see that this is part of what makes me who I am and that this was interesting for people from other cultures in the way others’ relationship to the history of their country is for me. You often have to be alienated from your own culture to fully understand and appreciate it.

The morning of 24th June 2016 therefore marked an incredibly distressing and saddening day. My identity as a young European who could traverse different countries and cultures at will was being called into question. I was also upset on behalf of those younger than me who may have lost the ability to do what I and many of my friends did with the equivalent amount of ease.

I never realized how British I was until I immersed myself in other European cultures. In turn, I never realized how European I was until I came to the US for my Ph.D. Our love of public transport, universal health care systems, lack of frequent compliments, and making sure work is always combined with lots of play are things that I had always taken for granted. Right now, the status of Brexit is in constant flux, but one thing is certain: I have never felt more European. This is why international exchange is important: it encourages you to reevaluate your own identity and place in the world whilst teaching you to find commonalities with people from different backgrounds who often go on to be amongst your closest friends. I love being in the House as an international student because there are so many opportunities for interactions with different cultures, something which is further fortified by programs such as the Sidgwick-Miller fellowship for international Ph.D. students from Central European University to spend a year living at CBTA. Additionally, until recently, Michigan Branch operated the Miller-Sidgwick International Exchange Scholarship, whereby one exchange student from the University of Cape Town would be able to come to Michigan for a year with all of their living expenses covered. Whether it is informally over dinner or more formally at Pubspeaks, this year has certainly been full of stimulating and fulfilling intercultural exchanges in the House!
member admit, “if it weren’t for the continuous supply of good food and coffee, I wouldn’t make it through all these intensive hours of TA work.” I’ve heard similar discussions at TASS/Ps, Branches, and Nunnian Exchanges.

For its own part, the Cornell Branch of the Telluride Association (CBTA) has long grappled with its relationship to food: can shared meals serve as important a role in community building as house meetings? What rules of engagement should be expected from others at the table? And, indeed, how should housemembers relate to the food itself?

Beginning in 1974, when the issue first arises in TA Convention Proceedings, CBTA has a long record of debating how to ethically approach issues of consumption, particularly of food. That year, the House explored the possibility of sourcing its food locally. An ad hoc committee negotiated with the Ithaca co-op market, Food Conspiracy, that year but concluded that their budget was insufficient for such a transition. Despite closing the matter for the year, the discussion of where CBTA’s food comes from and, more recently, where its excesses go have continued to weigh on House consciousness. This year, CBTA launched its Food Recovery Project, an attempt to address food waste from the House and food insecurity in local communities. Led by housemember Krystal Zwiesineyi Chindori-Chininga CB18 and BIRTed (Be It Resolved That—Telluride’s legislation parlance) by the House as a whole, CBTA donates food it doesn’t eat. After three days in the leftovers fridge, lunch and dinner items are brought to the Friendship Donation Network (Ithaca’s local food pantry) and/or a student group addressing food insecurity among Cornell graduate students. These organizations redistribute incoming food to those in need at Cornell and in Ithaca more broadly.

Krystal, the project’s initiator, reflects: “We are an immensely privileged group of people to have access to Telluride resources; those resources were always meant to be channeled towards developing ourselves as community leaders - being able to donate our food to food insecure individuals all around us is a tangible way to really act out that mission and redistribute Telluride resources; beyond that, it shouldn’t be acceptable for us to ignore or be complacent about the need that exists all around us. This is one small thing that we can do.”

Every Thursday and Saturday, a group of housemembers make their deliveries. Krystal organizes volunteer housemembers to go downtown or up-campus, drop the food off, and interact with organization workers. “It’s been a really great way to build community amongst ourselves,” said Grace Zhang SS15 CB17, “as well as get involved in a bigger issue.”

It is estimated that 14,500 residents of Ithaca’s Tompkins County are food-insecure—about 14%. More than a third of these people do not qualify for the federal SNAP (food stamps) program, however. The Friendship Donations Network has been key to addressing this gap, providing over 500,000 pounds of food to community members.

These kinds of programs are key to environmental sustainability, too. Food waste is a rampant challenge in the US, where approximately 40% of all food will never be eaten. Rather, this food, most of which is still good, will be shipped to landfills. Packed with other waste, it biodegrades slowly. In so doing, large amounts of methane are released—greatly contributing to climate change. In 2010, an estimated 133 billion pounds of food in the US alone met this fate.

Faced with these realities, CBTA is working to reduce its contribution to the many challenges posed by food waste. Although some Association leaders have in the past discounted the importance of food to its mission, CBTA embodies the realization that food is the bread and butter of community. Together, it is considering the consequences (direct and indirect) of its consumption and attempting to approach such issues ethically. Certainly food for thought.
Birthing a Revolution with Radical Doulas
by Emma Morgan-Bennett SP15

This past summer, I worked as a doula at a nonprofit midwifery center and a birthing collective. Aside from assisting during a birth, I was able to document the stories of dozens of women of color. I alternated between laughing and weeping as they relayed their stories of ‘twerking’ through their labor, the relief of hearing their baby’s first breath, their heartbreak when those babies stopped breathing, and their palpable fear as Black women interacting with the medical system. These mothers, in Pennsylvania and Texas, helped me see how the American health system betrayed them at vulnerable moments in their pregnancy. These resilient women described how they curated their own reproductive care: in cocoons of love, racial solidarity and a care-centered approach in which they not only survived but also thrived.

At the beginning, I wanted to know if it was possible to contextualize the position of Radical Doulas in the Black maternal health crisis. And if it was, then how might one go about doing so? The stories of Shalon Irving’s death and Serena Williams’ near fatality have humanized the alarming statistic that Black women are 3 to 4 times more likely to die from pregnancy and childbirth related causes than white women. As a major in Medical Anthropology, I was familiar with the startling disparities that accompany Blackness and women’s health. But academic critiques do not offer solutions. Therefore, I saw the potential of Radical Doulas reducing the risks that Black women face during birth.

As a research intern and practicing doula, I defined Radical Doulas to be non-medical companions who support pregnant people by providing emotional, educational and physical support during the spectrum of pregnancy. This definition stems in part from my own training at Ancient Song Doula Services, a legendary Radical Doula organization that centralizes an anti-racist doula curriculum by providing lessons about the State’s eradication of granny midwives, sterilization campaigns against women of color in the 20th century, and the practice of racist obstetrical violence alongside teaching typical doula techniques (such as massage skills, aromatherapy, and birthing positions). While doulas have been around for decades, they traditionally have been associated with upper middle-class white women as well as the anti-choice movement. Radical Doula work, however, follows the trailblazing reproductive justice movement, a movement introduced by the Sister Song organization in the 1990s, that centralized the diverse reproductive needs of women of color. Radical Doulas embrace the full spectrum of reproduction by supporting pregnant women and nonbinary people during abortions, miscarriages, adoptions and more. Finally, Radical Doulas acknowledge their activist and political nature by understanding themselves as advocates that help clients reclaim their agency and empowerment in medical spaces.

The midwifery center and birthing collective provided two starkly different approaches to the Black maternal health crisis. The midwifery center centralized Black women’s health inequities as one of their motivating causes for existence. As a coalition founded by and for local mothers of color, they have a deeply personal commitment to curb the mortality rates that these women often had personal experiences with. The center utilizes methods of intentional community building to create, as one doula told me, a space of sisterly solidarity in which women of color could make informed decisions about their reproduction. Their work cannot be separated from Texas’ deep history of anti-black terrorism, the State’s suffocating anti-choice efforts, and Texas legislators’ stigmatization of federal programs such as WIC. The midwifery center has experienced tremendous success but also faces organizational challenges due to size and future vision.

In contrast to the midwifery center’s deeply political confrontation of the Black maternal health crisis, the birthing collective centralized its midwifery care as better care for any and all mothers. They exemplify quality care; their appointments averaged 30 minutes and they emphasized pregnancy and childbirth education by requiring parents to attend classes. Yet, as an organization located in a predominately white and upper-middle class neighborhood, it struggled to understand its own role in the Black maternal health crisis and how Radical Doulas could fit in. The midwives I interviewed expressed distress but distance from the crisis. They acknowledged that something needed to change but were unsure whether the responsibility belonged to the birthing collective or hospitals. Alternatively, three clients of color acknowledged how they felt their minority status at the organization and a Radical Doula of color could help them find comfort within their birthing experiences.

Through these two organizations, I was introduced to how Radical Doulas of color, birth companions and advocates for mothers during pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum stage, have been operating under one name or another for centuries with the radical intention to prioritize their client’s voice while simultaneously building a sisterhood with her. Non-biomedical health organizations face pushback from outside institutions while simultaneously reckoning with their own internal tensions. Staff dynamics change. Financial instability matters. Accessing marginalized clients as a predominately white institution is a challenge. Existing together as women of color does not erase the perceived cultural differences between Black, Latina, and multiracial women. Nevertheless, they persist. Radical Doula work cannot be seen as the solution for the Black maternal health crisis; however, it demonstrates the power of full spectrum care that actively targets lacking areas of health interrupted by racial factors.

This summer I will return to partner with the midwifery center, conduct thesis work and produce a short documentary. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact me at emorgan4@swarthmore.edu.
I first found out about the Telluride Association through a friend. As I looked further into the Telluride Association, specifically its Sophomore Seminar (TASS), it truly sounded as if it was a dream. As a young Black girl from the southside of Atlanta, I often feel invisible due to the intersections of my identity. Being Black and woman felt like being Black twice. The opportunity to see my lived experiences addressed in a pedagogical space enthralled me. I thought to myself: “The opportunity to see the complexities of my identity centered in the classroom?!” TASS granted me with the opportunity to question the Eurocentric ideals that have been passed off to me as true and raise my critical awareness on critical Black and ethnic studies. My Cornell II seminar program, Shades of Blackness, not only granted me the analytical toolbox to probe society’s most plaguing issues but it also was a space of recovery and healing from race and gender-based trauma. My experiences at TASS will forever leave a mark on my life. I left TASS with a group of lifelong friends that hold members in our community with gentle care and knowledge that would be only achievable outside of the binary classroom structure.

I want other Black students and students of color to experience the therapeutic solace that TASS granted me. Recently, I was awarded the Melissa Maxcy Wade Social Justice Award at the Emory University Barkley Forum Debate competition. This award granted me with the opportunity to direct my $400 cash prize to a nonprofit of my choice. My life-altering experiences at TASS led me to choose the Telluride Association as the nonprofit that I would give back to. TASS has served as a formative experience to the lives of many students of color, including me. TASS has allowed other students and I to bridge theory and practice as a means to cultivate meaningful relationships and spark change in society. The TASS program, my factotums, and fellow TASSers will always hold a special place in my heart.

Convention 2019 (continued from cover)

information retention during this part of Convention was very low. This means that fewer members overall have a good understanding of the content of the reports and big themes to address. To foster engagement and provide shared context, and to respond to the request in the most recent Convention feedback survey for more orientation and education, members will be giving Pubspeaks (public speeches) on TA’s work. To prevent information overload and ensure connection back to our strategic plan, we will organize these Pubspeaks around the four (draft) strategic plan goals:

- “Telluride is a catalyst for intellectually rigorous ethical growth.”
  - Branches Pubspeak. Beginning to explore purpose and pedagogy.
  - Summer Programs Pubspeak. Including expansion and outcomes.

- “Telluride is financially responsible and sustainable.”
  - Budget Pubspeak. Retrospective cost analysis and prospective budget analysis and options. (Including affordability of expansion)
  - Endowment Pubspeak. Socially responsible investing.

- “Governance and operations responsibly and effectively advance strategic priorities.”
  - Staffing Pubspeak. Organizational chart, key challenges and paths forward.

- “Alumni are thoughtful and compassionate; they lead and serve, using a democratic framework to better their communities and the world beyond.”
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pubspeak. Vision, metrics, and where we go from here.

We hope that by spending time at the outset on these Pubspeaks, we will be able to delve more productively into our deliberations this year, which include summer program expansion, clarifying staff and member roles and responsibilities, beginning to articulate a vision statement, deciding if/how to “call the put” on the L.L. Nunn LLC, and reviewing a number of policies that affect program participants. In general, our vision for Convention is to focus on the highest levels of decision-making, to “stay out of the weeds” while focusing on real, concrete proposals that will move us toward the Mission Statement we adopted at the last Convention. It is an exciting time to be an Association member!
Maria Brummel joined the Telluride staff in August 2018 as the new Michigan Program Manager at our Ann Arbor Branch at the University of Michigan. We sat down with Maria to learn more about her.

Can you share some highlights of your career before joining MBTA as the Michigan Program Manager?

My undergrad degree is in Family and Community Services. My motivation was to help those people who didn’t have much voice for themselves, and so I got that degree. Then I worked at a Head Start preschool for 7 years. I worked in the office, enrolling students and helping families with some of the struggles they had. But I also learned a lot about the efficiencies and operations in an office and that made me want to affect public policy more, because Head Start is a big national federal program. So I got a Masters in Public Administration and worked at a community development center in Lansing. We did a lot of neighborhood support, farmers markets and food access. That was during the time the Affordable Care Act was rolling out, so I was helping folks navigate the enrollment process. It continued to be about helping people with not as much of a voice for themselves, which was really rewarding. I really find it fulfilling. But it’s also really stressful doing this kind of direct service work. Then, I moved to Ypsilanti to be with my partner and worked at a nonprofit that was food-focused. We talked a lot about growing food. We ran farmers markets. We worked on food policy. But I specifically did administrative and operations kind of stuff. And it’s weird because people say, “Who’s passionate about operations?” But that’s actually what I like doing. I like being behind the scenes. I like being the one to help things run smoothly, without being the face of everything.

What was the motivation for you to apply for the Michigan Program Manager position?

I really liked the idea of the community that the students are drawn to here. I liked the idea that Telluride can offer room and board and give those folks access who might not have it otherwise. I really like the idea of supporting that. And then the fact that it’s a facility operations position. Just the kind of stuff I like.

What’s been the most important lesson you’ve learned working with a diverse group of students, working offsite, or working on the phone all the time?

There’s definitely been some learning curves around the communication. It’s different because the people I work with day in and day out are in Ithaca. I went to Ithaca pretty soon after I started. But before I went over there, it felt like I was working with virtual people. What I have learned is just being very clear and very explicit in communication. I already had the practice of asking for clarification when something wasn’t clear before, but it just really emphasized how important that is. The Ithaca staff was also great at saying, “Ask whatever. Ask anytime you need clarification.” Because it is different when you don’t have someone next to you to converse with all the time.

How have your interactions been with students and faculty in the House?

Yes! It’s been great. It’s like a new cool feature. You get to meet some really cool, interesting people of different backgrounds. People come from different places. In my everyday life, I wouldn’t run into a Ph.D. mathematician, so it’s great to have such exposure.

What’s been the most surprising thing you have seen since you have been here?

I haven’t gone to housemeetings yet, but it’s the sense of community between such a diverse set of people. I guess, it shouldn’t be so surprising, but at the same time it’s like “Wow!, it’s pretty cool.” For example, there was somebody who got hurt last semester. They were in a bike accident. And the way that people kind of showed up, and coordinated, so that somebody would be there to visit all the time. It’s just really cool to see how people clicked really quickly. I mean this was their first semester living here, and people were that supportive.

What do you do for fun, outside of your work life?

(Laughing) I have two little kids! That’s all we do right now. I have a two year old, and my son is about to be three. They keep us super busy. It’s a 24x7 thing but it’s also a lot of fun too. We do a garden in the backyard, teach them how that works, and there is a really nice park by the house where we go. We bought a house last year, so we are kind of putting our touches on that.

You have lived and worked in different places in Michigan. What has your experience been like?

I’ve been in Michigan all my life. I grew up in a suburb of Detroit that was very homogenous and boring. And I didn’t know or realize that, until I got out of there and went away to college. I lived in Kalamazoo, and then Lansing. And then I worked in southwest Detroit for 7 years at the Head Start. So the first and second half of my life are a paradox, in a good way. Lansing is where I came from but not a place as diverse as Ypsi (Ypsilanti) is. Ypsi is diverse, and there is a lot of cool food, culture and it’s near Ann Arbor which obviously has a lot of cool art and music, and food. I really like it in Ypsi. I have two little kids, and it’s a really good place to have a family. Yeah, it feels like home.

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What’s been the most important lesson you’ve learned working with a diverse group of students, working offsite, or working on the phone all the time?

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What are you passionate about?
I’ve always been passionate about eating food. It wasn’t necessarily a hobby, or an interest or a work thing until I started working around it. In Lansing, and again in Ypsi, I worked around folks who grew food, and I learned a lot about growing my own food. I realized that I could now walk through a field or a garden and identify a bunch of stuff that’s growing there, which is like a whole different world than just picking something up at the store. Also teaching that to my kids. Like saying “Hey! that carrot you’re eating, it’s right from the backyard.” Getting more familiar with the local food movement, slow food, food justice, what they mean for our environment and the bigger global picture too.

Do you think you can bring those ideas to the House or maybe the Association, regarding food?
Actually, I would love to see a garden on-site here. I don’t think it’s a super student-engaging activity because they have a lot going on and it’s not what they are looking for. But I think it will be pretty cool to have our own veggies sourced right here, to reduce our carbon footprint, and think about what those impacts look like. Plus local fresh food, right out of your backyard is just the best food there is.

What are you looking forward to in the next few months?
I think I’m looking forward to having gotten through one full school year and seeing how the student group gets through that. To me, it’s just starting to feel like I’m getting into the cycle of things, and I plan to stick around for a while, so this is just getting into the first year. Some of these students are getting ready to graduate and be done, or finish one out of four or five years of schooling. So after this semester there are going to be new faces, and I will no longer be the new person. And I’ll know a little more about the House than some of the new folks. It will be interesting.

Are you excited about Convention?
Nervously excited. I really want to make a good impression. I’m kind of focused on doing that.

Is there something else you would like to say to our readers?
I would just add that it’s really great to be here. The staff has been very supportive. I couldn’t have asked for more helpful team members. It’s been really fun and interesting getting to know the members I have met too. I’m happy to be here.

Deep Springs Starts Presidential Search

Deep Springs College has started its search for a new President to succeed David Neidorf, who is leaving after 11 years. The new President is expected to start in the summer of 2020. For more information, please visit https://www.deepsprings.edu/search-for-the-next-president/.

Virtual Midventions were held on November 10, 2018 and March 9, 2019. Illustration by Marina Tinone
Branchers Turn a New Leaf

This year’s crop of departing Cornell and Michigan branchmembers are wrapping up their studies and making plans for lives without housemeetings, Pubspeaks, and looming paper deadlines. Here’s what our accomplished graduates are planning next.

**MARINA CHANG CB15 (above)**
After spending summer at home in Maryland with my family, I plan to start a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at Stanford in the fall. I have been a part of the Big Red Marching Band as a flute player for 4 years, and a member of the Cornell Concrete Canoe project team as a Mix Team member for 4 years. For the past 2 years, I have been the Outreach Co-Chair of Cornell Materials Science, encouraging interest in the field of Materials Science and Engineering. During my senior year, I conducted research in bio-inspired crystallization for my senior thesis project.

**EHAB EBEID CB15 (above)**
I will be pursuing graduate studies in city planning and transportation at MIT.

**KRYS TAL Z WIES NEYI CHINDORI-CHININGA CB18**
With the ultimate goal of attaining an MBA, Krystal is debating between accepting a deferred admission offer from Stanford Business School that would allow her to complete a one-year Masters of Professional Studies in Agricultural Development at Cornell and work for a year before enrolling at Stanford with the class of 2021, or accepting an offer from UC Berkeley’s Haas Business School for a 2019 enrollment. In an MPS in Agricultural Development program, Krystal would accept an offer to continue her current impact evaluation consultancy work with the Episcopal Relief and Development Agency, the largest non-governmental development agency in Africa. After business school she aims to work in agribusiness consultancy in emerging markets, most likely in Southern or Eastern Africa, and eventually work in policy in Zimbabwe, where she is from.

Krystal is the only undergraduate in the history of the Dyson School of Management Emerging Markets consulting program to have led one of the consulting teams (she consulted for a strawberry business in Durban, South Africa). Also, she is the only undergraduate to be selected out of a pool of international applicants for the United Nations High Level Panel of Experts Agroecology Research Team.

**JOAQUIN BRITO, JR CB17 TA18**
As of now, I have no concrete plans.

**LAMA SHEHADEH CB17 (above)**
This semester I will finish writing my research about the Israeli water management system as a project of control over nature, space, and people. After graduation, I will work on translating my study to be published as a book by “Masarat - The Palestinian Center for Policy Research & Strategic Studies.” And, meanwhile, I’m looking for jobs.

**BRIANNA MAE MIMS SS13 CB17**
My plan is to either attend graduate school at the University of Michigan’s Frontiers Master’s Program (for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) or take a gap year instead.

At Cornell, I’ve been part of Cornell Women’s Rugby Football Club for 4 years, part of Cornell’s Speech Team for 3, and a member of the Cornell Herpetological Society for 2 years. My favorite classes include BioG 1250 Sharks Seminar, BioEE 1780, Native American Literature, and Native American Poetry of Resistance.

**SAMIR SALIH CB16**
I will be working in New York City in the Upper East Side.

**DELMAR FEARS CB17**
I will be attempting to become a full-time actress in Chicago.

I was Co-President of Black Students United and dedicated three years to the organization. I also studied abroad in Tunisia and Italy.

**AIXA MARCHAND MB17 (above)**
Aixa will be headed down south to Memphis, Tennessee this summer. She will be a tenure-track assistant professor at Rhodes College. Currently, finishing up her Ph.D. in Education and Psychology, Aixa is excited to be at an institution where she can teach, mentor undergraduates, and continue to conduct research.
ROBERT M. WALKER MB15

Upon receipt of my Ph.D. degree in pure mathematics, I will be a newly-minted postdoctoral mathematics researcher during the 2019-23 academic period starting August 2019, of which three will be spent at UW-Madison as an NSF Postdoctoral Fellow and Van Vleck Visiting Assistant Professor, though in 2020-21 I will be on approved leave of absence from Madison, Wisconsin to be appointed a visiting postdoctoral member of the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey (that’s right, the same one where Albert Einstein worked almost a century ago!)

MAKENZIE THELEN MB17 will be starting clinical rotations full-time in May as a part of her last year of her Doctor of Pharmacy program. For the next year, she will be splitting her time between Ann Arbor, Lansing, and Grand Rapids to finish her education across varying health systems. She graduates April 25, 2020 (not that she’s counting down or anything).

RAGHAV REDDY MB17 plans to defend his Ph.D. over the summer and wrap up at the University of Michigan by the start of the fall 2019 term. Post-graduation he intends to take a sabbatical/gap year in order to travel, spend time with family in India and pursue hobbies that have taken a back seat. After this break he plans to work on drinking water and sanitation issues in India.

Are you a writer, artist, or poet? Share your work with your fellow Telluriders in a future Newsletter!

Send your submissions to news@tellurideassociation.org

From an upcoming zine by Amel Omari MB12 TA14
Nunnians Convene in Ann Arbor
By Pablo Uribe DS12

In early February, just as a bitter cold spell started to break, we brought the heat to Ann Arbor, where MBTA graciously hosted the second annual “Nunnian Summit” weekend. This year representatives from Deep Springs College, the Arete Project, and Cornell and Michigan Branches of the Association were joined by members of three newer organizations—Outer Coast College, Thoreau College, and Lamplight summer program, on whose behalf I am writing this. The weekend offered us all a chance to learn more about each other’s organizations, hear about areas of mutual excitement and concern, and brainstorm avenues of future collaboration and support. As a Deep Springs alum (DS12) and a former TASP factotum (2015), I have always been motivated by a desire to deepen and spread what I found most meaningful about Nunnian education. So when Daniel Waid Marshall CB12 first approached me at the 2017 TA Convention and described an early vision for a summer program based on principles of self-governance, group-learning, and community engagement, it didn’t take much convincing.

Two long years later, Lamplight is only a few months away from running our pilot program this summer! Let me tell you more about it before I return to the weekend’s proceedings. Lamplight is a free three-week summer program for that teaches civics and leadership skills to high school students in North Alabama. We’re lucky to be able to host the program at the edge of Guntersville Lake on land that’s been in Daniel’s family for generations. There, through a process of storytelling, on-the-ground research, and guided analysis, students will take on a project together that requires them to become effective problem-solvers and conscientious citizens. The project for the first summer is simple: the students will outline a vision for a Cooperative Education Center, which will eventually host year-round programs that serve the people of Marshall County (and beyond) on the property. At the end of the program, they will present this vision to family and community members. The group project will be the core of the summer’s work, but of course a lot of learning will happen outside the structured project time. Picture students taking turns helping with lunch clean-up, or building garden beds they can tend to throughout the year, or putting together an impromptu open mic on the porch when the sun starts to set. This kind of work will strengthen the community bonds between the program participants and give them a taste of the kind of pleasure and power possible in the cooperative education center they are tasked with envisioning.

Back to the weekend. To open the day’s agenda Outer Coast led a provocative “pre-mortem” session. As the name suggests, we took turns identifying the most likely possible reasons for failure for each of the nascent Nunnian institutions. Few things are as gratifying as the critical eye of people whom you trust and who support you. Following that, folks at Thoreau College asked us to get a little metaphysical, posing the question of and practice self-governance. The questions and topics brought up by the sessions were relevant for us at Lamplight in considering our pedagogy and purpose. How do we create a vibrant and engaged internal community in a few short weeks that also is directed outward towards meaningful community projects and involvement that have a life outside and beyond the program?

Taken together these discussion sessions were thought-provoking, inspiring even—hearing about our varied and bold commitment to providing transformative educational experiences to our students. As the only organization represented that hasn’t run a version of their program yet, we benefited tremendously from hearing about others experience with the brass tacks logistics of running a program—questions about liability, health and safety, running programs for minors, etc.—not terribly exciting stuff to recount here, but vital to the successful launch of our program this summer. To close the weekend’s work, we discussed different ways of continuing to support each other organizationally. Simple things, like cross-advertising each other on our websites and making sure we make our students/alums are aware of this network of programs. And more ambitious ideas too, like a future Nunnian Summit of recent and current program participants.

Though our programs differ—some are brand new, others long-running; some are for high schoolers, others for college students; some are summer-length, others years long—we all left the weekend energized by our mutual support and eager to hear about how our programs will continue to develop and grow into themselves.
TASS and TASP Set for Summer

This year’s eight summer seminars are set, and as we go to press, we’re waiting for the final selection of their participants.

The applications side of Telluride’s summer programs truly touch every corner of the TA community, from staff handling the enormous logistics of nearly 2,000 applications; to branchmembers and TA members reading those applications, setting policy, selecting seminars and participants, and evaluating programs; and to alumni (over 236 volunteers) handling 234 interviews this year. We couldn’t do it without all of you! Here’s what the latest generation of TASSers and TASPers will be studying this summer:

**Cornell TASS**

Blackness Remixed: Genre and Adaptation in Contemporary Literature, Music, and Film  
Faculty: LaMonda Horton-Stallings, University of Maryland, College Park, and Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Bryn Mawr College

Black Feminist Thought  
Faculty: Ashley R. Hall and Nia Michelle Nunn, Ithaca College

**Michigan TASS**

Black Movements  
Faculty: Gabriel Allen Peoples, Indiana University and Aaron C. Allen, Roger Williams University

Reconceptualizing Black Geographies: The Politics of Race, Space, and Home  
Faculty: Tashal Brown, College of Education, Michigan State University and Lauren Elizabeth Reine Johnson, College of Education, Michigan State University

**Cornell TASP**

Negative Capability in Art and Culture: Romanticism to the Present  
Faculty: Justin Kim, Smith College and Deep Springs College, and Charles V. Grimes, University of North Carolina Wilmington

Freedom Summer  
Faculty: La TaSha Levy, University of Washington, and Nicole Burrowes, University of Texas at Austin

**Maryland TASP**

Constructing Gender in Popular Japanese Culture  
Faculty: Michele M. Mason, University of Maryland, and Lindsay Amthor Yotsukura, University of Maryland

**Michigan TASP**

Poetry and Identity  
Faculty: Robert Bruno, University of Michigan, and Suzi Garcia, Independent Scholar

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Stay Current with the Telluride Blog

Telluride’s blog remains a great place for news, thoughts, memories and creative pieces in between Newsletter issues. Recent entries include:

- a Nunnian lunar feature (quite literally)
- perspectives from recent participants in Telluride’s unique, member-led investment Custodians Committee meetings
- everything you wanted to know about Cornell Branch’s “Wee Stinky” glen
- threats to the freedom of education at the Central European University in Hungary, one of Telluride’s partner institutions.

We’d love to feature your work!  
Visit the blog at [www.tellurideassociation.org/blog](http://www.tellurideassociation.org/blog)  
Send your contributions to news@tellurideassociation.org
1930s
We were delighted to hear during the holidays from EDWIN CRONK, DS36 CB39 TA39, who at 100 we suspect may be the senior alum in Telluride’s ranks. Ed’s Nunnian service includes Director of Deep Springs College from 1976-80. Ed had a long career in the Foreign Service, including serving as the United States Ambassador to Singapore from 1972-1975.

1940s
Cornell University Press has just published WILLIAM VANDEN HEUVEL’s, DS46 CB48 TA48, newest book, Hope and History: A Memoir of Tumultuous Times.

JERALD STEISEL, CB48, writes that he is still practicing psychiatry and psychoanalysis in sunny Scottsdale, AZ. His wife has two Masters degrees and practices psychotherapy. She is one of the founders of psychoeducational therapy. He is the father of three daughters and 5 grandchildren. Among his daughters is one Ph.D., one ABD, and three Masters degrees.

1950s
RODNEY MASON, CB56, writes “For those who haven’t heard from me in a few decades, I finished my Ph.D. at Cornell in 1964, spent a Fulbright year in Germany in 1965 and two years as a Postdoctoral Fellow at MIT in 1966 and 1967. Then I worked at Bell Labs, Whippany until 1972. I married Caroline Pearce, a Ph.D. chemist from Britain in 1969. We have two children in their 40s, who greatly enjoy horses. We went on to work at the Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1972-2005, and thereafter founded and supported my computational modeling firm, the Research Applications Group, until 2017. At Los Alamos, I became a Deputy Group Leader and pursued simulations toward the eventual success of laser fusion. I was made a fellow of the APS in 1982 and won Distinguished Performance Awards at both Los Alamos and Livermore. Telluride, CO is only 6 hours to the north. Say hello to me at rodmason01@msn.com.”

1960s
When last we heard from FRED SOKOLOW, SP62, it was to tell us of his Bay area psychedelic rock band, Notes from the Underground. Fifty years later, we’ve gotten back in touch and have the following update:

I am best known as the author of a library of instructional books and DVDs for ukulele, guitar, banjo, Dobro, mandolin and lap steel. There are currently over a hundred and fifty of my books or DVDs in print, sold all over the world. I have long been a well-known West Coast multi-string performer and recording artist, particularly on the acoustic music scene. I’ve led bluegrass, jazz and rock bands and have been sideman for musical luminaries like Bobbie Gentry, Jim Stafford, Tom Paxton, Jerry Garcia, Jody Stecher, The Limeliters and Ian Whitcomb.

Fred is active on the studio scene, playing on other people’s albums and on numerous TV and movie soundtracks. He relishes the diversity of his portfolio: he played lap steel on the Tonight Show, mandolin on Rick James’ last CD, played Dobro with Chubby Checker and won on the Gong Show (playing bluegrass banjo), jammed at the House of Blues with Junior Brown...and he holds the title of official banjo player for the TV show Survivor. A renowned teacher, he has performed and taught at numerous ukulele, banjo and guitar camps and festivals all over the US and in England and Ireland. His “Fretboard Roadmaps” series is an international best-seller. Fred continues to perform and create instructional material, and is regarded as an authority on many musical genres, particularly what is now called “Americana.”

FRANCIS FUKUYAMA, SP69 CB70 TA71, and former Georgia gubernatorial candidate STACEY ABRAMS, SP90, carried on a spirited exchange in the pages of the March/April 2019 issue of Foreign Affairs on the issue of identity politics and Fukuyama’s new book, Identity: The Demand for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment.

Canine lovers should check out The Sport of Schutzhund by BJ and PETER SPANOS, SP65. “This award-winning, stunningly crafted, soft cover, coffee table size photographic essay is the first and only photographic book that comprehensively depicts all phases of this popular working dog sport”—Amazon.

1970s
MAUREEN GRAVES, SP73, is the founder of a luxury travel company, Tokyo Way, offering fully customized trips to Japan, emphasizing deep access to Japan’s cultural richness. He says, please come visit!

HOWARD RODMAN’s, SP66, newest book, The Great Eastern, is available for preorder. It’s described as a “sprawling, lavish anticolonial adventure, set in New York, London, Paris, India, and the North Atlantic in the late 1800s.” Rodman is Past President of the Writers Guild of America West, and author of Destiny Express, which Thomas Pynchon described as “daringly imagined, darkly romantic.”

MAUREEN GRAVES, SP74 CB75 TA77, writes “I am still representing students with disabilities against school districts, though it is getting a lot harder with changes in the judiciary. Husband Ken [Pomeranz SP75 CB76 TA78] won the “past” prize from the Dan David Foundation, for his work in Chinese and world history, and was elected to the British Academy last year. Our son Jesse is working at an urban farm and a grocery store, and David graduated from Roosevelt with a degree in environmental sustainability and a minor in Spanish, is volunteering at the Shedd Aquarium and Field Museum of Natural History, and is looking forward to starting a job at Wrigley Field.”

CARL KAY, SP73, is the founder of a luxury travel company, Tokyo Way, offering fully customized trips to Japan, emphasizing deep access to Japan’s cultural richness. He says, please come visit!
MARINA HSIEH, SP77, is currently chair of the Deep Springs College Board of Trustees.

1980s

KEVIN MCCARTHY’s, SP81 CB82 TA84, first documentary film TransGeek: The Intersection of Gender Identity and Geek Culture, is touring festivals, and being shown in community screenings around the world. TransGeek brings together the stories of transgender people working in the tech industry and existing within geek culture. He is looking forward to a general release of the film in May or June.

PETER ROCK, DS86, has a new “autobiographical novel” coming out in March, titled The Night Swimmers. “Haunting, elegiac . . . the book’s moody sense of hidden depths and dangers will intrigue those open to an atmospheric and contemplative novel,” says Publisher’s Weekly. Peter is the author of nine previous works of fiction, including My Abandonment, which won the Alex Award and was adapted into the film Leave No Trace, directed by Debra Granik (Winter’s Bone). He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and is a professor of creative writing at Reed College.

EULONDA SKYLES, SP87 CB88 TA90, has joined the law firm of BakerHostetler, focusing on privacy and data protection issues.

DAVE HITZ, DS80, has retired from (and been named Founder Emeritus of), NetApp, the company he started in 1992.

1990s

ALISON ROXBY, SP90, writes, “I am an Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases in the medical school at the University of Washington. I teach students, take care of a panel of patients living with HIV, prescribe PrEP, and do epidemiology research in Kenya on sexually transmitted infections in adolescents.”

AMINA OMARI, SP98 CB99 TA02, has been appointed founding director of the Food Processing Business Incubation Program (FPBIP). The organization is a technical support program for the Finger Lakes food and beverage manufacturing sector.

Continuing on the theme of Telluriders and animals (See Spanos, p. 12), your editor came across an interesting and uplifting story involving DANIEL BARNARD, DS92 CB94 TA95, and a donkey, as recounted in Smoke the Donkey: A Marine’s Unlikely Friend (Cate Folsom, Potomac Books, 2016). Check it out.

2000s

KATERINA GONZALEZ SELIGMANN’S, SP00, translation of Legna Rodríguez Iglesias’s poetry is now available from Cardboard House Press. Iglesias is an award-winning Cuban poet, playwright and short story writer known for her absurdist humor and playful perverse observations on contemporary Cuba and its diaspora, as well as with experiments and narrative poetry.

JAMES TURNER, SPF02, founding director of the Africana Studies Research Center at Cornell, was honored for his role in the Black student movement and the development of Africana studies at Cornell at a symposium in April marking the 50th anniversary of the Willard Straight Hall takeover.

MARTIN GEIGER, SP06 CB07, was ordained an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Missouri in December 2018.

ANDREW KIM, DS00, was elected to Congress from New Jersey’s Third Congressional District last November. He joins a distinguished list of former Deep Springs/Telluride members of Congress, including James Olin DS38 CB41 TA41, Paul Todd CB39 TA40, and Barber Conable CB46 TA47.

2010s

ASIA ALMAN, SS11, is working at The Greenlining Institute in Oakland, CA. The Institute advocates for equitable policies that promote economic and racial equity for communities of color and low-income communities in California.

RICK PENG, CB12, writes, “On December 15, 2018, NANCY ELSHAMI, CB14, and I got married! The wedding was held at Belhurst Castle in Geneva, NY and included a handful of our CBTA friends. Nancy and I first met at CBTA in 2012. During our time in the house together, we were close friends and even served on AdCom together for a semester. We certainly have Telluride to thank for creating a place where we could meet and develop a deeper relationship with not only each other, but also with the lifelong friends who were a part of the CBTA community.”

Sarah Asman, Jason Pfeiffer, and Malcom.
AMARI LEIGH, SS14, has been named a 2018 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, a Boston-based nonprofit working to advance the public purposes of higher education. Leigh is an undergraduate at Hamilton College where she is active in a number of community-based initiatives. In 2017 she was a student ambassador for the United Nations Foundation. She is also a professionally trained actor, appearing in Tony Award-winning Broadway and off-Broadway productions.

KRESS STEWART, SS16 SP17, was accidentally omitted from the College Choice survey in the Fall 2018 Newsletter. He is attending Vanderbilt University.

KAI DeJESUS, SP18, reports that he is focusing most of his efforts on a senior thesis about gender constructs in Western society, while trying to balance Taekwondo and guitar competition along with working as a tutor. He’s thankful to have also been accepted early to Harvard, and just waiting on regular decisions from some other universities.

SALOMÉE LEVY, SS18, is the winner of the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award, a student leadership award from the National World War II Museum to honor one student leader from each state. She will be going to New Orleans in late May to receive this award.

IN MEMORIAM

ANTHONY D’AMATO, CB55, passed away March 24th, 2018. D’Amato retired from the Northwestern Pritzker Law School in 2015 after 37 years of teaching and research, where he was the Judd and Mary Morris Leighton Professor of Law with a focus in ethics and human rights. D’Amato had a long and storied career and was the first American lawyer to argue (and win) a case before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. He litigated a number of human rights cases around the world and was a prolific writer, publishing countless books and articles. His first book, “The Concept of Custom in International Law,” was published in 1971 and is one of the most cited works in the field. D’Amato’s passion for theater and music also benefited the Law School. At faculty law review dinners, he played the piano and led the faculty to its most “professional and engaging performances,” recalled David Ruder, former dean of the Law School. This passion also led to D’Amato’s involvement as a producer of the musical “Grease” in its original run in Chicago in the 1970s and its subsequent run on Broadway. Before joining the Law School in 1968, D’Amato was a professor of political science at Wellesley College from 1963-1966. While an undergrad at Wellesley, Hillary Clinton, who later went on to become the Democratic nominee for President, served as one of his student researchers. —Northwestern Now, April 6, 2018.

CAROL DEFOREST LOCKE-ENDY, CB61, died of cancer on May 23, 2018. Carol was one of the first women who gained “partial preferment” at Cornell Branch in the early 1960s, and went on to earn a B.A. and M.A. in English from Cornell. Later, she succeeded Bea MacLeod as Telluride’s Executive Secretary from 1961-1983 and successfully led Telluride in transitioning to the “post-Bea” era. Carol served two years in the Peace Corps in the mid-1960s and had a long career as a higher education administrator, including positions at Brown, Hamilton, Colgate, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland. She was a strong advocate for liberal arts education and in particular experiential education.

HAROLD LEVY, CB74 TA75, passed away November 27, 2018 at the age of 65, after two years of battling ALS ("Lou Gehrig’s Disease"). Harold came to Cornell Branch “from the Hill.”
His Telluride tenure included a two-year stay at Oxford as a Telluride Lincoln Scholar and active service on numerous Telluride committees in the '70s and early '80s.

Harold’s post-Telluride career was marked by great success in both the private and public sectors, first as a corporate attorney, venture capital investor and as a manager in the financial services industry. He then moved to distinguished public service in educational administration, policy, and reform, with a particular interest in increasing access to higher education for high achieving, low income students. He served as Chancellor of the New York City Public School System from 2000 to 2002. In 2014, he became Executive Director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, which offers among the largest scholarships in the United States, where he focused on increasing the access of financially disadvantaged students to college education. During his tenure, the Foundation supported Telluride with an annual grant of $50,000 to increase its recruitment and support of such students to TASS and TASP. He was a frequent and passionate contributor to the public sphere debate on educational reform and a fierce advocate for public education.

Harold made a striking impression on all he met, including his fellow Telluriders from the mid to late 1970s. Kathy Maus, SP72 CB73 TA75, recalls, “He was warm, hilarious, and intellectually voracious, with a talent even then for devising pragmatically effective policies in the service of idealistic goals. In the 1980s and 90s Harold earned his living as a high-powered lawyer on Wall Street, and he never concealed how much he enjoyed the perquisites of wealth. Still, he remained acutely aware of his origins as the son of Holocaust refugees who came to the US destitute. And he also knew that his success would not have been possible without the excellent education he received at the Bronx High School of Science and as a scholarship student at Cornell and Oxford.”

Another CBTA housemate, Lilian Stern, SP75 CB76 TA78, writes “Harold was the ultimate connector, happy to draw on his wide acquaintances – especially in New York – to join the mutual interests of all his contacts together, which of course had the effect of further strengthening the web around him…I will always remember him as principled, opinionated and yet, or maybe because of those, also magnetic and supportive.”

Maureen Graves SP74 CB75 TA77 writes: “When I found out about Harold’s illness…song lyrics came into my head, and for someone who had headed the NYC Board of Education, Leonard Cohen’s “First We Take Manhattan” was on the playlist. But Harold did not seem ever to experience boredom trying to change the system from within. He displayed analytic thinking, engagement, kindness, and optimism as he moved from one important role to another.”

Ken Pomeranz SP75 CB76 TA78 recalls: “Harold brought to that House an unusual and engaging combination of unusual gravitas – he was a student trustee, quoted often enough in the Cornell Daily Sun that “… said Harold O. Levy, Law ’79” seemed like a single word – with appropriate amounts of goofiness; he took political and intellectual issues seriously, but never took himself too seriously. He particularly loved talking about politics and, not surprisingly, law, and enjoyed taking contrary positions – but he did so in a spirit of joint exploration, not to prove he could or score points.”

Harold’s widow, Patricia Sapinsley, writes: “Harold was simply the best that humanity has to offer. He was a scholar and a sweetheart and an enormously cheerful person, whose happiness bathed those around him…Unbelievably, he faced his horrific diagnosis with his characteristic good cheer. He was kind and patient throughout the ordeal of losing his ability to communicate and to move. He was a model of grace and dignity until the very end.”

Harold was honored by New York City in June 2018, with the naming of his former middle school, IS 52 in Inwood, as the Harold O. Levy School. A two-hour event honoring Harold, which he was able to attend, was held last April at CUNY, and can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/MNWdZr-iSX8.

Harold is survived by his wife, Patricia Sapinsley, and children Hannah and Noah Levy.

CHRIS BLANCHARD, DS90, passed away October 28, 2018. Chris was preferred to CBTA and offered Telluride’s Mossner Memorial Award, but ended up declining. After Deep Springs, Chris devoted himself to the organic farming community, first on his own farm in northeastern Iowa, and then in consultancy work. In recent years, Chris produced a podcast of interviews with small-scale growers around the country called Farmer.

DAVID SOSKIN, SP93, passed away on June 6, 2018, while recovering from brain tumor surgery and courageously battling depression. David received his M.D. from Harvard and was the author of numerous articles and books on psychiatry. Prior to his death, he served for three years as the Medical Director of the Behavioral Health Department in Monterey County, California.
All Your News That Fits We’ll Print

Your friends and Telluride associates are interested in what has become of you. Send us information about your recent travels and adventures, honors and awards, books or papers published, promotions or job changes, and family news for Newsletter publication.

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