

# OCTOBER 2021



## *The Coalition Monthly*

**The Monthly Newsletter for The Coalition of Jamaican Alumni  
Associations of Florida**

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## NATIONAL ALUMNI DAY



As reported in the Daily Gleaner on September 23, 2021, the Governor General of Jamaica, Sir Patrick Allen, has proclaimed October 13, 2021, as NATIONAL ALUMNI DAY.

October 13 comes one day before the fourth anniversary of the founding of the Jamaica Alumni Association of High Schools (JAAHS) on October 14, 2017. The former chairman and CEO of GraceKennedy Limited, Douglas Orane, will deliver the keynote address at this inaugural annual commemoration ([See flyer on Page 6](#)).

In making this National Alumni Day official declaration, Sir Patrick Allen noted the considerable impact of alumni associations in Jamaica through their participation in mentorship and other development programmes in schools. This participation inspires students to achieve. Also, alumni associations' benevolence has led to significant infrastructural and aesthetic development within schools. From the Diaspora, Sir Patrick Allen also noted the invaluable financial and social support to students and educators.

In the September 23 Daily Gleaner, Carla Myrie, president of JAAHS, remarked that while her association initiated the move towards securing the declaration of National Alumni Day, the intention is to extend it across the various levels of the educational spectrum from pre-primary to post-tertiary. She also noted that ***"This is a big thing for us,"*** Myrie said. ***"We were established for that very reason; to advocate for all high school alumni associations, and this will make a huge difference in recognising the efforts of all our past students serving their alma maters over the years."***

She also revealed that this significant development has been shared with other umbrella alumni groups, operating on behalf of Jamaican schools in the United States and Canada, who welcome the announcement and will be sharing with JAAHS their plans to celebrate the milestone.

## NATIONAL ALUMNI DAY INAUGURAL ANNUAL COMMEMORATION ADDRESS



**Hon. Douglas Orane**  
CD, JP, Hon. LLD

**Wednesday October 13, 2021**  
**5:00 PM (USA)**  
**6:00 PM Jamaica**

**ZOOM LINK**  
**Meeting ID: 880 2133 9051**  
**Passcode: Alumniday**

An engineer by training, Mr. Orane holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Glasgow University. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School where he earned a master's degree in Business Administration.

He is a Trustee of his alma mater Wolmer's Schools and is passionately involved in fundraising and infrastructural improvements for the Wolmer's Trust. He reserves time for mentoring young people in life skills and entrepreneurship. He enjoys international travel to garner new ideas, and to cheer for our Jamaican athletes at international meets.

***Please do something special for your alma mater on Alumni Day. The Coalition will do something special for 2 primary schools on October 13.***

**Please see the flyer on [Page 6](#) for more information**

## ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON & FUN DAY MOVING TO MIRIMAR REGIONAL PARK



**December 11, 2021**  
**9:AM Until.....**

**MIRIMAR REGIONAL PARK**  
**16801 Miramar Parkway**  
**Miramar, FL 33027**  
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**CORPORATE PAVILION**



**Please see the flyer on [Page 7](#) for more information**

## INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

Please remember to tune in to the Inaugural “Jamaica” Alumni Day Address by Douglas Orane on October 13, 2021 at 5:00 PM. This will be presented via ZOOM. The meeting ID and Password are listed below.

**ZOOM LINK**  
**Meeting ID: 880 2133 9051**  
**Passcode: Alumniday**

Three (3) articles are reprints from the Jamaica Observer. We are creating history wherever we go, and we are very proud to highlight the accomplishment of **St. Catherine High School Alum** Charlyne Smith, the First Black Woman to earn a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the 168-Year-old University of Florida (Pages 11-12).

### Up Coming Alumni Events

**National Alumni Day Keynote  
Address, October 13 (P. 6)**

**All Alumni Walkathon, December 11 (P. 7)**

**Florida UWI Alumni Pelican Awards’  
Ceremony, October 23 (P.8)**

**ALPHA’s Alumnae Virtual  
Tea Party  
October 23, (P. 9)**

**St. Andrew Tech Alumni Fish Fry, October 23 (p. 10)**

**Calabar Alumni - Florida Open – GOLF  
October 30, (P. 11)**

### Feature Stories

1. Reimaging Education (P. 4)
2. Former St. Catherine High School Student, the First Black Woman to Get PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the 168-Year-old University of Florida. (P. 12-13)
3. Ambitious Ardenne Alumni Foundation Legacy Programme Launched (P. 14)

[Alumni Information, Pages 15 – 18](#)

## UPDATE ON THE ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON

The Walkathon is scheduled for **December 11, 2021**, at the **Miramar Regional Park**. We will be assembling in the Corporate Pavilion and will have the usual “warm-up exercises” and other pre-walkathon activities. The venue that we had used in the past imposed certain restrictions that would have limited the length of the walk, and the fun activities.

Miramar Regional Park opens at 9:00 AM and we are hoping to start the walk by 9: 30 AM. You will receive pledge sheets in about 2 weeks.

We are looking for volunteers to chart a route for the morning’s walk, conduct the exercise warm-up, and serve food items.

On October 30, we will host a ZOOM meeting to coordinate our walkathon effort. We are hoping that you will be able to attend. We will send the meeting’s information by Zoom shortly.

DJ Uncle Kev will be present, and the event will be streamed by [Irietimes.com](http://Irietimes.com)

For more information, please call Sandra & Rupert at 954-510-6265/954-242-2529.

As always, we wish you, your family, and friends continued good health and happiness, and hope that you are taking all precautions to avoid contracting the virus.

Stay safe,  
Sandra & Rupert



*Walking for your Alma Mater*

## REIMAGINING EDUCATION

*Jamaica Observer*, September 28, 2021

Shellon Samuels-White

Lecturer in the Faculty of Education

Mico University College

*LEARNING in an “emergency” is the phrase used by Dr Kasean Troupe, acting chief education officer, to describe the current state of affairs in the education system which was brought on by the novel coronavirus pandemic.*

It is never a comfortable experience when one has to visit the emergency room and, no doubt, it has been a very uncomfortable and, I dare say, agonising teaching and learning experience for many teachers, students, parents, and school administrators. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Education and, by extension, the Government must be given a thumbs up for their efforts to stop many of the leakages in the industry. There has been greater attention given to areas such as social-emotional learning, equipping students and teachers with devices, and finding creative alternatives to engage many learners, who have been disenfranchised for one reason or another.

With that said, I challenge the Ministry of Education/the Government to take a more proactive, rather than reactive approach to treating with education in Jamaica. It is high time that we stop trying to plug every tiny leakage and apply waterproofing sealant.

Here is what I propose as we fight to reimagine education for the mid- to post-pandemic era — a Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) approach. After all, the idea is that “Every Child can learn, every child must learn”.

Globally, we are seeing governments/ministries of education adopting the WSCC model as part of their programme moving forward, including the tenets, resources, and strategies for implementation. There is worldwide consensus that we cannot go back to the way we were, or even remain the way we are, but we must transition to a “better normal”. We all agree that improving student outcomes is what we want for our Jamaican children, so assessing the whole child needs to be the driving force behind our development of plans and coordinating of resources.

What we currently have is what I refer to as a haphazard system. School is the nucleus, and we tack on special education, after-school programmes, health education, mental health services, counselling, physical education, child protective services, codes of discipline, Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH), COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) Programme packages, and the list goes on.

Another child gets abused and we tack on something else, the novel coronavirus infection rate escalates, and we add yet another initiative. We react to fixing problems as they arise, and we become stuck in a cycle of borrowing from Peter to pay Paul in education.

We must take a collaborative approach where we coordinate our policies, processes, and practices to improve the education system, health care, family engagement, community involvement, social-emotional climate, employee wellness, and psychosocial services, thereby producing safe, supported, challenged, engaged, and healthy children and teachers who will, in turn, create a well-rounded citizenry.

The whole child is placed at the centre, where each component of the plan works harmoniously. The whole child approach broadens the national focus beyond academics to include meeting students' social-emotional, physical, and safety needs. I like how Dr Gene R Carter, retired educator, puts it: “We seek to ultimately ensure that education no longer views or needs to view health as an extra or adjunct to education, but rather as foundational to an effective education system. Health and education are related. They are interrelated. They are symbiotic.”

A framework such as this, which is foundational to a child's intellectual and social development, would serve as a blueprint to meet our children's needs, and is critical for learners to fully engage in learning and school.

Let's face it, the novel coronavirus pandemic has only further highlighted some of our age-old problems in Jamaica. Consider the statistics provided by UNICEF and the Caribbean Policy Research Institute last September:

- Levels of engagement in distance learning during school closure/remote teaching varied by age group, with children in the pre/basic school age group having the lowest engagement (75 per cent), followed by

high school-aged students (83 per cent), and then primary/preparatory (90 per cent).

- The main reasons for children at pre/basic and primary/preparatory level not engaging in distance learning was because they lacked the facilities. At the secondary level the main reason was not having a suitable device (62 per cent) and lacking access to the Internet (18 per cent).
- Most households reported increases in children's level of boredom (63 per cent) and overeating (57 percent). Other emotions that were elevated (relative to pre-COVID-19) included frustration (41 per cent), clinginess (49 per cent), anxiety (23 per cent), and fear (21 per cent).

Are these issues of emotional health, poverty, and disenfranchisement for school-aged children new? One year later, can we honestly say that these figures have significantly changed for the better?

WSCC is not an approach that calls for health for education's sake or education for health's sake. Rather, it is a call for health and education for each child's sake.

As educators for whom brain-based learning lies at the heart of our practice, we know that the brain needs to be physically and emotionally in tune before it can give attention to anything else. These take priority over cognitive processing. The research is extensive, and the benefits are telling. Students thrive in schools and countries which are committed to aligning their work with the needs of the populations they serve through a thoughtful, systemic approach. To best coordinate resources, Jamaica should coordinate policies, processes, and practices, while deliberately dedicating time and resources to structure continuous improvement.

I am also mindful of the fact that, as a Third World country, we have to take baby steps, but nothing is wrong with planning for the baby's future by opening up an Omni Educator or a Scotia Mint account for him or her. So, too, Jamaica can think more futuristically as we proactively and more deliberately reimagine the education system for the mid- to post-pandemic period.





# NATIONAL ALUMNI DAY



IN COLLABORATION WITH



The Alliance of Jamaican  
Alumni Associations (Toronto), Inc.



Union of Jamaican Alumni  
Associations (USA), Inc.

PRESENTS  
THE INAUGURAL COMMEMORATION OF  
NATIONAL ALUMNI DAY

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021**  
**6:00PM (JT)**

**THEME - PAYING IT FORWARD: PARTNERS IN ADVANCING  
EDUCATION IN JAMAICA**



GUEST SPEAKER  
HON. DOUGLAS ORANE, CD, JP, HON. LLD



**MC: DERVAN MALCOLM**



**MEETING ID: 880 2133 9051**  
**PASSCODE: ALUMNIDAY**

# Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations of Florida

## ANNUAL HEALTH & FUNDRAISING

### WALK-A-THON



**DR. ALLAN CUNNINGHAM**  
Global Jamaica Diaspora Council  
Representative for the Southeast USA

&

**MRS. JUDITH CUNNINGHAM**  
People Profile Organization  
President



## WITH GRAND MARSHALS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021  
9:00 AM TO .....  
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### AWARDS & GIVEAWAYS

*For more information call Sandra or Rupert (954) 510-6265/954-242-2529  
or contact them by email at  
[sansch33@hotmail.com](mailto:sansch33@hotmail.com)/[rqecon@hotmail.com](mailto:rqecon@hotmail.com)*

*Walk to raise funds for schools in Jamaica and be a  
part of a fun morning with healthy activities.*



# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (FLORIDA CHAPTER)

PRESENTS

## THE PELICAN AWARDS



*A Virtual Event*



Under the Distinguished Patronage of  
Jamaica's Consul General  
The Honorable Oliver Mair



Keynote Speaker  
Mr. Greg Hazle  
Executive Director, Boca Helping Hands

**With DJ Leo Gilling (JDTAN) & MC Dervan Malcolm (Power 106)**

**Saturday, October 23, 2021**

**Starting Time: 6:30 PM**

**ZOOM Meeting ID: 838 3640 8333; Passcode: 8333**

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CMA "ALPHA" FLORIDA ALUMNAE PRESENTS

# Virtual TEA PARTY

"PRETTY PINK HEARTS"

26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
*fundraiser*

\$25



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 26 YEARS OF SERVICE TO  
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INTERNATIONAL DESIGNER  
ALUMNA HOPE WADE

PRETTY PINK RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE  
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PRIOR TO EVENT

23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER

2 - 4 PM



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**St. Andrew Technical High School Alumni  
Association SFL Chapter**

# **PRESENTS**

## **A Solar Panel Fundraising Event**

**WHEN: Saturday, October 23, 2021**

**TIME: 1:00 to 5:00 PM**

**Central Park (Executive Pavilion)**

**9151 NW 2nd Street, Plantation, FL 33321**

**(Between Broward and Cleary Boulevard)**



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Oct 30, 2021 at 8am

Register by Oct 22, 2021  
Tournament Fee \$115/Foursome \$450  
Competition Upgrade \$35

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A CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Tournament Package Includes**  
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**Competition Upgrade Package Includes**  
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1 Magic Putt, 2 Mulligans, 50/50 raffle, Chance to win free round of golf

REGISTER AT [CBARFLA.ORG/GOLF](http://CBARFLA.ORG/GOLF)

In 30 days, you could win \$20,000. But only if you sign up to play. **Guarantee your spot by signing up today!** Don't delay! Registration closes **Friday, October 22, 2021, at 5 PM.**

You can register as a single, twosome, or threesome. You will be paired to make a foursome. If you are part of a group, go ahead and register now. Pay as single but list your group members during registration. We will automatically group you with the friends that you listed. The registration fee for a single player is \$115. This includes lunch and a chance for a Hole in One on #8 to win \$15,000.

### Flights

Players can choose a flight to compete and win a trophy. They are the Open Flight, Boys Champs Flight, Coed Flight, and Herb McKenley Flight (for the foursome with an average age of 70).

**For all players.** Any hole-in-one will win: Hole # 8 \$15,000; Hole # 3 \$500 visa Gift Card; Hole # 11 50" TV; Hole #17 Callaway Irons set.

### Competition Upgrade Package - \$35 per player

Players can purchase a Competition Upgrade Package for \$35. You can select this option during registration. The Competition Package Upgrade includes 3 Putts for \$5000; Closest to pin #3; Long drive Competition #9; 1 Magic Putt; Five 50/50 raffle tickets; and 2 Mulligans.



[Click Here to Register and Pay \(\\$115 per player/\\$450 per foursome/\\$35 Competition Upgrade](http://CBARFLA.ORG/GOLF)

## FORMER ST. CATHERINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO GET PHD IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING FROM 168-YEAR-OLD UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.



JAMAICA'S Charlyne Smith, the first black woman to earn a PhD in nuclear engineering from a predominantly white university in the United States, has her gaze firmly set on the nuclear research reactor called Slowpoke at The University of the West Indies (The UWI).

Smith, who grew up in St Catherine and is a former student of Spanish Town-based St Catherine High School, graduated with her doctorate from the University of Florida last month. "Mi seh! Wi nuh dun but wi Phinished! I'm so honoured to have made history as the first black woman to graduate with a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Florida on the day of Jamaica's Independence anniversary," the happy young woman tweeted afterwards.

Smith, who pursued the PhD on a scholarship from Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland, from which she graduated in 2017 with a degree in chemistry and mathematics, was featured in the historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) online news site, *HBCUbuzz*. She credited her grandfather for her historic achievement, saying he had inspired her to use her intelligence and drive to help "make Jamaica a better place".

"As a child in St Catherine, Smith dreamed of becoming a scientist and inventor so she could help to resolve some of the basic problems faced by families like hers who struggled to access electrical power and other reliable infrastructure," the news outlet said.

"She wondered why, when she lived on a tropical island surrounded by water, all 2.8 million residents of Jamaica did not have access to power and clean water and decided to do something about it and focused her energy toward solving the energy problem for her country and others like it," added the news outlet.

It said that while at Coppin, Smith studied fruits with dark pigments to create dye-sensitised solar cells (DSSCs), hypothesising that these cells would absorb enough ultraviolet (UV) radiation to power large devices. She discovered this was not a feasible path toward providing reliable power to Third World countries in the immediate future, and after a first meeting with a nuclear scientist — Dr Nickie Peters — she moved on from solar research to pursue a career in the nuclear field, convinced that nuclear technology had the potential to make real change happen immediately.

She received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in 2018 to study at the University of Florida's Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and never looked back. Smith also turned her gaze to her homeland and specifically Slowpoke, the only nuclear research reactor in the Caribbean based at the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (ICENS), which is used chiefly for education and training and not for energy-related applications.

In 1984, with help from the European Union (EU), the Jamaican Government and The UWI established ICENS to properly manage Jamaica's nuclear research. The EU provided the facility with a Canadian-invented 20KW Slowpoke research reactor, with Professor Gerald Lalor as its director general. Dr Lalor died recently. Lalor believed placing the reactor on a campus of The UWI would ensure that researchers from other West Indian states could have easy access to it for research purposes.





However, despite the department's big ambitions, shortly after the reactor's commissioning, disaster struck at the Chernobyl nuclear site in Ukraine (then the USSR), dashing plans to explore the use of nuclear power in Jamaica.

Smith believes the reactor should be used to improve access to reliable energy on the island immediately, and that once people are educated about the real potential of nuclear power they will fear it less and move towards a better future.

This was her reason to seek a PhD in Nuclear Engineering at the University of Florida, said *HBCUbuzz*, quoting as her as saying: “For me, nuclear is the obvious immediate solution while renewable research takes some time to reach its maximum potential.”

Pointing to the severity of living conditions in Jamaica, Smith said the disparity between the reliable energy available in the US compared with the unreliable energy access in Jamaica had motivated her to ensure that “the next generation of Jamaican children will never know a day without access to clean water and reliable electricity”. She is of the view that renewable technology, like solar, will benefit developing countries like Jamaica. Smith also believes that “every minute spent on research that does not directly improve the lives of families today only exacerbates the problem”.

Compiled by Kevin Wainwright and edited by Desmond Allen  
*Jamaica Observer*, September 20, 2021

## AMBITIOUS ARDENNE ALUMNI FOUNDATION LEGACY PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

*Jamaica Observer, September 26, 2021*



*The President of the Ardenne Alumni Foundation Flo Darby (right) shares a light moment with Nadine Molloy, principal; John Mark Burgess, head boy; and Acalia Plummer, head girl, at the launch of the foundation's legacy programme*

THE seven-year-old Ardenne Alumni Foundation launched an ambitious legacy programme recently in the Ardenne Conference Room on the school compound to garner funds for numerous projects to meet the needs of the school over time to transform the lives of the students who pass through its corridors.

The legacy programme was launched with 100,000 Canadian dollars from Paul Barnett, a former student who attended the school over forty years ago and now resides in Canada.

Barnett, who made his presentation virtually, said that his time at Ardenne was a major influence on his life. He has always given back to his alma mater, going back to the 1980s with the school's first school bus. He encouraged those who can, to give back to the school.

"Number one, you can make a one-time legacy giving. Number two, you can do a yearly legacy giving. Number three, you can make a monthly legacy giving and number four, you can leave a percentage of your estate in your will to the Ardenne Alumni Foundation."

He endorsed the building of the wellness centre which is under consideration as the first major project post the legacy programme launch.

President of the Ardenne Alumni Foundation, Flo Darby, gave details of the programme.

She said the programme was launched, "so that we can make contributions to Ardenne for many, many areas that they would like assistance, in particular we have a flagship project, our wellness centre, which is going to be a holistic centre which will house our sick bay, guidance counselling department, perhaps a psychology department. We have exciting ideas about how we could improve the mental wellness of our students and our staff as well".

The projects and funds will be managed by directors from all the chapters as well as some Jamaican directors.

Darby said that a few other alumni have already contributed to the legacy programme prior to its launch. She also indicated that the wellness centre is expected to cost upwards of 300 million dollars.

Ardenne High School Principal Nadine Molloy was very happy to witness the launch of the programme.

"It means a lot. In a context where we are going through this pandemic and the social and emotional needs of people and, of course, in particular the needs of our students and our staff here at Ardenne is brought into sharp focus...We really do believe that there is going to be a lot of support for it. I can already see our counsellors being able to offer more in a better, nicer space. I can see our school nurse being in a space that is more appropriate and able to treat the challenges that we will have with students if they fall ill at school until we are able to move them on to their primary providers."

She mentioned other areas of the school that will need development such as technology upgrade, a small recording studio for those students who are into music, a mini theatre, an industrial arts lab and eventually an engineering arts lab, among others.



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS' INFORMATION

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3. **Calabar High School Alumni Association**  
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4. **Camperdown Past Students Association**  
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5. **CAST/UTECH Alumni Association**  
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6. **Central Branch Primary Alumni Association**  
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7. **Charlemont High School Past Students' Assoc.**  
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8. **Church Teachers' College Alumni Association**  
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9. **Clarendon College Alumni Association**  
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11. **DeCarteret College Past Students' Alliance**  
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16. **Holmwood Technical High School Alumni**  
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[Website](#)

17. **Holy Childhood Alumnae Association**  
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18. **Immaculate Con. High Alumnae Association**  
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19. **Jamaica College Old Boys Association.**  
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20. **Jamaica Ex-Police Association**  
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