

California University  
**JOURNAL**

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 15 OCT. 22, 2018

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## Alumni, Friends Enjoy Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend

With lawn chairs and blankets for a chilly evening in tow, Debbie Retucci, her husband, Joe, and cousin Lori Hough were the first fans to stake out a spot in front of the stage where Lonestar, their favorite band, was set to play.

"This is our band, and 'Amazed' was our wedding song," Debbie Retucci, of Waynesburg, Pa., said of the country music group's signature ballad. "We missed seeing them in Pittsburgh this year, so I was so happy and surprised that they were coming to Cal U."

The three were among the fans who enjoyed Lonestar and opening act Chris Higbee, the highlights of Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend, a collaboration between Cal U and the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency that was held Oct. 12-14.

Vulcan Fest was designed to promote the county's tourism assets to University alumni, students and families while also promoting Homecoming as a tourism attraction.

The event brought James and Sue Hammersmith to town.

They traveled four-and-a-half hours from Blissfield, Mich., to see Lonestar. It's the 21st time they saw the band this year.

The Hammersmiths had never visited California before — never heard of it,



Richie McDonald, lead singer of Lonestar, performs Oct. 13 as part of Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend.

they said — although they have a cousin not far away, in Morgantown, W.Va.

"It seems like a nice place, a nice campus," Jim Hammersmith said.

The weekend kicked off Oct. 12 with a 50th reunion for the Class of 1968 at Kara Alumni house, followed by an all-class reunion party and performance by Cal U alumnus Joe Grushecky '71 at the The Meadows in

North Strabane Township.

On Oct. 13, festivities began with a Picnic on the Patio brunch for alumni followed by the Homecoming parade that featured 13 high school bands, the Pittsburgh Steeline drummers and 35 other marching units.

Longtime mathematics and computer science faculty member George Novak '55 served as the

grand marshal.

During halftime of the football game between the Cal Vulcans and Gannon Golden Knights, Jerron Corley, a senior English major, and Whitney Ptak, a senior criminal justice major, were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

Josh Fosbrink '01, '03 and Christina Kost Fosbrink '01, '03 regularly return to

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Cal U is one of 168 corporations and educational institutions — and the only university in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education — to hold ARM membership.

## ARM Membership Empowers Students

Students in Cal U's robotics and mechatronics engineering technology programs are preparing for careers at the forefront of advanced manufacturing.

Now California University of Pennsylvania is empowering those students to network, learn and innovate through its membership in Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM)

an institute headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cal U is one of 168 corporations and educational institutions — and the only university in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education — to hold ARM membership. ARM is part of Manufacturing USA, a consortium of 14 manufacturing innovation institutes

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## Meet the Chancellor at Open Forum Oct. 25

The Cal U community is invited to attend an open forum with Dr. Dan Greenstein, chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, when he makes his initial visit to California on Oct. 25.

Chancellor Greenstein took office on Sept. 4, and this visit is one stop on a tour of all 14 State System universities. At each campus, Greenstein has scheduled a full day of meetings and focus groups with a variety of university stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff and administrators.

At Cal U, the entire campus community may attend the open forum from 1-2:15 p.m. in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center. After a short presentation, the chancellor will take questions from the audience.

Greenstein is an avid cyclist, and he is starting each of his campus visits on two wheels. Students, faculty and staff are invited to join the chancellor on a 6.5-mile bicycle ride around campus, beginning at 7 a.m.

Cyclists may use their own bikes.

Riders should gather at 6:45 a.m. in front of the Convocation Center.

A limited number of bicycles are available for students to borrow. To add your name to the waiting list, register at Herron Recreation and Fitness Center, or call 724-938-5907.



Dr. Dan Greenstein

### About the Chancellor

Greenstein is the fifth chancellor to lead the State System since its founding in 1983. Before coming to Pennsylvania, he led the Postsecondary Success strategy at the Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation. He also was a top administrator in the University of California system.

"I'm laser-focused on helping to ensure that our 14 universities are places that every student can achieve success," the chancellor says in his blog.

"I want to hear your stories, listen to your ideas, and understand the challenges and obstacles that we face — that you face. I want to know what makes us good, to know about the issues that keep us from becoming better, and to know how we can address those issues."

# Fundraiser Boosts Military Scholarship

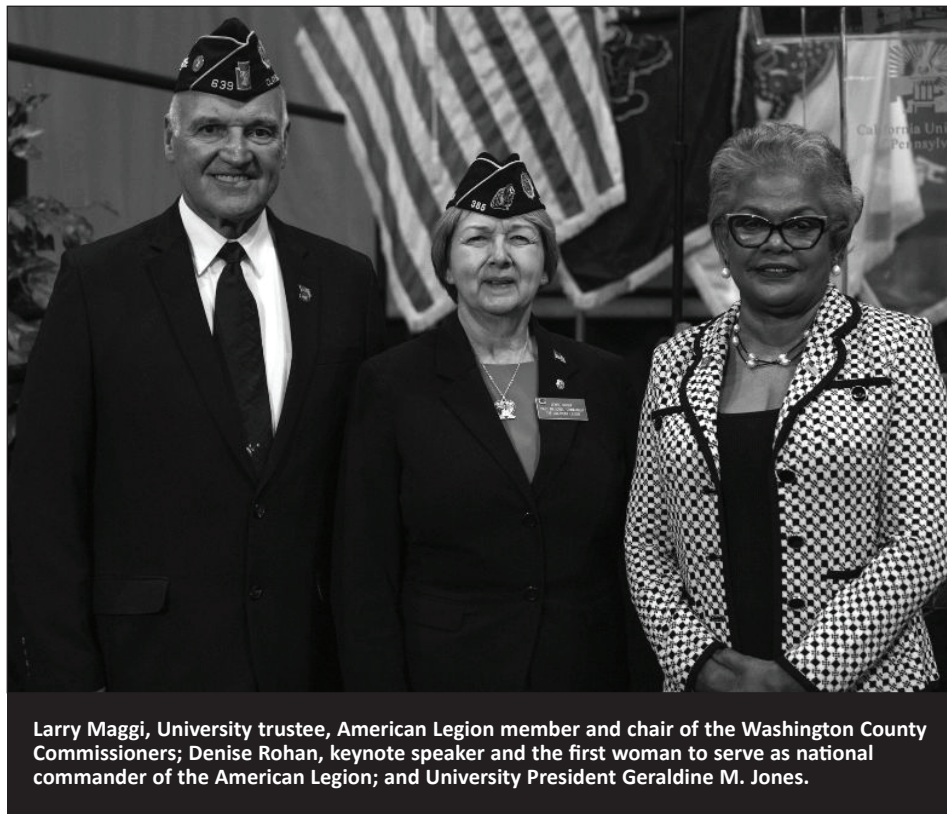
Motorcycle engines growling, a contingent of American Legion Riders roared up to the Convocation Center Oct. 5 in a show of support for the “Families First” fundraiser.

More than 150 guests, many of them American Legionnaires and their families, turned out for the benefit dinner organized by Robert Prah and Cal U’s Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The event raised funds to help endow the Commander Kerrie Gill Sr. Memorial Scholarship for military families. Gill, a two-time Cal U alumnus and former IT Department employee, was a three-time commander of California’s American Legion Post 337 and served as commander of the organization’s Pennsylvania Department before his death in 2015.

Hosts for “Families First” were University President Geraldine M. Jones, who welcomed the guests, and University trustee Larry Maggi, an American Legion member and chair of the Washington County Commissioners. Members of Gill’s extended family attended the dinner.

Keynote speaker Denise Rohan, the first woman to serve as national commander of the American Legion,



Larry Maggi, University trustee, American Legion member and chair of the Washington County Commissioners; Denise Rohan, keynote speaker and the first woman to serve as national commander of the American Legion; and University President Geraldine M. Jones.

described her own transformation from a homesick young soldier in basic training to a determined woman who found strength in her military “family.”

After leaving the Army to travel with her husband, who was on active duty,

Rohan devoted herself to caring for military spouses and children.

“It’s not just the person in uniform who serves. It’s the entire family,” she said.

Especially in recent years, when

multiple deployments have become more common, “spouses and children are asked to be resilient over and over again.”

“It is reassuring to know there are veterans and ordinary citizens who truly care about our military families,” Rohan added. She urged the veterans in the audience to share their stories, so their role in American history will be remembered.

Maggi reminded the audience that Cal U has been recognized nationally as a Military-Friendly University. In addition to supporting military members and veterans on campus, the University works extensively with service members around the world who are enrolled in online degree programs.

“This is an important event for the University, for our community and for the region,” Maggi said, noting that Legionnaires traveled from as far away as Harrisburg to attend.

“We are honored that the American Legion’s past national commander is here to spend time with local veterans and raise money for this worth cause.”

To contribute to the Commander Kerrie Gill Sr. Memorial Scholarship, contact the office of University Development at 724-938-5775.

## Veterans Dinner Turns 45

Cal U welcomes a nationally recognized advocate for student veterans when it hosts its 45th annual Veterans Day dinner on Nov. 8.

Jared Lyon, president and CEO of Student Veterans of America (SVA), will be the featured speaker at the event, which will be held in the Convocation Center.

Doors open at 5 p.m.; the program begins at 6 p.m.

SVA represents more than 700,000 student veterans, supporting them through their higher education experience and beyond. Under Lyon’s leadership, the organization has grown to include more than 1,500 chapters on



Jared Lyon

campuses in all 50 states and four countries.

Lyon, of Washington, D.C., is a Navy veteran who served multiple deployments as a submariner and a diver. After concluding his service, he worked as an electronic-systems administrator at Northrop Grumman and managed Florida operations for the Washington Nationals baseball team.

At SVA, he co-authored the National Veteran Education Success Tracker (NVEST) research project, the first comprehensive study of student veterans who are using the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Last year he led SVA’s commitment to expanding college aid for military veterans through the “Forever GI Bill.”

Robert Prah, director of the

Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, said Lyon’s appearance is timely since the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 — known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill — is celebrating its 10-year anniversary.

“The student success rate of veterans has been very high on campuses including ours in terms of academic achievement, involvement, community service and giving back,” Prah said.

“The involvement of Student Veterans of America across the country in helping student veterans with everything from internships, careers and overall student success is quite impressive and significant.”

### Attend the Veterans Day dinner

“Few other schools have such a long history of recognizing those who serve, including our students and alumni,” Prah said of the 45th anniversary of the dinner.

“It’s one of our proudest Cal U traditions and certainly Jared Lyon adds to our long list of distinguished guest speakers.”

Banners honoring Cal U veterans also will be displayed on campus.

Hosted by the Cal U Veterans Club, the Veterans Day dinner is open to the public.

Cal U students are admitted free; so are Cal U alumni who are current or former service members. Cost for local residents who are service members or veterans is \$10; ticket price for non-veterans and guests is \$15. Checks should be made payable to SAI-Vets Club.

*Reservations are required; deadline to register is Nov. 2. To make a reservation or inquire about payment options, email [veterans@calu.edu](mailto:veterans@calu.edu) or call 724-938-4076.*



Members of Alpha Sigma Alpha cheer as they follow their float, which they built in partnership with the Acacia fraternity.

## Alumni, Friends Enjoy Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend

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campus for Homecoming from Johnstown, Pa., with their children. Josh is the on-air meteorologist for WATM 23, and Kristina is an associate dean of graphic arts at online Independence College.

As students, the couple hosted the CUTV coverage of the Homecoming parade.

“We love coming back and sharing our experiences with our kids,” Josh Fosbrink said.

Keri Weaver ’97 says it took months

of planning to organize a Homecoming reunion of softball alumni — but the effort paid off.

She estimated that a group of about 55 former players and their families were on hand at Roadman Park.

Weaver, who played first base for the team that won Cal U’s first national championship in softball, said the preparations began even before the group heard about this year’s Vulcan Fest activities.

“Most of us haven’t been together for years,” she said, “but it’s like we never left. We pick up right where we left off.”



Meicia Howard, a senior environmental studies major, dances outside Manderino Library Oct. 2 during 'Cultures and Arts,' Cal U's second annual Liberal Arts Festival.

## Liberal Arts Fair: A Mashup for the Mind

The second annual Cal U Liberal Arts Festival on Oct. 2 turned Manderino Library into a mashup of the mind and senses — visual art, dance, music, intellectual scholarship and theater — that showcased student and faculty talent.

Titled "Cultures and Arts," the festival brought in nearly 400 high school students and teachers, as well as members of the Cal U community and public.

Andrea Cencich, event organizer and faculty member in the Department of Arts and Languages, emphasized cultural awareness as the primary purpose of the festival.

"Many school districts may not have a large connection to different cultures," she said. "From the language arts perspective, we see the diversity in our classes every day, and our College of Liberal Arts wants to reflect this.

"The festival is a wonderful way of showing our openness and tolerance to not only visiting high schools but our campus and the community."

Before enjoying a belly-dancing demonstration, Ryan McEachern

and Icis Witt, ninth-graders at Rochester High School, Beaver County, enjoyed a presentation on artifacts and artwork from the Louvre, which included *The Madonna with the Blue Diadem*.

"I like how the Cal U teachers asked us questions and really helped us understand what was being said," McEachern said. "It made the lecture interesting and interactive.

Witt enjoyed her day on the Cal U campus.

"I'm not sure if the arts is what I do for a career, but it's good to look around at everything and sort of get a feel for it," she said.

Laura DeFazio, a professor in the Department of Art and Languages, talked with 80 high school students about motifs in early Islamic architecture.

"This is such a vibrant event where I see so much communication along with expression and exchanging of ideas campus-wide," she said. "To have the foreign and visual languages in the same department is a natural combination, and the synergy with the students to run events like this is amazing."

Calvin Conroy, a senior mechatronics engineering and technology major, who is also a member of the Kappa Kappa Psi honorary band fraternity, was one of many Cal U students enjoying the festival. He watched a judo demonstration before viewing exhibits.

"You might just think about traditional painting, but then you come here and see all the different styles of art and cultures, and it's really cool to see everything that's on display," he said.

"I love the arts."

The Office of the President was the gold sponsor of the festival. Co-sponsors of the festival included the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of Art and Languages, and Manderino Library.

"To have so many departments participate in so many ways, showcasing their creativity and come together is special," Cencich said. "We are so grateful to the President and all of the faculty, students and staff on campus who helped.

"We believe the festival is getting better each year and will continue to do so."

## Campus BRIEFS

### Nominations Open for Presidential Merit Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the 2019 Presidential Distinguished Merit Awards, open to tenured faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, research or service.

Any member of the Cal U community — students, faculty, staff or alumni — may make a nomination. Self-nominations are permitted. Each nomination must include names of the nominee and nominator and category of nomination (teaching, research or service).

Nominations close at 4 p.m. Oct. 28. Support materials from the nominees are due by 4 p.m. Nov. 16.

Nominations can be submitted via email or paper copy to Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux, Presidential Distinguished Merit Awards committee chair, at [mcclintock@calu.edu](mailto:mcclintock@calu.edu) or Department of History, Politics, Society & Law, Box 6.

### 'Red Horse' Showcases First-year Actors

The fall semester's second presentation by the Department of Music and Theatre showcases the talents of Cal U's newest actors.

First-year students will appear onstage Nov. 1-3 in *Red Horse*, a completely original retelling of the experimental 1970s production developed by the Mabou Mines and director Lee Breuer. Actors create images and moments allowing dialogue to give way to actor's bodies in a poetic staging of the life of the horse.

Suited for the family, *Red Horse* marks the 22nd annual first-year student show.

Shows are at 7 p.m. Nov. 1-2 and 2 and 7 p.m. Nov. 3 in the Gerald and Carolyn Blaney Theatre in Steele Hall.

Ticket price is \$12 for adults, seniors and children. Cal U students with valid CalCards pay 50 cents, plus a \$5 deposit that is refunded at the show.

For ticket information, or to charge tickets by phone, call the Steele Hall Box Office at 724-938-5943.

### Procurement Fair Set for Oct. 23

The 31st annual Procurement Opportunities Fair, sponsored by Cal U's Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO), will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 23 at the Monroeville Convention Center in Monroeville, Pa.

Admission is \$45 per attendee. A buffet lunch is included.

To register, visit [www.calu.edu/gaco](http://www.calu.edu/gaco). For more information, contact Tracy Julian at 724-938-5881 or [julian@calu.edu](mailto:julian@calu.edu).

## ElectionWatch Nov. 6 in Natali

The Cal U community and public are welcome to attend a 2018 ElectionWatch party beginning at 9 p.m. Nov. 6 in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center.

Students, staff, faculty and community members will share informal conversation and pizza as results of the Pennsylvania gubernatorial election and other key races unfold.

There is no admission charge for this year's ElectionWatch, which is presented by the campus chapter of the American Democracy Project.

ADP campus director Dr. Melanie Blumberg, professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, said this is the first time Cal U has hosted an ElectionWatch during midterms.



"The ADP decided to hold an ElectionWatch event for the 2018 midterm based on the enormous amount of attention it is being given," said Blumberg.

"The political scientists and several historians have been telling students they are witnessing one of the most consequential midterm elections in memory.

"ElectionWatch caps a robust Get Out The Vote effort."

To celebrate Election Day, there will be music, food and give-aways from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in the Natali Student Center.

The Student Government Association will also be coordinating walks and rides to the polls. Those interested should email SGA president Seth Shiley at [shil177@calu.edu](mailto:shil177@calu.edu).

# Panel Explores Anthem Issue

An issue causing considerable public disagreement was discussed in an insightful and collegial manner Oct. 9 at an Issues Expo hosted by the Cal U chapter of the American Democracy Project.

“Taking the Knee” looked at professional football player Colin Kaepernick, the quarterback who started a protest against police brutality by kneeling during the national anthem.

Dr. Michael Slaven, Dr. Sean Madden, of the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, and Dr. Ayanna Lyles, of the Department of Health Science, were joined on the panel by students Shaheed Ansari and Brandon Wright. Moderator was Dr. Kelton Edmonds, director of the Frederick Douglass Institute and a professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law.

Lyles presented a timeline of Kaepernick’s protest. She also mentioned other athletes, such as the NBA’s LeBron James and Dwyane Wade, who are using their platform to raise awareness about issues

affecting minorities in the United States.

“Professional and amateur athletes pushing back with symbolic speech and protesting to inspire change has been part of American history for quite some time,” Lyles said, referencing the black power salute in the 1968 Summer Olympics. “But why has this pushback been so much?”

Madden said, historically, protesting is unpopular even if one agrees on the message, but that Kaepernick’s resilience has paid off.

“Colin Kaepernick has already won his protest by staying the course,” he said.

Slaven said taking a knee is an open-ended gesture and that the NFL has monetized every aspect of its game, including the anthem, which often includes fighter jets flying over stadiums, paid for by the military.

“I believe the NFL subverted the national anthem long before Kaepernick took a knee,” he said. “I’m disappointed, frankly, that more or all the players did not join in, and for me the real culprit is the NFL itself, not one guy.”

Ansari said the social and national media cycles have amplified his action.

“It’s just so out there because of the way people have driven it and how we now live,” he said. “It’s become such a controversial issue that everybody wants to say something about.”

Wright agreed about the overexposure but believes a lack of communication has caused many to forget the focus of his protest.

“There’s so much divide on this issue because you have so many people thinking in separate ways,” he said. “They need to get back to his initial stance.”

Many in the audience felt the miscommunication was an important aspect and criticized President Trump for shaping the narrative in his tweets.

Edmonds concluded the event by borrowing Madden’s phrase about Kaepernick’s protest being successful.

“I want to encourage students who are active about an issue to stay the course, because attention spans are short, and what is a monumental issue now can be gone in a few days,” he said.

# Cal U Joins Robotics Institute

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that serve members in private industry, academia, and the nonprofit and government sectors.

Launched by Carnegie Mellon University in 2017, ARM now operates as a nonprofit public-private partnership. It is funded with \$80 million from the Department of Defense and an additional \$170 million from various public and private organizations. Its goal is to “accelerate the advancement of transformative robotic technologies and education” and make American manufacturing more competitive on a global scale.

“Cal U’s membership in ARM signifies its commitment to preparing students with the skills and knowledge essential for revitalizing U.S. manufacturing through industrial robotics innovation,” says Jean Hale, Cal U’s executive director of community and corporate relations.

“Membership in ARM provides access to funding and supportive infrastructure to enhance the University’s existing connections with small and mid-size manufacturers in the region. It also allows Cal U to partner with manufacturers as they work toward implementing new robotic technologies — a key element in strengthening our region’s economic vitality.”

ARM focuses on solutions that make it easier for small and mid-size companies to benefit from robotics, and on technological tools that allow U.S. manufacturers to compete successfully with low-wage manufacturing abroad.

Through ARM, Cal U students will have opportunities to work with leading companies on projects that advance cutting-edge robotic technologies, with special emphasis on key industrial sectors such as aerospace, automotive, textiles, electronics and more.

Cal U faculty will be valued contributors to world-class knowledge center that showcases what’s new and next in robotics. Their participation in ARM will help students map pathways to high-value careers in robotics and mechatronics engineering technology.

Students and faculty also will have access to Hazelwood Green, ARM’s center for advanced manufacturing research that is scheduled to open next year at the historic Jones & Laughlin Steel site in Pittsburgh’s Hazelwood neighborhood.

ARM says the center is designed to bring “large-scale academic research and corporate development under one roof” to develop and demonstrate new robotics technologies, and to create a workforce prepared to “work collaboratively with robotic solutions in a safe, high-satisfaction environment.”



## Alumna Makes Polished Return to Campus

Alumna Jamie Porter '11 gives a polishing demonstration to students in Cal U’s jewelry-casting class, taught by James Bové. Porter, a certified bench jeweler, began her career as an apprentice and is now inspects and finishes final designs at Joyce’s Jewelry in Uniontown, which creates designs for stores nationwide. Porter, who earned her bachelor’s degree in fine arts from Cal U, said she found her niche by taking a jewelry class taught by Bové.

# Fair Offers a Healthy Outlook

Healthy students are better students.

That was one of the messages presented — and well received — Sept. 19 at Cal U’s 31st annual Health Fair at the Convocation Center, organized by the Health Education Awareness Resource Team.

Vendors from the health care industry, along with campus organizations and clubs, presented information, conducted screenings, organized physical activities and offered giveaways at the event, coordinated by Rachel Michaels, Cal U’s director for Student Wellness Support Services and the Prevention Awareness Recovery Center.

“As a new student, I am glad that the school has something like this because I’m finding out about many activities and services that I did not know were available,” said Britney Roberts, who is majoring in biology with a pre-professional concentration.

“When I feel good about myself, I think it makes

me worry less so I can just concentrate.”

Senior Jamie Eakin, a biology major who is pursuing a dental career, is involved in the Medical Interest Club, which volunteers at local hospitals and community events, among other initiatives. An avid runner, she believes the health fair is educational and helpful.

“Along with the time I spend training for marathons, I balance my time studying because it’s all about time management and getting that release to focus on your studies,” she said.

Cal U faculty have always been strong supporters of the health fair.

“We do promote healthy living and encourage our majors to exercise regularly,” said Dr. Kyle Fredrick, professor in the Department of Earth Science. “Most of our students are seeking employment that requires a fair bit of field work, and their level of fitness can impact their employability.”

The California Journal is published by California University of Pennsylvania, a member of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education.

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