I welcome you to Iliff’s 2021 Year in Review. As I write, we are looking back on our first Gathering Days since the pandemic began. Our Journey students traveled in from all regions of the United States. It was refreshing to have the campus filled with students. We have just held our first onsite Board of Trustees meeting. Staff and faculty are transitioning back to their offices. When we held our first onsite faculty and staff meeting, it was a springtime all of its own. The laughter and sharing was a warm fresh breeze. We are all enjoying freedom from our little Zoom cells.

This has been a long season of displacement. As unchosen as the pandemic was, we have learned from it. We all have experienced a form of displacement. At a recent board meeting I asked us to reflect on the theme of displacement in light of Iliff’s purpose and vision. At Iliff, we are taking stock of the stories of displacement within the world. Whether it is the immense grief from COVID deaths, the movement to exclude LGBTQIA+ persons from the church, political divisions within US culture, racial injustice, or political challenges to higher education curriculum, it is always about human displacement. In this era of displacement, Iliff stands in its full stature when it is about the work of creating place.

It is deep within the calling of Iliff to hold tension with this historic moment. This year the Rev. Dr. Willie Jennings blessed us at our commencement ceremony and later with a series of public conversations. He writes, “But if theological education aims to form people who can gather others together through border-crossing pluralism and God-drenched communion, we can begin to cultivate the radical belonging that is at heart of God’s transformative work.”

This Year in Review remembers this ongoing work and gives thanks to the ever increasing number of individuals who make gifts to Iliff that create place in this era of displacement. Your gifts have made it possible to increase our scholarship support that strengthens Iliff as an accessible place for new and continuing students to seek degrees in our strong programs and with our excellent faculty. These gifts have supported the Innovation Lab that carries the essence of Iliff’s work into new learner relationships. Law professionals engage diversity, equity, and inclusion training. Iliff’s consultants engage designers and consumers of artificial intelligence to determine if its products are trustworthy and engineered without racial bias. The Ecojustice Center conference addressed the realities of environmental racism that force migration on marginalized communities. The Institute for Religion, Politics, and Culture takes Iliff into conversation with policy makers who seek to understand the intersections between religion and its potential influences on politics and culture.

In these ways, Iliff seeks to stand in its full stature to create place. Thank you for standing with Iliff.

Tom Wolfe
President & CEO
Dr. Jeni Rinner joined the Iliff staff in January of 2021 as the new Curriculum Product Development Specialist. Dr. Rinner comes to Iliff from Regis Jesuit High School in Denver, where she taught for over six years. She brings with her considerable skills in developing user-focused educational experiences. In the coming year, Dr. Rinner will be taking the lead on the Innovation Lab’s continued efforts in the realm of diversity, equity and inclusion training as well as the TRUST embedded ethics initiative, which will use a scorecard for businesses working in the artificial intelligence sphere.

Institute for Religion, Politics and Culture

The Institute for Religion, Politics, and Culture spent this year doing a thorough analysis of the national landscape of work happening at the intersection of religion and politics. Additionally, the Institute built an advisory board to guide its work and fostered relationships with leaders and influencers in religious and political spaces. In the next school year, the Institute will be launching the Complexified podcast; hosting workshops inside and outside the Iliff community; and facilitating the Religious Equality Caucus, a national caucus of state legislators who meet monthly to support policies that assure rights and equality.

Iliff Launches Alumni/ae Ambassador Program

Iliff’s Office of Admissions along with Alumni/ae Engagement invite you to volunteer as an Alumni/ae Admissions Ambassador. The program launched October 2020 and continues to engage alumni/ae to support Iliff’s enrollment efforts by connecting with prospective and newly admitted students and volunteering at events.

Volunteering with admissions is a great opportunity to connect with individuals interested in earning an Iliff degree. As a volunteer Alumni/ae Admissions Ambassador, you can interact with prospective students in a meaningful way as they explore what makes Iliff unique. Your alum perspective provides an invaluable view of life as an Iliffian!

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to help support future generations of the Iliff community. If interested in learning more about the program, please contact alumni@iliff.edu.

Innovation Lab

“How do we work together? How do we talk together in ways that will open up our best capacities and our best gifts?” Dr. Vincent Harding

The Iliff Innovation Lab creates programs, products, and services that package Iliff expertise in accessible ways for new audiences. Partnering with initiatives such as Iliff + Healers, the Center for EcoJustice, and the Institute for Religion, Politics, and Culture, the Innovation Lab helps create engaging experiences and products beyond academia. The Lab is a process and a team working to change the world by changing the way people show up in their workplaces and communities.

Dr. Ted Vial

In June of 2020, Dr. Ted Vial, Iliff’s Harvey Potthoff Professor of Theology and Modern Western Religious Thought, took on a new title: Vice President of Innovation, Learning, and Institutional Research. Dr. Vial joined the Iliff team in 2005 and continues to bring his expertise to the Iliff community through teaching courses and providing institutional leadership.
Professor Emeritus
Jeffrey Mahan

After 26 years of dedicated service to the Iliff School of Theology, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Mahan, Ralph E. and Norma E. Peck Professor of Religion & Public Communication, entered a well-deserved retirement to spend more time with his family, particularly his granddaughter, at the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

Dr. Mahan began his teaching career as a theological educator in 1989 and came to Iliff in 1995. For the last twenty-six years, Dr. Mahan taught in the areas of ministry, media and culture for both master’s and doctoral students. He also helped Iliff’s internship and ministry practice program become an example for other theological schools through his vision and leadership for the Office of Professional Formation. Between 2005 and 2009, he served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. His leadership, scholarship and presence will be missed at Iliff.

In October, Dr. Mahan gave his retirement lecture, “Congregations and other forms of Christian Connection: Church as Network” at Montview Presbyterian Church.

https://tinyurl.com/yjc727np

Dr. Mark Freeland
(Sault St. Marie Anishinabek)

Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies/American Indian Studies Program Coordinator at the South Dakota State University, Dr. Freeland was the first Tinker Visiting Professor for the 2020-2021 and 2019-2020 academic years. Dr. Freeland taught two courses each of these academic years, gave public presentations, and mentored Indigenous students during Gathering Days each quarter.

Rev. Dr. Willie J. Jennings
Commencement 2021

The 2021 Commencement speaker gave an address entitled “To Become a Place.”

Rev. Dr. Jennings is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale University Divinity School. A Calvin College graduate, Dr. Jennings received his M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. in Religion and Ethics from Duke.

As a systematic theologian, Dr. Jennings teaches in the areas of theology, Black church, and Africana studies, as well as post-colonial and race theory. Writing in the areas of liberation theologies, cultural identities, and anthropology, Dr. Jennings has authored more than 40 scholarly essays and nearly two-dozen reviews, as well as works on academic administration and blog posts.

Dr. Jennings examines the problems of theological education within western education with his book entitled After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging, which has already become an instant classic, winning the 2020 Book of the Year award from Publisher's Weekly. During the 2022-2023 academic year, Dr. Jennings will join Iliff in dialogue and learning to advance the 50in5 initiative with faculty, staff and student training and community events.
Critical Race Theory
What it is and Why it Matters

Critical Race Theory has entered the public lexicon and brought political division, school board fights, and battles in higher education. But do the people doing the fighting actually understand what the theory is? In November, the Iliff community heard from Black Women leaders on the history and foundations of Critical Race Theory and discussed the vital need to educate ourselves and others on the legal structures that have built and maintained racism in our society for the past three centuries. Additionally, we explored the spiritual necessity of facing our past so we can imagine new futures. The session panel included Alexi Freeman, Professor of the Practice of Law, Associate Dean of Diversity Equity Inclusion and Director of Social Justice Initiatives at Sturm College of Law; Deborah Richardson, Executive Director and CEO of ACLU-CO; Rev. Dr. Valerie L. Jackson, Senior Pastor at Cameron United Methodist Church; Norma Johnson, Healer/Poet, Writer, Performing Artist, Teacher, Speaker, Consultant and Facilitator; and Dr. Carolyn Love, Educator, Philanthropist, Leadership Trainer and Coach, Owner, Kebaya Coaching – Consulting, and Black Women Solutionaries, Inc. After the session, the panelists shared many helpful resources for further learning and understanding of this important topic, which can be found at https://www.iliff.edu/dialogues/.

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Thursday, August 11th 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
The power of poetry and art in social movements with National Poet Laureate

Joy Harjo

This inaugural event of the new Institute of Religion, Politics & Culture at Iliff, sponsored by Iliff’s Women’s Alliance, will bring together poetry, art, and inspiring conversation as we explore the ways poetry shapes movements for justice. Director of the Institute, Amanda Henderson will welcome National Poet Laureate Joy Harjo to share her poetry and art work in a public conversation. Young artists, poets, and musicians from the Denver community will share their gifts throughout the evening.

Artists & Partners

Art from Ashes
Youth on Record
All in Spirit, Norma Johnson
American Indian Academy of Denver

Cost $10
Online or In-Person options available.
http://bit.ly/3y7f7NY

Registration Required

Imagine with us!
There are many ways to engage with us!
Be an Alumni/ae Admissions Ambassador!
Offer internships!
Make a $20+ donation to the Iliff Student Emergency Fund! Use donation link!
Create a regional service event or dedicate 10 hours of community service for Iliff!
Make a nomination for an Alumni/ae Award! Use QR code for application form!

Honoring our commitment to inclusion, diversity, and social justice, Iliff is IMAGINING the future of theological education. What will the next generation of activists, servant leaders, and innovators do to cultivate compassion and justice in our communities?

We invite you to engage with our Iliff alumni/ae community as we IMAGINE the future of our beloved institution.

Will you IMAGINE with us?
This year, the Iliff community came together to celebrate the life and legacy of Susan Schlessman Duncan. The Schlessman and Duncan families have a long friendship with Iliff, evidenced in classrooms, program funds, and scholarships that bear their names. Sue dedicated much of her time to continuing the legacy of generosity begun by her family, following in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents.

“The Schlessman and Duncan names are all over Iliff. From buildings and rooms, to curricular developments, to scholarships. Iliff simply would not be what it is today without this support.” President Thomas V. Wolfe

When Sue passed on June 1st, 2019, she made sure her spirit of generosity would continue. Through her estate, she left the largest gift to the institution to date. With this gift, the Board of Trustees chose to launch the Susan Schlessman Duncan Scholarship Matching Campaign, matching any gift to student scholarships beginning June 1st, 2021. This campaign furthers Sue’s legacy of love and support for Iliff students.

As of January 2022, we have successfully completed the first phase of the matching campaign! Thanks to your generous gifts, we have raised over $500,000 for student scholarships, matched by $1 million from the Sue Schlessman Duncan legacy gift.

We are overjoyed to announce that the matching campaign will continue as we seek to match another $1 million from Sue’s legacy gift and expand funding for Iliff scholarships.

How can you help?

Give to scholarships! Every dollar given to student scholarships will be matched by $2 from the Susan Schlessman Duncan gift. [https://www.iliff.edu/give/](https://www.iliff.edu/give/)

Become a legacy donor like Sue! Learn more about planned giving on our legacy donor page: [https://ilifflegacy.org/](https://ilifflegacy.org/)
Registrar Carmen Baca Doster was recognized as the recipient of the Rollin Everett Smith Award for Outstanding Service to Iliff by a Staff Member. Carmen, who has been with Iliff for 34 years, is deeply loved and much appreciated by colleagues, faculty, and students for her dedication and professionalism. She was an invaluable member of the team and an inspiration to all of us.

Carmen Baca Doster
Registrar

Katherine Daniels (MDiv ‘21)

Before coming to Iliff, I exasperated others with a seemingly meandering vocational path. I joined Iliff in 2018 with little understanding of what theological education entailed or what it would bring to my life. It just seemed like another step along the path, framed by a sense that I needed to pause my decades-long career in international development. The uncertainty of where I was headed did not bother me; it left space for growth.

At Iliff, I became especially drawn to embodiment. Where exactly does trauma live in our bodies? What does it mean to become old? Why does Mary live in our imaginations as pious, white, cisgendered, youthful, and virginal? I hurtled through classes, internships, and training programs, racking up qualifications to become any number of things, but what would I become?

My capacity to be curious and stay present with the process grew at Iliff. I served as a chaplain in hospice and hospital rooms to sit quietly, listen, ask questions, hold hands, and pray with those enduring life-changing experiences. I attended to their thoughts and encouraged them to pay attention to their bodies. I returned to international development, bringing a critical perspective to this post-colonial but not yet decolonized work.

Daryl Jerome Walker (MDiv ‘21)

As the song goes, “we are building up a new world.” As a Christian committed to serving humanity, I facilitate and foster justice in love, show mercy, and honor G*d in all that I do. My Iliff education transformed me, encouraged the Sacred Music Theologian that has always been within me, and empowered me to imagine, see, and engage with the world, replacing the paradigm of “power over [others]” with “power with [others].”

I am a Singing Activist and Sacred Music Theologian who would not be here without the village that surrounded me throughout my theological journey. With eternal gratitude, I thank the faculty of Iliff for always seeing the best in me and voting me as the 2021 Masters Student of the Year. I also thank Dr. Eunjoo Kim and Dr. Cathie Kelsey for selecting me for the Fellowship Seminarian Award.

Over the last year, I have been able to embody sacred music that is influenced by the spirituals and entangled with the values of ministry and the calling of service. In addition to being a candidate for Deacon and Minister of Music and Worship at Park Hill UMC, I am on the Board of the Denver Children’s Choir and a member of the Spirituals Project at DU’s Lamont School of Music. I find it important to remain close to not only the Methodist family, but also to other faith groups such as the Jewish and Islamic communities. My work continues to bring diverse people together, united in the spirit of giving to those truly in need by living out a legacy of love for humanity.

Rev. Megan Burg
Masters of Arts in Special Ministry ‘07

The Rev. Megan Burg (MA ‘07), Associate Pastor at Arvada United Methodist Church in Colorado, chose Iliff because of our dedication to justice, connections to the University of Denver, and her immediate connections to faculty and administration.

Rev. Burg served as the alumni/ae representative to the Iliff Board of Trustees from 2019-2021. She has worked in The United Methodist Church since 1999, serving local churches in both Nebraska and Colorado. She was ordained as a Deacon in 2015. She is excited to maintain her relationships with the Iliff community and continues to use the school as a grounding point for her ministry and career.

https://tinyurl.com/yc6krhuy
2020-2021 Year in Review
Financials

Year-to-Year
FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE

| FY 2017-2018 | Iliff Fundraising | MEF $764K | SDG $577K |
| FY 2018-2019 | Iliff Fundraising | MEF $728K | SDG $488K |
| FY 2019-2020 | Iliff Fundraising | MEF $650K | SDG $458K |
| FY 2020-2021 | Iliff Fundraising | MEF $625K | SDG $433K |

Gift Purpose $7.88M

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Fundraising Purpose</th>
<th>FY 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Designated Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowed Scholarships &amp; Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Designated Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowed Scholarships &amp; Programs</td>
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Gift Source BY $ AMOUNT 20-21

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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Alumni</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
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Gift Source % BY DONOR COUNT 20-21

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<th>20-21</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Organizations (includes MEF)</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>40%</td>
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MEF - United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund, SDG - Student Designated Grants

Figures are based on in-house accounting as of May 31, 2022 and are unaudited. Final audit conclusions will be available after June 30, 2022. If interested, please contact us for more details.
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Susan (Sue) M.∞+ and James (Jim)+ Duncan
The Rev. Jane C. ’78+ and William H.+ Hays
Barbara Bridges ‡
City of Denver Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund
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Magee Christian Education Foundation
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Schlessman Family Foundation
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Wabash Center
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George+ and Ernestine+ Barany
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The Rev. Dr. Thomas V.* and The Rev. Marilyn N. Wolfe
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Odyssey Impact, Inc.
Saint Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education
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Barbara A. Boigegrain and Chris Warren
Katherine (Kathy) Sharp Borgen ’00∞
Dr. Sheila Greeve Davaney∆ and Dr. Larry Kent Graham+
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C. Bennett (Ben)** and Barbara Lewis
Pat and Willis+ Long
Janet∞ and Robert (Bob) Mannon
Barbara McDonnell**
Mike High United Way
The Rev. G. William (Bill) ’73 and Norah Pattison
The Rev. Dr. Gary Douglas ’80‡ and Jane Powell
Paula** and Keith Redmond
Dr. Verne A.◊ and Diana Smith
Debra Witzler
Anonymous Donors
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The Rev. Donald ’62 and Mary Ann Bleye
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Kelsey* and Jason Cochrane
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Rebecca David Hensley ◊
The Rev. Dr. John Paul Davis ’08 and James (Jim) Hryncewich
Dr. Carrie E. Doehring*
Myra E. Donovan
Jonathan Edward Drummond ’21
The Rev. Lonnie R. ’67∞ and Terry Eakle
Dr. Pamela (Pam) M. Eisenbaum* and Dr. Mark K. George*
The Rev. Thomas (Tom) M. ’65∞ and Lillian (Lil) English
John∞ and Tiffany Erickson
Andrew (Andy) Allen Folkert** and Kim Norton
Dr. Gerald ’57+ and Florence Forshey
Elizabeth Frazier
The Rev. Donald (Don) L. ’57 and Carole L. Germain
Dr. Frederick (Fred) L.∞ and Carol J. Grover
Robert ’72 and Katherine Haines

* Staff and Faculty
** Board of Trustees
∞ Honorary Trustee
‡ President’s Advisory Committee
◊ Former Trustee
∆ Emeritus Faculty
∞∞ Current Student
+ Deceased

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$500,000+

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$100,000 – $499,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$50,000 – $99,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$1,000 – $2,499

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$2,000 – $49,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$2,500 – $4,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$5,000 – $9,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$10,000 – $19,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$20,000 – $49,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$50,000 – $99,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$10,000 – $19,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$2,500 – $4,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$5,000 – $9,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$10,000 – $19,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$20,000 – $49,999

JOHN WESLEY ILIFF SOCIETY
$500,000+
Scott Halford**
The Rev. Dr. Earl K. ‘52 ‘78++
and Mrs. Rhonda K. Hanna
The Rev. Dr. Naomi Olivia Harris ‘04 ‘12∞
The Rev. Thomas (Tom) William Harshman ‘83 and Stanley Gwyn
Dr. Alberto (Albert) Hernandez*
The Rev. John A. Jacoway ‘62
and Linda L. Kropenske
Dr. Amy Kahn**
Kebaya Coaching & Consulting Inc.
The Rev. Jane Harlowe Keener-Quiat ‘86
and Andrew (Andy) L. Quist*
Jason Long** and Daniella Morello
Dr. Carolyn Love**
Dr. Joretta L. Marshall ‘80 and Joy Allen
Dr. Taylor ‘51 ‘57◊ and E. June+ McConnell
Joelle McKnight
Susan Arnold Mitchell
and George W. Mitchell, Jr.
Angela Molloy
Day Monet
Allan L. Nesbitt ‘62
Dale and Joan Nordstrom
James Palenchar
Ebenezer B. Sunanda ‘63 ‘67†
and Rosa Pareja de Sunanda
Meredith Parfet ‘21
Stephen (Steve) G. and Claire B. Parker
Mr. Walter (Lee) Lee Parker III ‘05
James D. and Lillian Sue Phelps
Dr. Richard (Dick) L. ‘60 and Ethel Phillips
Dr. Ronald Carl ‘03
and Mary Katherine Pinson
Douglas** and Hazel Price
Allen Qiu
Frieda T. Root Memorial Scholarship Fund
Isabela Rosales ‘20
Anita Sanborn**
and Robert (Bob) Thomson+
Bishop Roy Sano
and Kathleen (Kathy) A. Thomas-Sano
The Rev. Roger ‘58+ and Kay A. Shanks
Robert (Rod) M. and Gail Shattuck
Dr. Judson Shaver ‡
Orion Sherwood
The Rev. Dr. Douglas (Doug) W. ‘88∞
and Jan Slaughter
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