

History Department News

Ithaca College

Look Inside!

2. Meet the Faculty:
Faculty Profiles
3. Getting to Know...
Pearl Ponce,
Matthew Klemm
4. Getting to
Know...(continued)
Terrie Miller
5. Freshmen in 100-
Level Classes &
Student Kudos
6. History Events
7. History Club
8. Alumni Networking
9. Alumni Networking
10. Alumni Networking

Editorial Board:

Megan Henry

Jillian Hinderliter

Renee LaDue

James Maltese

Professor &
Department Chair,
Zenon Wasyliw

Letter from the Department Chair

Welcome to the fourth history department newsletter. I want to thank retired faculty for their personal updates and contact information in the previous newsletter. My retired colleagues left a very positive and memorable impact on their students and the department. Their dedication and contributions are appreciated. I have received many wonderful messages and updates from our graduates over the years. I savor these communications and decided to initiate for this issue an alumni list. Due to space restrictions, this current copy offers a listing with more concise information. An online version will appear shortly that includes longer personal messages and communications. I relay many sincere thanks to all alumni who sent information for our current Newsletter. Please continue sending updates and I anticipate new alumni messages in future issues. Current and potential students often ask what they can do with a degree in history and where our social studies teaching graduates are currently employed. Your communications answer their questions and serve to raise the status and recognition of our programs. Please let me know when you visit Ithaca so we can arrange a meeting.

It was another busy and productive year in the history department. A special thanks to Elliot Mayrock '73 for his continued generous support. The Marjorie Fortunoff Mayrock Lecture Series speakers drew great interest, strong participation and provided numerous student learning opportunities in a variety of settings. We completed an intensive national search to fill a faculty line in Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance history. We welcome to our department Professor Matthew Klemm, a specialist in Medieval history. The History Club continues to sponsor activities that bring faculty and students together and eight members of the Phi Alpha Theta Student Honor Society presented research papers at the regional conference at Alfred University. Our history faculty are impressively engaged in scholarly activities and remain very dedicated to excellence in teaching. They conscientiously guide and intellectually challenge our students to excel in the classroom, their studies and become active members of the Ithaca College community and the greater global community. I extend a special thank you to our student Newsletter editorial collective, Renee LaDue, Megan Henry, Jillian Hinderliter, and James Maltese. I look forward to future issues of the Newsletter and expanding our alumni network. Many sincere thanks for your support and I hope to hear from you soon!



Best wishes,
Zenon V. Wasyliw
Professor and Chairperson
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Picture by Megan Henry

Meet the Faculty

Faculty Bios

Jonathan Ablard recently traveled to Calgary, Alberta and also held a reading at the Bookery II in Ithaca, NY, for the launch of his book, *Madness in Buenos Aires*. He is currently teaching an interdisciplinary class on the history of disease and health in Latin America in addition to coaching his daughter's indoor and outdoor soccer teams.

Karin Breuer designed and taught three new courses in 2008, including "The Origins of the French Revolution" and "The Nation State in Nineteenth Century Europe." She published an article, "Competing Masculinities: Fraternities, Gender, and Nationality in the German Confederation, 1815-1830" in the August 2008 edition of *Gender and History*. Karin continues work on a manuscript entitled *For Honor, Freedom, and Fatherland: the Burschenschaft and German Political Culture, 1815-1848*.

Vivian Bruce Conger's book *The Widowers' Might: Widowhood and Gender in Early British America* came out in March 2009. She will be on sabbatical next fall and will conduct research in Philadelphia for her next project entitled *The World of Deborah Franklin: Gender in the Early Republic* funded by a Summer Research Grant from the Office of the Provost. Her article "There Is Graite Odds Between A Mans Being At Home And A Broad': Deborah Franklin and the Eighteenth-Century Home," will be forthcoming in *Gender and History*. She also served as President of H&S Faculty Senate and Coordinator of Women's Studies. Look for two new courses from her in the near future: "The History of Sexuality in America" and "Witchcraft in a Cross-Cultural Perspective." Her husband and her three cats provide her with a "haven in a heartless land" this year!

Jason Freitag completed his manuscript, *Serving Empire, Serving Nation: James Tod and the Rajputs of Rajasthan*, and it will be published by Brill Academic Publishers in Leiden later this year. His essay, "Becoming Rajput: An Historical Perspective," appeared in *Garden and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Jodhpur*, the catalogue of the recent exhibition in the Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution. He has been invited to deliver two lectures in the "Patchworks of Power" series supporting the Smithsonian exhibition *Muraqqa': Imperial Mughal Albums from the Chester Beatty Library*, entitled "The Shroud of the Sufi" and "The Power of the Book." Last spring Jason led his second to Istanbul, Turkey for a mini-course in "Ottoman Istanbul."

Joanne Izbicki is currently teaching a senior seminar. The near-end of the spring 2009 term finds her still seeking a film or reading that can supply comic relief to her Hiroshima/Nagasaki seminar. Her dog and 'Atomic Cafe' only go so far to fight off the solemnity of the topic and readings. Suggestions welcome!

Pearl Ponce recently published "As Dead as Julius Caesar: The Rejection of the McLane-Ocampo Treaty" in *Civil War History* (December 2007). In addition, she is working on two manuscripts: *Kansas' War: The Civil War in Documents* and *To Tame the Devil in Hell: Kansas in National Politics, 1854-1858*. In the last year, she has offered courses on the American Civil War, United States Foreign Policy, Jacksonian America and has offered tutorials in American History.

Michael Smith continued to develop the public history program at Ithaca College, placing several interns at The History Center in Tompkins County and refining the local environmental history project, now in its fourth year. His research into the student learning outcomes of the local environmental history project will be published as a chapter in the forthcoming book *Citizenship Across the Curriculum* (Indiana University Press). In addition to contributing a chapter Michael is a co-editor of the book.

Michael Trotti published his first book, *The Body in the Reservoir: Murder and Sensationalism in the South* (UNC Press), and gave book talks in both Ithaca and Richmond, Virginia. He is now working hard on his next project: a study of lynching and capital punishment in the South. He is trying hard to wrap his head around his home states of Virginia and North Carolina voting for Obama; cynicism has served him so well that he's not sure what this "hope" thing people are talking about is, but he's trying to adapt to these crazy, new notions the young people of today are having.

Zenon V. Wasyliw was promoted to full professor. Professors Varona-Lacey, Twomey, and Malpass served on his promotion committee. Wasyliw published a chapter on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Lucian Leustean, editor, *Eastern Christianity and the Cold War, 1945-1991* (Routledge Press, 2009). He is scheduled to present a paper in Boston at the National Convention of the AAASS, November 12-15, 2009, and participate on a panel at the ASN World Convention in NYC April 23-26. He is teaching 20th Century Global Revolutions the fall of 2009.

Getting to Know...

Pearl Ponce

By: Christopher Crawford

Another relatively new addition to the Ithaca College History Department is Professor Pearl Ponce, who came to the College in fall 2007. A native of New Mexico, Professor Ponce earned her B.A. in International Relations at Pomona College, and an M.A. in U.S. Diplomatic History at Ohio University. Professor Ponce completed her education at Harvard University, earning an A.M. and Ph.D. in History. At Harvard, her Ph.D. fields were American History to 1789, U.S. History from 1789, International History from 1815, and Ancient Rome from the Gracchi to the Severii.

Before arriving at Harvard, her primary area of interest was U.S. diplomatic history. During her time there, however, her interests began to broaden. "I ended up taking a seminar on the sectional conflict with William Gienapp, extraordinarily gifted historian and I found that we had similar historical interests. I was surprised to find myself fascinated by the colonial era and the 19th century ... when it came time to declare my dissertation topic, I decided not to write a dissertation on Cold War history as I had always assumed I would, but to focus instead on antebellum politics."

Professor Ponce comes to IC from California State University, San Bernardino. While she enjoyed her time at Cal State, Professor Ponce is happy to be at Ithaca College. "I am accustomed to teaching the American survey to between 150 and 250 students in each class. At IC, my survey is never more than 30 students and the type of teaching that size can inculcate is unparalleled. I believe I benefit from a small class size just as much as my students do." Dr. Ponce is pleased with her decision to come to Ithaca College, an academic setting she finds "extremely inspiring," with students who are "engaged and talented," and a faculty that is "dynamic and devoted to their mission."



Matthew Klemm

By: Jillian Hinderliter

The Department of History has made an exciting addition to the faculty this year, Professor Matthew Klemm. Klemm, whose specialty is European history throughout the Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Reformation eras, is a young professor with impressively varied interests from chemistry to cycling. "I actually began my undergraduate studies at Grinnell College in Iowa as a Chemistry major," Klemm admits. "I got into in the medieval period late in my undergraduate studies, mostly due to a great professor."

Professor Klemm transferred to the University of Iowa where he earned his B.A. in Classics and M.A. in history. He earned his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Before Ithaca, he spent two years studying medieval philosophy at Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium and two years as an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Klemm, says he's enjoying the smaller class sizes and the ability to experiment with teaching styles. "Right now I'm lecturing half the time, and spending the rest of the time with a heavy focus on primary sources. I try to get students to understand the mentality of the age, what it was like living in that given culture" Says Klemm.

While Klemm enjoys teaching the Classics and Medieval period, he would like to devote a course to other specific topics like the History of Science. "I think a History of Science course would go over really well. A major aspect of the course would be primary sources and a study of what individuals were trying to accomplish with science throughout the ages."

Although Klemm is active as a new professor and the faculty advisor for the Ultimate Frisbee team on campus, he remains an active father and husband. Klemm and his wife Sarah have two children, Frances, 4, and Oliver, 1. In addition to spending time with family, Klemm is an avid cyclist and Ultimate Frisbee player. "Overall, I am very pleased by the history department at Ithaca." Klemm concludes. "Every professor is involved in education and research, and extremely energetic. It's a great, young department."

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Getting to Know...

Terrie Miller

By: Jillian Hinderliter

If you recently called the Department of History and a cheery voice answered the phone, there is a good chance you were speaking to the new administrative assistant Terrie-Lee Miller, who joined the Ithaca College community about two years ago. Miller began looking for a new job after her employer of 33 years New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG) merged and eliminated her position.

Ithaca College, however, was not her first stop after the merger. She took the opportunity to attend Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC-3) to peruse a degree as a paralegal. After completion of her degree she worked for TC-3, and then at Cornell University. "I applied as a temp at Ithaca because I heard how wonderful they treated people," says Miller. "I was very excited when I got the job and I am very impressed with the department itself." Miller admits that she hated history in school, however, once she began working for the department she realized how intriguing history could be. "Professors have allowed me to sit in on their classes." Recalls Miller. "This opportunity allowed me to see how professors make history exciting." The professors and students are the best part of Miller's job she says, and she enjoys the responsibility of meeting all their needs from running errands to helping with budgets.

Outside of work Miller has an active life as a wife and grandmother. She has a son and a daughter, as well as five grandchildren. In her spare time, Miller enjoys a variety of hobbies including knitting, cooking, bowling and golfing. She also has further aspirations to earn a bachelors degree, "I plan to take a single class here and there whenever I get the chance," Miller says "and at this point in my life I just want to take something fun...like dancing!"

Terrie Miller, with her friendliness and willingness to help anyone who asks, is a wonderful contribution to Ithaca College's history department. Just as current professors and students depend on her administrative assistant skills, incoming students and alumni should feel free to contact Terrie with any needs or questions involving the history or speech communications departments.



Terrie Miller's office is 424 Muller Faculty Center
Picture provided by Terrie Miller



Matthew Klemm's office is 405 Muller Faculty Center
Picture provided by Megan Henry

History Students

Freshmen in 100-Level Classes

By: Jillian Hinderliter

For most students, the Ithaca College experience kicks off at freshmen orientation just a few months after high school graduation. Still, despite the seminars on topics from financial aid to roommates, nothing compares to actually stepping on campus and attending class. Usually students have no idea what to expect from their 100-level classes, let alone what each professor will demand of them. Luckily, professors realize that each incoming student is different from the next and classes must accomplish similar goals for each individual. Therefore professors who teach many 100-level courses, such as the history department's Karin Breuer, create classes that cover the material required while developing skills students can use throughout their education.

Despite the fact that 100-level history courses such as Foundations of Western Civilization and U.S. History to 1865 are packed with students, history majors are not a majority. A large number of students simply wish to satisfy general education requirements and history often seems like an intriguing choice. "I assume that the majority of students are not history majors," says Professor Breuer. "I simply try to interest and inform all students." As far as those interesting subjects are considered, Breuer finds that the students are most enthusiastic about the same topics every year. "People love the Tudors and witches." She says. "Also the 20th century and Nazi Germany are popular." While survey courses cover historical topics from Ancient Greece and Rome through the modern era, controversial or even simply bizarre subject matter drives class discussion and a deeper understanding of the time period.

In order to move history education outside of the textbook, 100-level courses successfully integrate primary sources and newspaper articles. Breuer incorporates texts such as *Confessions of St. Augustine*, the *Malleus Maleficarum*, and the *Communist Manifesto* into her western civilization classes and requires students to analyze the content from a scholarly viewpoint. "In addition to factual mastery, one of my key goals is that students learn how to construct formal, analytical essays." Professor Breuer reports. In combination with analytical essays, class discussion adds diverse perspectives on each source and students have the opportunity to speak up without feeling intimidated. Each student "...comes to college with a different level of ability," as Breuer describes it, and class discussion facilitates education

beyond lecture. Also, as a surprising side effect, discussions encourage students to become acquainted with one another and begin new friendships.

For many history majors, and even non-majors for that matter, 100-level history classes prove to be more than a basic required course. Professors in every department truly try to make introductory courses intriguing to each student while completing the educational goals of the class. The best way to experience Ithaca College is to just jump in, with a little advance planning of course, and first-year students should try out a variety of classes regardless of their major. Professor Breuer and others like her stress more than just the basic facts of survey courses, rather, they realize the importance in building skills to utilize in future classes. Enthusiasm combined with effort will certainly lead to success in 100-level classes, and very possibly to a fantastic educational career here at Ithaca.

2008-2009 Student Kudos

David W. Sass Scholarship, made possible through the generosity of David W. Sass, graduate of the history department and member of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees.

Awarded to:

Priyam Banerjee

Robert A. Ryan Scholarships, established by professor emeritus Robert A. Ryan through his estate specifically for history majors.

Awarded to:

Andrew Zivic
Brittany Bovenzi
Chris Allaire
Christopher Crawford
Renee LaDue
Angelica Burton
Samuel Brady
Laura Zdan
Michael McCormick
Bobby Pattison

Elliot Mayrock History Scholarship; established by Elliot Mayrock for incoming freshmen or transfer students declaring a major in history.

Awarded to:

Jillian Hinderliter

History Events

Mayrock Lecture Series

This is the 30th anniversary of the Marjorie Fortunoff Mayrock Lecture Series in History, which is funded by Elliot Mayrock '73 in memory of his mother.

In March the associate curator of South and Southeast Asian art for the Freer and Sackler Galleries curator at the Smithsonian Debra Diamond presented her lecture, "Of Agency and the Sublime: Politics and Painting in 19th-Century Rajasthan." Diamond's research interests include Rajput painting, a style of painting that was developed in the Rajasthan region of India. In contrast to traditional art histories that evaluate Rajput painting as a deeply conservative practice underlying timeless Indic sovereignty, Diamond examined how Rajput artists created and how the court viewed and understood new imagery and styles that engaged with political, religious and spiritual transformations.

On Thursday, April 16, Penny M. Von Eschen lectured on Duke Ellington Plays Baghdad: Rethinking Power after 1945. For over two decades, the U.S. State Department sent hundreds of jazz musicians on tours of Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, Asia, and Latin America. Artists who traveled for the government ranged from the great innovators of the 1920s and 1930s, to the avant-garde of the 1960s and 1970s. Von Eschen is Professor of History and American culture at the University of Michigan and the Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer. She is the author of *Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War* (2004) and *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957* (1997).

Whalen Symposium

Senior Angelica Burton, *The Evolution of Justice in Early Revolutionary France*

Senior Christopher Crawford, *Captivity and Enslavement in Frontier Regions: The Southwestern Borderlands*

Phi Alpha Theta

The annual Phi Alpha Theta Conference was held at Alfred State University this year on April 4, 2009. Professors Vivian Bruce Conger and Karen Breuer both served as commentators at the conference. Professor Jonathan Ablard, the faculty advisor for

Ithaca College's Phi Alpha Theta chapter took 8 students to the conference. Below are the names of student participants and their paper topics:

Matt Biddle, *Street Children in Brazil: AIDS in Historical Perspective.*

Brittany Bovenzi, *Cultural Warfare: British Policy in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Ireland*

Angelica Burton, *The Evolution of Justice in Early Revolutionary France*

Anna Funck, *Chilean Health Care: From Allende to Pinochet*

Sarah Garcia, *Stigma: The Infinite Hurdle for Health*

Renee LaDue, *Becoming British in Great Britain: Scotland's Struggles with Identity and Internal Colonialism*

Emma McCullough, *Dull Domestic or Daring Divas*

Laura Zdan, *The Public Influence of Queen Victoria's Private Life*

In the Workplace

To kick off the spring semester, social studies major Ed Cluett worked a seven-week student teaching stint at the Newfield Middle School, teaching units on World War I and the 1920s. His mentor teacher, Brandon Steinorth is an IC alumni, who graduated in December 2003. In Mr. Cluett's time at Newfield, students had trench warfare brought to life, saw examples of radio and movies in the '20s, and boogied down to the Charleston in a productive and very enjoyable seven weeks.



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History Club

IC History Club

The IC History Club is free and open to all students at Ithaca College: majors, minors, and all others! Throughout the year, the History Club holds a series of events intended to facilitate collaborative learning between students and faculty outside of the classroom. The events also help students build interdisciplinary social networks and learning communities with one another. In the past these events have included movies accompanied by a historical lecture and discussion led by a faculty member as well as faculty vs. student RISK tournaments. The History Club depends upon Ithaca College funds designated for extracurricular activities to host these events and provide refreshments such as pizza and soda to participants.

Recent Events

Dirty Harry film and lecture with Professor Michael Smith (April 14, 2009)

Pierogies and churches with Professor Zenon Wasyliw and Ms. Pasquale-Bowen's Ithaca High School Social Studies class: field trip to the Binghamton area to visit gold-domed Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches. The field trip included lectures on the iconography, architecture, social and cultural histories of four churches as well as a pyrohy lunch in the official Pierogi Capital of the United States (April 3, 2009).

2nd Annual Faculty vs. Student RISK Tournament (Fall 2008).

1st Annual Faculty vs. Student RISK



(Above) Prof. Jason Freitag talks about his courses for the Fall 2009 semester at the department lunch and pre-registration information session.



(Above) Prof. Smith contemplating his impending doom at the 1st Risk Tournament.



(Above) Prof. Freitag with current junior Caitlin Humphreys at the 1st Risk Tournament.



(Above) Prof. Breuer and Prof. Ablard with current students Priyam Banerjee and Angelica Burton at the 1st Risk Tournament.

Alumni Network



Class of 1981

Jeffrey Arlen Spinner, jspinner@courts.state.ny.us
 Judge, County Court of Suffolk County is the Acting Judge of Family Court of Suffolk County. He is also Acting Justice, Supreme Court of the State of NY, in the 10th Judicial District. Judge Spinner is more than happy to offer advice or internship placement assistance to current Ithaca College students. His own daughter is now attending the school.
 Tel. (631) 852-2309, Cell (631) 879-3736

Class of 1965

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Class of 1970

Barrie, Norman; Owns & operates the Camp Connection, working with youth programming
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Class of 1971

Cullen, Tim; AP History and AP Economics Teacher

Class of 1973

Arpadi, Judy; Reading Teacher
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Scheiner Gillis, Georganne; Assoc. Professor of Women and Gender Studies
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Class of 1992

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Class of 1993

Fitzgerald, Joseph; Catholic Priest & 1996 US Olympic Handball Team Member
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Ronai, Steve; High School Social Studies Teacher

Class of 1987

Yanek Mieczkowski, mieczkoy@dowling.edu
 Yanek Mieczkowski (B.A., Ithaca College, M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University) is a presidential historian and associate professor of American history at Dowling College in NY. He is the author of *Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s* (2005) and *The Rutledge Historical Atlas of Presidential Elections* (2001), and he worked as a Writing Fellow for *The American National Biography* (1999), contributing 36 biographies. He wrote the chapters on Gerald Ford for *Facts on Files Encyclopedia of the U.S. Presidency* (2009) and *The Reader's Companion to the American Presidency* (2000), among numerous other articles. Dr. Mieczkowski sits on the College Level Equivalency Programs, National Test Committee and serves as an Exam Leader for the Educational Testing Service's Advanced Placement Exam in U.S. History. He currently chairs the History Department at Dowling College, and he is writing a book on President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the space race.

Alumni Network

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Minsch, Eliza; Attorney
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Class of 2003

Megan Talmadge McKinney, Mtalmd1@binghamton.edu
PhD Candidate in History, Binghamton University, NY.

Megan is currently in Paris at the National Archives to conduct research on her dissertation entitled "Constitutional Republicanism after the Terror." Her dissertation will focus on the impact of the French Constitution of 1795 on the French Revolution, the European republics that emerged in its wake, and constitutional republicanism thereafter.

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Grob-Fitzgibbon, Ben; Professor of Imperial and British History
Reed, Carrie; Global History teacher
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Class of 2002

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Colletta, Michael; Law Student
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Class of 2004

Anthony S. Wallace, wallaceas@si.edu
Museum Specialist, Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Wallace received a Master's in Museum studies from George Washington University in January of 2008. Working in the collection processing unit, Mr. Wallace, along with his colleagues, is responsible for the cataloging, storage, care, movement, and tracking of the more than 100,000 objects in the Museums collection.

Alumni Network

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Class of 2004

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Stein, Jeff; House of Representatives for Congressman, Jerrold Nalder.
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Filipink, Lauren; 7th & 8th gr. Social Studies teacher
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Class of 2008

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Visit the History Department online at:

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Also, look for the NEW Alumni Network online at:

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