

IMPACT



AMBROSE  
UNIVERSITY



# IMPACT REPORT

Ambrose University  
2019/2020

## MISSION

Ambrose prepares men and women for wise, joyful, and redemptive engagement in the church, society, and the created order through excellent Christian post-secondary education.

## VISION

Ambrose is a community of transformative Christian higher education — with a vision for the welfare of our city and our world.

## VALUES

**Faith in Action:** We seek to live lives devoted to serving Christ and pursuing His will with bold confidence in His sovereign power and purposes.

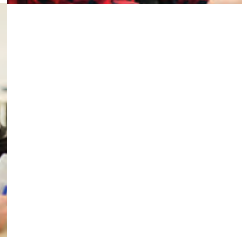
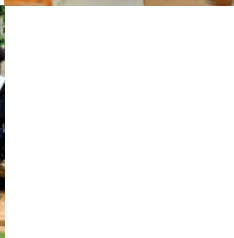
**Holiness:** We are committed to the pursuit of a personal and corporate lifestyle that is worthy of the holiness of God and made possible by His indwelling Spirit.

**Community:** We learn within a hospitable and biblically based community oriented around corporate worship.

**Service:** We provide humble and compassionate service to people in Christ's name.

**Excellence:** We pursue and demonstrate best practices and act with excellence in all that we do.

**Accountability:** We embrace the biblical stewardship of life and resources.



# GIVING THANKS

## We could not do this without you

Earlier this fall I had a conversation by video conference with one of our recent seminary grads; she is now a pastor of a congregation in Ontario. I was so struck and moved by her story — the story of what brought her to Ambrose University and Seminary but also her words of thanks for what her education at Ambrose had meant to her. It was such a good way to start that day — with her words of enthusiasm and thanks.



Throughout that day I was reminded often that it took the contributions and investments of so many to make all this happen. Faculty, of course. Dedicated staff. Our wise and supportive Board of Governors. And so many more — not least, of course, our many supporters who have so generously invested in the lives of our students through their contributions to the life and mission of this university. And so we say ‘thank you.’ Thank you for your partnership with us in this work; we could not do this without you. Thank you for caring for our students and believing in their potential.

Education is a gift. Student tuition payments contribute to the whole, but still, it is gift. Thus we are hopefully all learning what it means to go through life and work and ministry with gratitude to God at the very heart of our lives — that we turn from a propensity to complain and, the pattern of our hearts and minds, give thanks.

As I write these words, there are so many reasons why we might complain [just a little!] . . . given all the limitations and restrictions that have come with doing higher education during a pandemic. And yet, if we have eyes to see, there are so many indicators of the goodness of God. There is the gracious capacity of our faculty and staff to make the adjustments needed to continue the work to which we are called, even in the pandemic. Then also, I have been struck by how the students are consistently following the pandemic guidelines — masks and all — with good cheer. I am grateful for the encouragement, the support and the prayers from those that we call “the friends of Ambrose.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon T. Smith'.

**Gordon T. Smith**

*President*

## Board of Governors

**Debi Mills (Chair)**

Businessperson,  
Stony Plain, AB

**Wayne Bernakevitch  
(Vice Chair)**

Lawyer,  
Regina, SK

**Rev. Keith Taylor  
(Secretary)**

Senior Pastor,  
Beulah Alliance Church,  
Edmonton, AB

**Lawrence Stalder**

Businessperson,  
Calgary, AB

**Rev. David Hearn**

President, The Christian  
and Missionary Alliance  
(C&MA) Canada

**Calvin Buss**

Businessperson,  
Vancouver, BC

**Rev. Ian Fitzpatrick**

National Director,  
Church of the Nazarene  
in Canada, Toronto, ON

**Delrose Laxton**

Office Manager,  
Calgary, AB

**Rev. Dr. Errol Rempel**

District Superintendent,  
Canadian Pacific District  
of The C&MA Canada

**Larry Koop**

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**Kenneth Stankievehc**

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Calgary, AB

**Ruth Copland-Holtz**

Businessperson,  
Toronto, ON

**Rev. Genghis Chan**

Lead Pastor, South  
Edmonton Alliance  
Church, Edmonton, AB

**Dale Meister**

Businessperson,  
Calgary, AB

# FAITH AND LEARNING IN ACTION

As I prepare to graduate this year, I will always take with me deep gratitude for Ambrose. Something I will take with me as I move forward is the confidence instilled in me from professors, friends, and mentors. As a music student, my coaches, professors, and peers have encouraged me throughout my time at Ambrose. Through their encouragement and help I have learned how to see the best of myself and how to believe in the God-given gifts I have received. In this same way, it has taught me the value and importance of encouragement. Ambrose is a place of celebrating people's gifts and helping them grow and flourish in those gifts and I feel blessed to have received education in such a positive environment that pushes you for excellence.

Brenna Bazinet  
Bachelor of Music  
5th year



# 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

## COVID-19 Campaign Update

Through the generous support of our community, Ambrose was able to raise \$450,000 through our IT Upgrade campaign. This fundraising goal was met sooner than expected with the help of a generous donor who agreed to match up to half of our \$450,000 goal. More than 130 people gave to this vital campaign which allows us to make significant improvements to our IT infrastructure. The need became increasingly apparent as we transitioned to online delivery during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to this fundraising effort Ambrose is strengthened going forward, not only in the immediate future shaped by the pandemic but in the years to come as we expand our course delivery options and reach new students through online instruction.



## Mask Campaign

The mask campaign began earlier this summer, as we asked our community to help us supply each student with five masks each for the start of the school year. Thank you to everyone who sewed a mask and helped us spread the word. As of September 23, we received 3711 masks. During the first week of classes, students received a bag of five reusable masks with a note that shared how each mask was made with love and prayer because you were thinking of them. Students are still coming in to pick up masks with the semester underway, and are continuously amazed by the generosity and creativity of those who donated the masks. To see so many people rally behind our students as we all try to manage the changes that COVID-19 has brought is exciting. We cannot express how thankful we are for your generous gift.



## Jespersen Cafeteria

Ten years ago the extended Jespersen family came together and committed to a major fundraising campaign to name the food court at Ambrose University. Having reached their goal, construction on the new cafeteria was completed as Ambrose re-opened for the fall semester. The cafeteria will be named the Jespersen Food Court in their honour. Many from the family attended Canadian Bible College, and successive generations of children and grand children have attended the seminary and Ambrose University. Every few years the family holds a reunion and, as gathering around a table and breaking bread together is a key element of their time together, the food court was a natural focus for their fundraising efforts.

Thank you to the Jespersen clan for your tremendous commitment to Christian higher education, and for your recognition that having a warm, welcoming space to build community is an essential part of the student experience. Read the full story about how this fundraising effort began in the *2018-2019 Impact Report*, available on our website.



# 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

## Finish Free Endowment

In January 2020, Ambrose was pleased to establish a one million dollar endowment which led to the creation of the *Rev. Professor Sing-Yui King Legacy Trust Endowment Fund*. This endowment carries on and provides continuing funding for the Finish Free program for Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students. The impact and value of the Finish Free program cannot be overstated. M.Div. graduates frequently head into ministry with significant debt loads. Ambrose believes that we can help those who need and want to pursue an M.Div. by removing at least some of the financial obstacles. This endowment fund has been established to provide for Finish Free in perpetuity, and Ambrose will no longer have to raise funds for it every year.

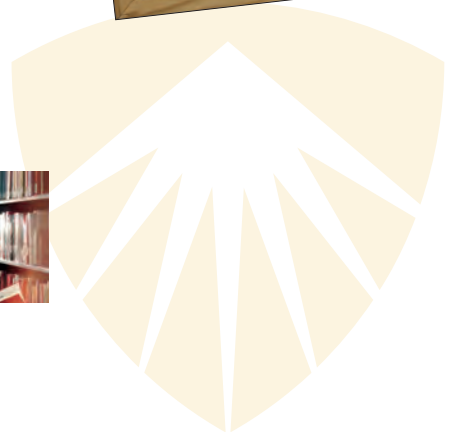


Read the full story in the spring 2020 edition of *Anthem*.

## The 50th Anniversary of Ambrose Seminary

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ambrose Seminary this year, we began our celebrations with alumni and friends in Richmond, British Columbia in early February. The plans to continue celebrating throughout the year were put on hold as many adapted to the new realities of the pandemic. The decision was made to host a virtual celebration of the seminary as we continue to find new ways to remain connected and celebrate occasions such as this.

On November 16, many alumni joined in over zoom as we heard from alumni, past faculty, our current Dean Dr. Jo Ann Badley and President Dr. Gordon T. Smith, and alumni from throughout the decades. The evening concluded with alumni from the different eras enjoying an opportunity to reconnect in virtual breakout rooms where stories could be heard and updates were made.



## Intercultural Development Inventory Training

Throughout August and September, The Jaffray Centre led nine group workshops debriefing the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) for the Ambrose staff, faculty, and student leaders. In total, 148 people completed the IDI assessment and many departments also requested individual reports and debriefs.

The IDI is an online assessment tool which identifies the common patterns and behaviors we each employ when interacting with those who are different from us. Unlike other tools, the IDI is developmental and does not look at personal characteristics or traits. Instead, it assesses the complexity with which one experiences cultural differences.

The IDI workshop introduced a few key elements of culture and its importance for understanding the other. The group debrief also unpacked the components of the IDI assessment, and each group was provided with their unique group profile.

Through self-awareness we begin to appreciate how cultural differences impact our behavior and our interactions with others. This awareness launches us on an ongoing journey towards greater cultural fluency as we become more attentive to the perspectives others bring to our lives and our work.

The campus wide initiative to lead the Ambrose staff, faculty, and student leaders through the IDI, provided a great foundation for conversations on the topics of culture, diversity, and inclusion on campus. The training has provided a common language and shared framework from which to approach these important topics across departments.



# GROWING COMMUNITY

Ambrose was one of the greatest and most formative experiences in preparing me for grad school, as well as a career in music performance and scholarship.

Joel Untinen  
Bachelor of Music  
2018





## Education Alumna Awarded Lieutenant Governor's Award

Earlier this year, Jon Wong (Bachelor of Education, 2020) was awarded the 2020 Lieutenant Governor's Social Studies Student Education Award. Each university in Alberta is able to nominate one of their students to participate in the panel. This year, six universities in Alberta sent nominees. Each nominee then must present a lesson on an Alberta or Canadian history topic of their choosing and present their work to a panel of educators. Jon was the first to state a land acknowledgement at the beginning of his presentation, which impressed the judges as there is a time limit on the presentation. Jon is grateful to the education program which continuously demonstrates the importance of recognizing and respecting the land and the history, and in doing so honours the reconciliation process and the people before us. Jon also stated that the judges appreciated how he was able to weave in Indigenous ways of learning and ensure that all types of learners were engaged in the lesson, whether they were visual learners or tactile learners. Jon was presented the award by Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor, and other dignitaries at a ceremony in August 2020. Now teaching grade 9 humanities and kindergarten through grade 4 physical education at Meadow Ridge School in Okotoks, Alberta, Jon is grateful to the education faculty who have continued to mentor him. When asked about his experience in the education program, Jon explained that "universities today talk about creating diversity in the program and in the classroom. Today, students and society expect that universities will do this. At Ambrose, they exceed these expectations. The program not only creates diversity in terms of gender and race, but embraces diversity in age, work experience, religion, physical abilities, and life skills. By doing this, Ambrose has created a diverse educational experience unlike any other program I have been part of."



## Discipleship in a Digital Age

Rev. Dr. Bryce Ashlin-Mayo (CBC, Bachelor of Theology, 1998) credits Ambrose with the extremely positive and formative season of his life, which prepared him for vocational ministry. Since graduating from Ambrose, Bryce has served in various pastoral positions with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), completed his masters and doctorate degrees, written several books and now teaches seasonally at Ambrose. As the lead pastor at Westlife Church, in Calgary, Alberta, Bryce has adapted to the pandemic and online ministry which happens to be the topic of his most recent book published earlier this year. *Digital Mission: A Practical Guide for Ministry Online* is designed as a theological and methodological exploration of online ministry with the specific goal of aiding the reader in creating an implementable online ministry strategy for a church or ministry. Bryce is passionate about seeing people equipped to use technology and social media to advance God's mission which is evidenced by his publications and the online services and resources offered at Westlife Church. Looking back, Bryce credits Ambrose with "being a fertile training ground that produced the fruit of needed skills, spiritual growth and character development. It provided the foundation and the ongoing appetite to continue to grow, mature and flourish in ministry."



## Growing Closer to God and to the Musical Traditions of Faith

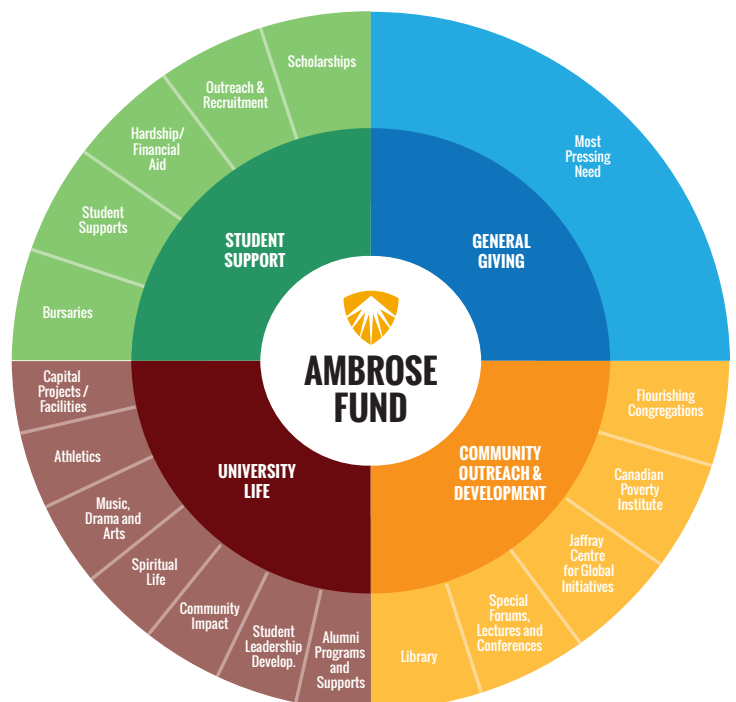
Joel Untinen graduated from the Bachelor of Music Program in 2018 and has recently graduated with a Master of Music degree from New York University. Upon graduation, Joel felt very well prepared for the next steps in education and career. The pace and rigour of the courses at Ambrose made for a smooth transition into graduate school. During his time at Ambrose, Joel made many connections with Ambrose professors, local musicians, and international musicians and scholars who had visited Ambrose. He still connects with these mentors as he pursues his career in music.



Now working as a jazz guitarist and music teacher in New York, Joel is planning to release his first album within the next year. Joel is also taking lessons in byzantine chant, which have helped him grow closer to God and to the musical traditions of his faith. Historically, Byzantine chant was used for ceremonies, festivals, and paraliturgical or liturgical music and consisted of songs and hymns composed to Greek texts.

Joel expressed that "my professors at Ambrose were some of the best teachers I've ever had, not only because they helped me to gain knowledge within my field, but also because they allowed space in my studies for me to freely think, speak, and discover. I was fortunate to have had the opportunities to take part in many university performances, in research conferences, and even in an independent research project on musical improvisation in Squamish B.C. with one of my favourite scholars."

**The Ambrose Fund helps to support the general operations of the University as well as entrance scholarships, program development and student support services such as mental health supports.**



# DONOR IMPACT

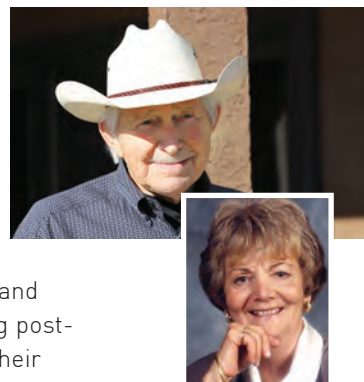
Learning at Ambrose equips students with strong, transferable intellectual and practical skills so they can apply knowledge and contribute to society from an explicitly Christian perspective.

Dr. Pam Nordstrom  
Provost & Senior  
Vice President,  
Academic



## Verna and Milton Willms

Wife, teacher, mother, daughter, and child of God. Verna and husband Milton began their alliance journey in 1967, attending Strathmore Alliance Church. Coming to Christ at fourteen, Verna became a teacher for a short time before beginning their family. Verna is described as a “prayer warrior, humble, patient, and someone quite special.” When Verna passed away in 2014, Milton set up a scholarship in her honour. The focus was to support students who participate in barrel racing. Just as important, Milton wanted to assist an academically driven student in pursuing higher education whilst in a Christian environment and feels it is more than valuable to engage in a Christian community during post-secondary education, allowing individuals to be equipped in solidifying their Christian beliefs. Through his giving, a classroom has been named after Verna, recognizing her dedication to her strong beliefs in education and her relationship with God. A classroom named after Verna would be creating a space for students to learn while affirming what they know in Christ. The room represents a passion for higher education. It marks a place where students can safely grow academically while serving God.



## Jay and Dianne O’Hara

Jay (CNC 1977) and Dianne O’Hara (CNC 1979) were both raised in Christian homes that valued Christian higher learning. For the O’Hara’s, they believe it is important for Christians to have a good understanding of what we believe and why we believe as we do. This is why they feel it is valuable to have committed, well-informed Christians in all walks of life, not only in places of church leadership and ministry. Both sets of their parents emphasized the importance of giving back, not just financially, but in time. The O’Hara’s have found enjoyment created in the golf tournament. Real giving is important, as well as time.

The O’Hara’s say “it may not always be that we will be able to do both simultaneously, but while we still can, we are pleased to support Ambrose. Alberta and Canada need Ambrose.” In addition to volunteering their time, the O’Hara’s support two scholarships. The first was set up by their mother to support the further education of Christian ministry and the second was set up to support arts and sciences students.



## Viola Gall

Viola Gall, of Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan, was a dedicated servant of the Lord’s work throughout her life. Upon her passing on August 30, 2018, at the age of 93, Viola left a legacy gift to Ambrose University. Viola was an active member of her church, volunteering in children’s ministry well into her 80s. Viola was also a teacher and a firm believer in Christian education. After graduating from high school in 1944, Viola taught school in Millbrook until 1946. A legacy gift to Ambrose ensures that Christian higher education is available for future generations.



## Michael and Rosario Ang: A Lifelong Legacy of Generosity

Michael and Rosario Ang have left an inspirational legacy for all that knew them. The Ang's never forgot their humble beginnings or their reliance on God. Over the years they were devoted supporters of God's work, particularly in the Philippines and in Canada.

Founding supporters of the Jaffray Centre for Global Initiatives, an institute of Ambrose University, Michael and Rosario's passion for Christian higher learning was spawned by their love of God and their desire to build into the lives of future generations of students. Rosario was quick to acknowledge that any success over the years can only be attributed to prayer and hard work, characteristics no doubt shaped on the anvil of the harsh edges of her early life. Subjected to the horrors of WWII, Rosario would say it was only through God's miraculous intervention that she and four of her siblings narrowly escaped with their lives. But in the process they tragically lost both their parents and five of the ten siblings.

For Michael the scarcity and difficulties of that era fueled within him a strong resolve to make something of himself. Following the war, he graduated with top honors in engineering at Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila. While still a freshman, an unassuming (recently evacuated) pastor from China shared the gospel with him and his journey of faith began.

Michael, Rosario and their five children left the Philippines in the early 1970s to settle in Canada. Needing to provide for his family, Michael defaulted to the business he was familiar with and built a foundry in Calgary. Back in Davao City, and well into their 60s, Michael and Rosario began formulating plans to fulfill their dream of creating a Christian College as a way of investing in future generations of Filipino leaders. Their dream was eventually realized in 2004 with the successful launch of the Christian Colleges of Southeast Asia.

As their lives and businesses grew on both sides of the Pacific, they invested time and stewarded the resources that God had given them to support a variety of ministries. In 2008, they established an endowment to assist in the development of the Jaffray Centre for Global Initiatives at Ambrose University. The Michael and Rosario Ang Endowment continues to support the work of global education and cultural diversity as Ambrose trains leaders for ministry in Canada and around the world. Rosario passed away on August 5, 2020, predeceased by her husband. Michael and Rosario Ang will both be remembered for their generosity and desire to see God's kingdom grow.



# AMBROSE AT A GLANCE

**1,020**  
students

**13**  
average class size

**19:1**  
student-to-faculty ratio

**100%**  
education grads offered teaching positions upon graduation

**35**  
School of Ministry and Seminary students in practicum or internship placements

**14,002**  
Ambrose graduates serving and changing communities

**\$1,438,000**  
awarded yearly in scholarships and bursaries

**74%**  
of students receive financial aid

**LIONS**  
Men's basketball team placed 2nd in 2019 ACAC championships

**COVID-19 IT UPGRADE CAMPAIGN**

**\$539,000**  
raised to complete the required upgrade

**\$252,000**  
major donors and church support

**\$62,000**  
direct appeal

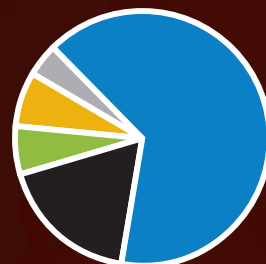
**\$225,000**  
anonymous match

Share of Revenue  
2019-2020



- Tuition and Student Fees  
48%
- Donations and Constituent Support  
20%
- Government Grants  
17%
- Sales, Rent and Other  
10%
- Government Relief  
5%

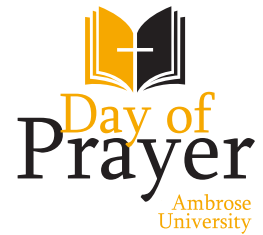
Share of Operating Expenses  
Share of Revenue  
2019-2020



- Employee Compensation and Benefits  
65%
- Operating Supplies  
18%
- Financing  
6%
- Scholarships and Bursaries  
7%
- Facilities  
4%

### Day of Prayer

Each year, Ambrose hosts the Day of Prayer as a time to gather and pray for God’s providential care and blessing upon the life, mission, and student body of Ambrose. This year’s day of prayer will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, primarily in virtual format. This time together in prayer is vital each year, as we continue to work towards our mission of preparing men and women for wise, joyful and redemptive engagement in the church, society and the created order through excellent Christian post-secondary education. Please watch for more details on our website: [ambrose.edu/dayprayer](http://ambrose.edu/dayprayer).



### Virtual Events

As we look ahead, we recognize Ambrose University must continue to follow the pandemic guidance and protocols of the provincial government. Ambrose is continuing to find ways for our community to connect. As a result of the pandemic, we have transitioned to online events which include workshops, public lectures, symposiums, alumni and friends gatherings, and more. Chapel services are also available online on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Though we cannot gather in person at this time, we hope you are remaining socially connected and physically distant. For a full calendar of events, visit [ambrose.edu/events](http://ambrose.edu/events).



### Building Connections

New this year, the Connect program is a peer mentoring program designed to impact and enhance the resilience and performance strengths capacity of first year students. The desired goal is to optimize their mental health, ability to thrive academically and socially as well as to experience positive well-being at school. This student peer mentoring program is designed to assess the implementation and effectiveness of a strength-based coaching model which promotes the development of performance strengths and mental health in a young adult population. This program also assists students in forming deep personal connections with their peers as they navigate life together and support each other and has been especially important to first year students during COVID-19.



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### Supporting the Next Generation

**The need has never been greater for young men and women to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and become leaders of truth, integrity, compassion and service. You can help Ambrose fulfill this need by providing the support needed to educate the future generations. Your legacy matters and through estate planning, you are able to leverage your assets to make a larger gift than you thought was possible. You will also enjoy considerable tax savings either personally or for your estate. Your planned gift can save your loved ones from unwanted tax burdens. Planned giving can enhance your income and provide a greater level of retirement security.**



For more information, please visit [ambrose.edu/legacy-giving](http://ambrose.edu/legacy-giving).

# THANK YOU...

Your gifts of time, talent and treasure deliver the scholarships, facilities, faculty, programs and impact that sets our university apart. We are grateful.



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