

***Our Academic Memories
of
W. Todd Rogers
(1941-2020)***



I met Todd when we started graduate school together in 1969. We became close friends and classroom competitors through graduate school and ultimately graduated together. We regularly looked for ways to work together and found several. For example, I taught one summer at University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and he came frequently to work with me in developing the Joint Committee for Standards in Educational Evaluation's Student Evaluation Standards. One fond memory is of sailing with him in his brother's small boat in the bay in Vancouver. My wife, Janet, and I knew nothing of sailing. It turned out that Todd didn't either. It didn't deter us; we didn't crash into any ships but I'm sure we gave some of them a scare. He was an intense worker and a fun person.

I miss him.

Professor Emeritus Arlen Gullicksen
University of Western Michigan
PHD student alongside Todd

We first met Todd in 1969 when he entered the PhD program in educational research at the University of Colorado where Jim was a second year student. We immediately hit it off and became lifelong friends that year. We socialized and attended professional conferences together while at CU and for many years to come.

Todd was always fun to be with. His sense of humor, great smile, and warm personality were endearing. He was also a skilled and knowledgeable expert in the methodology of large scale student assessments. He consulted with Jim on student assessment in 1974 at the Northwest Lab in Portland, OR; he graciously hosted us when we arrived at UBC in Vancouver, B.C. where Jim was teaching a summer class in program evaluation in 1984; and he took us on a full day exploration of the Canadian Rockies when we visited Banff to attend a Canadian Evaluation Association meeting in 2001. What wonderful memories.

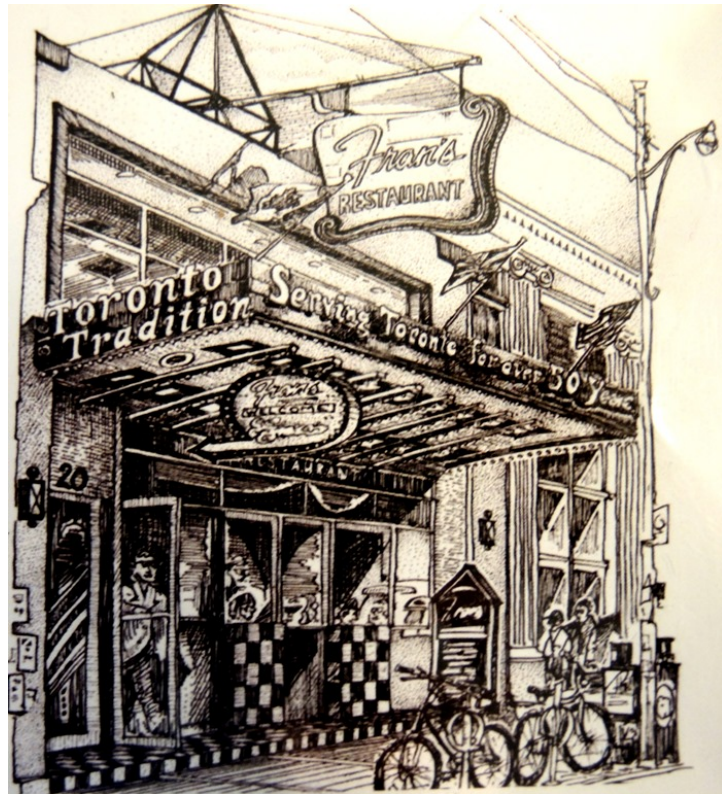
Todd's passing was much too soon, and we will miss having more opportunities to enjoy his company. We feel blessed for the time we were able to spend with him.

Thank you, Todd, for being such a wonderful friend and human being,

Jim and Sue Sanders
Plainwell, MI USA

I cannot remember when I first met Todd. It might have been at one of the professional meetings or it might have been when I first started doing some work in Toronto with the Educational Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) for the

Province of Ontario. My best guess is that it was around the year 2000. I might have been acquainted with him before that, but not really “met” him in the sense that we sat down and talked one-on-one. What I do remember is that Todd and I were on an advisory committee for EQAO and both of us were considered as scholars in residence at EQAO. Because of those activities, Todd and I would see each other every few months in Toronto. I think there was even a time when we shared the same office. But my favorite memory is that when we were in Toronto at the same



time, we often would go to Fran's together for lunch and talk about whatever was on our minds. Fran's was an old-style diner with a large casual menu and many tables and booths. Todd liked the place, so we went there often. For that reason, I have included a drawing of Fran's.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus Mark Reckase (PhD)
Michigan State University
Colleague on the Psychometric Expert Panel for EQAO

*He had a profound effect on my career.
In fact, I would say he altered the course of my life.*

Professor Doug Willms
University of New Brunswick

Todd was a great friend who was a welcome addition to our group when he arrived as we were transitioning from DERS. He and I shared many great times together.

He spent a sabbatical with us just before he left UBC to come to UofA, and during that time he got to know Glenn Rowley (retired from Monash, and from ACER) who was here at the time, and for several Sunday's dined with us at our home in Millet. We became a bit of a short term extended family. At one stage, our family plus Todd spent some time in Australia and Fiji and he fell into a kind of Uncle Todd role. Great FUN!

Emeritus Professor Tom Maguire (PhD)

University of Alberta

Colleague at the Centre for Applied Research in Measurement and Evaluation (CRAME)

Todd was a brilliant researcher and dedicated faculty member - he embodied what I believe we are to do in our work - to provide rich learning experiences for our students and help prepare them for the world of applied work in measurement and evaluation and academia for others. I had the pleasure of knowing Todd first as a 'distant relative' as I was mentored by his mentee Dr. Don Klinger at Queen's University. I have no doubt that Todd influenced Don's generous and compassionate approach to his mentees. As I was beginning to seek out opportunities post-PhD, Todd approached me at a conference and wondered what my plans were. He then encouraged me to apply to the UofA position that would bring me to CRAME as an assistant professor. During those first few years, Todd would drop in to my office and see how I was doing, I even joined his family for Thanksgivings as my own family was a four hour plane ride away. We continued to keep in touch after his retirement and I know he remained active in the field. I will always remember his generous and kind spirit and I hope I am continuing his legacy as he would have expected.

Professor Cheryl Poth

Faculty of Education, University of Alberta

I have very fond memories of working with Todd on both the Personnel Evaluation Standards and the Classroom Assessment Standards. I can visualize Todd hunched over his laptop with a look of concentration as he totally ignored all the arguing going on among the rest of us. Finally, he would simply look up and say, "Here is what I think we should do..." and he would have his own ideas or wording written out already. Most of the time (not all!) we would stop arguing and just realize that he had the right ideas. Or, if we dismissed it, he would simply shrug and turn back to his computer. I do recall a particularly long debate on validity and reliability in the Classroom Assessment Standards! I forgot who won, but it went on for hours!!!

He was also fun to go out to dinner, ball games, whatever. He had such a dry sense of humor.

His contributions to all the standards were simply invaluable. It was a pleasure to work with him.

Professor Barbara Howard
Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation
Appalachian State University

Todd was a good, well-rounded person that I enjoyed talking with about any topic (definitely not only academic-related). I cherished having the opportunity to interact with him in so many CREATE, AERA, AEA, etc. meetings. He was a good human being and I am sure he is resting in a good place and he will always be remembered by those who knew him well. His mentor-like tips that he shared with me made me a better person. May God bless his family and friends.

Dr. Marco Muñoz,
Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation
Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS)

I first met Todd over 25 years ago, as he was one of the members of the Joint Committee of Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE). Years later I had the opportunity to work with him and others on the development of a new set of educational standards. In our working together, as a team of task force members, we met face-to-face several times. That is when I really had the wonderful opportunity to get to know Todd. Working with him was a pleasure, and I quickly began to see why he was one of the leaders in the field of measurement as well as why he was so well respected by his colleagues. Not only did he always go beyond the call of duty in helping us to succeed in our work, but he did so with a wonderful sense of humor.

I do miss working with Todd and the other members of the task force, and I will always value the opportunity I had to work with him.

Patty McDivitt
Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation
Executive Vice President, Data Recognition Corporation

I first met Todd when I was on study leave at CRAME in the late 1980's. He was generous and smart and we kept contact – probably more than I have had with my earlier found mate Tom Maguire. Our kids (then 1-4) had their first Halloween at their place, and still recall how they and the neighbors went overboard and it was the day before the real Halloween (as we left that am).

John Hattie
Emeritus Laureate Professor
Melbourne Graduate School of Education

I recall a time about 10 years ago when he so eloquently spoke out about the misuse of our provincial assessment data by those who would use it to rank schools. He gave us all the boost we needed to keep going.

Dr. Markus Baer
British Columbia Ministry of Education

I can attest to Todd's collegiality by sharing a brief account of the amazing assistance he provided me in the development of my book "Large-Scale Assessment Issues and Practices: An Introductory Handbook" (2014). The piece was written over a two-year period, during which time Todd mentored me in various aspects of measurement and provided expert advice and editing suggestions on the many drafts of the document. I didn't have to ask for his help. Upon learning that I was embarking on the writing project, he immediately volunteered to help out in any way he could. His dedication and perseverance were remarkable. Whenever I submitted draft sections to him he always returned comments and suggestions promptly, often following up with telephone calls to elaborate. On this single project he devoted untold hours and was always upbeat and constructive.

Todd was an extraordinarily professional, supportive, and caring person, a wonderful human being of whom I have such fond memories.

Dr. Richard Jones (PhD)

Formerly a member of the Education Quality and Accountability Office

Todd was such a wonderful person. So caring and thoughtful. I enjoyed working with him on EQAO PEP. So many great memories.

Professor Emeritus Barbara Plake

University of Nebraska

Colleague on the Psychometric Expert Panel for EQAO

I have nothing but fond memories of Todd. He was a titan in the field of measurement and evaluation and a gentle and kind soul who was generous with his time and attention. The latter is perhaps the most enduring memory I have of Todd - his willingness to engage in frank discussions and give you his undivided attention. Rest in peace knowing that you made a lasting contribution to countless graduate students and academics across Canada and beyond."

Professor Louis Volante (PhD)

Professor, Department of Educational Studies, Brock University

I'd like to attribute my interest in educational assessment to Todd after one of his lectures on the subject to my preservice teacher cohort. As a graduate student some years later I was always happy to see him at conferences and appreciated that he would take the time to critique my research ideas. Thank you for all your contributions to psychometrics and educational assessment, Dr. Rogers

Dr. King Luu
British Columbia Ministry of Education

Todd was my grand-supervisor via Don Klinger, and I always enjoyed seeing him at conferences and during his visits to Queen's. Todd was extremely generous with his time and mentoring. His questions always challenged my thinking, and he has made me very intentional about my use of the term model. Todd will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on through the many lives he impacted.

Dr. Danielle LaPointe-McEwen
Queen's University

*I learned a lot from Todd about measurement as well as the tenacity to persevere when the learning got tough and the need to figure things out myself. I remember him saying "Who do you think taught me? You can read and learn about it yourself". Needless to say, I've learned a lot.
He was a good man.*

Dr. Tess Miller
University of Prince Edward Island

A message to the Assessment and Evaluation Group (AEG) at Queen's University sent by Dr. Christopher Deluca, The development and growth of the AEG was strongly influenced by Todd.

Dear AEG students, faculty, and alumni,

Some of our new students may not have had the opportunity to meet Todd but many of you will remember him as a great supporter of our Assessment and Evaluation Group. As Don Klinger's supervisor at the University of Alberta and mentor to Liying Cheng, Todd's teachings have had a direct influence on how we view and understand assessment here at Queen's. In terms of lineage, we have often said that for many of us, he was our 'great supervisor'. Todd was a long-time supporter of CSSE and CERA, and we would often meet there to debate principles of assessment, often the tensions between validity and reliability! He was a champion of students and a role model for many of us.



I am deeply saddened by the news of Todd's passing. Todd was always so kind and supportive since Day 1 I started my PhD program at U of A. He was not only a professor to many of us, but also a mentor and a friend that we respect deeply. One vivid memory I have of Todd as a professor is that he insisted we did our calculations manually without the use of a computer program for his courses (fun times). As a mentor, although Todd was not my dissertation supervisor, he would always check on us CRAME students to make sure we were doing okay and would succeed. He provided me tips on my first day as a CRAME consultant, and continued to be always available when contacted for psychometrics/work/personal advice, even after I started working in Toronto, he would check on me regularly at EQAO. He gave me a lot of encouragement to keep hustling and finish my degree over the years, and I am glad that in March 2020, I was able to let him know that I was finally done and he said he was pleased. That was the last time we were in contact. Todd has touched many of our lives. We will forever remember his passions and dedications to educational research and the field of assessments. Going to conferences will never be the same without seeing Todd and he will be dearly missed. My deepest sympathy to Todd's family.

Karen Fung
Lead Psychometrician, The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada
Former PhD student at the University of Alberta

Todd was like a father figure to many of us, always there looking out for us and making sure that everything was ok. Great man, and he will surely be missed. Although he was not my supervisor, he helped me just as much----I have so many fond memories of him.

Gautam Puhan
Graduate Student at the University of Alberta
ETS

In 2007 I took a course with Dr. T. Rogers. Little I knew that this was going to be a life-changing experience for me! After the first week of classes, I approached Dr. Rogers to ask if I could do my PhD degree with him. He enthusiastically agreed to be my supervisor, and I never looked back. I finished my PhD in 2011, with much experience under my belt, thanks to Dr. Rogers who made sure I had a diversity of experience, both in academic and professional settings. I remember my supervisor and mentor as a person with empathy, compassion, and care for everyone he worked with, including graduate students. After my graduation, we stayed in touch and had regular lunches on campus up to the last year. We chatted both about work and family, and I always looked forward to our next lunch date. I felt immense support and care from Dr. Rogers over the years. We shared both high and low moments. This year I became an Associate Professor at the University of Alberta, and although I can't celebrate this achievement with Dr. Rogers, I know my mentor would be proud for the person he helped me grow!

I AM GRATEFUL FOREVER.

Oksana Babenko, (PhD, 2011)
Medical Education Research, University of Alberta

I completed my MEd in CRAME in 2011 and Todd was one of my thesis committee members. I remember him fondly, as I'm sure all of his former students do. Todd was kind, passionate about education and cared deeply about all of his students. I was lucky enough to take several of his classes and can easily say that he is the professor I learned the most from during my time in grad school, and to this day I rely heavily on his teaching in my education work. As a committee member, his high standards and rigorous adherence to methodological principles was at the time frustrating, but in retrospect it made me and my work much, much stronger. He accepted only the highest quality research and in doing so he produced excellence in all of us, and I am grateful for it. Since losing touch with Todd after leaving CRAME I have missed his wit and his storytelling.

Simon Turner MD FRCSC MEd
Chair of Education, Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons
University of Alberta Division of Thoracic Surgery



Todd was endlessly pushing his students to not only understand the complicated material that Todd presented in class, outside of class etc., but really tried to emphasize how all the students played a role as a professional both personally and professionally. He was always fair, listened and understood when personal issues could interfere with our work. I remember some of my early experiences moving to the US and he would vouch for me to obtain an apartment as I was stressing about moving across the border in 2001. In addition, he always gave good advice that was tailored to the student, where some job options, schools etc. were easier for some given family obligations. Todd will be missed by the academic community and his students. My deepest sympathies to your family as your loss is deeply personal and this last year must have been very challenging.

Andrea Gotzman (PhD 2011)

Senior Research Psychometrician, Medical Council of Canada

Todd is our great mentor. His humanitarianism, compassion, integrity and devotion truly impacted my life and world view. I still remember clearly the first day when I met Todd at CRAME, I looked like a refugee (I lost my luggage and was brand new to Edmonton). Todd thoughtfully passed me a big box with comb, clothes, food, stationary, and sit down with me to work out a feasible study plan. From that moment, I decided to complete my doctoral study no matter what challenges ahead. And since then, Todd had unselfishly provided us his knowledge and support and encouraged us to achieve higher and overcome all difficulties in life and work with dignity.

He is missed!

Dr. Lingyun Gao

PhD (2007)

Ascend Learning.



Todd was an amazing person who really cared about us as students. He was always willing to listen, and treated each of us as the individuals we are. I will be forever grateful for his mentorship and kindness over the years.

Louise M. Bahry,
MEd (2011)
Director and Co-Founder
Avens Evaluation Group, Ltd.

I have so many wonderful memories of Todd, he truly made me feel like I was a part of the CRAME family when I first started my PhD and even after I graduated from CRAME. It was so nice to meet up with Todd and everyone during our CRAME AERA/NCME and CSSE dinners.

My fondest memories of Todd are during our classes. He always taught with colored chalk, which allowed us to better visualise the processes behind each of the statistical procedures he was teaching us. At the end of each analysis, he would always talk about the 'Cadillac model' – which meant it was a balance between the most simple and statistically parsimonious model. He was always so willing to help students that he would constantly remind us that we could look up his number in the phone book and call him in the evenings! His willingness to help us succeed is something that I will always remember and forever be grateful for.

Dr. Man-Wai Chu
Associate Professor: University of Calgary



I have wonderful memories of Todd and of CRAME – a program and a place I never initially imagined myself joining. I expect my story of how I ended up in CRAME is quite different from others. In pursuit of my master's degree in Kinesiology, I followed my supervisor to the UofA halfway through my MSc program. I needed an external member for my thesis committee. My supervisor, being new to the UofA, didn't know anyone and so turned the task of finding a committee member over to me. I looked around and I found Todd. Todd graciously agreed to join my committee. He then proceeded to rip apart my data analysis eventually having me re-do most of my results. He was nice about it. But it required a substantial amount of work and before I knew it, my defense was pushed back to the Fall. I wanted to pursue a PhD but given my Master's degree was incomplete, I hadn't applied anywhere. What was I going to do? Then Todd approached me about doing my PhD in CRAME. I thought he was crazy. But he persisted. I think he sold me on the fact I could start my PhD in the Fall and that he had some funding for me. I figured, Todd was a nice guy and a stats course is a stats course – I could always try it out for a year and then transfer those stats courses over to a PhD in Kinesiology somewhere. Looking back, I think Todd frequently collected Measurement students in strange places. He could see the 'Measurement' in us (or was it potential?) even when it wasn't necessarily obvious to us.

I made it through my first Measurement term. Intermediate Statistics, Measurement Theory, and Program Evaluation. What I remember most about that first term was Todd's crazy day-long take home exams. I also remember feeling as if I was part of something. I felt welcomed and accepted (even if I also thought I was an imposter at times). I remembered how Todd went out of his way to get to know my husband and help him, a cabinet maker, feel comfortable among a group of academics. Once I made it through that first term, I realized there was an art to this measurement stuff and I was sold. The rest of my PhD program was filled with some great, classic Todd memories. His hand-written notes. Learning matrix algebra to solve multivariate analysis problems by hand. Todd using coloured chalk to teach us factor analysis. His claim that SPSS version 3.1 (or some other outdated version) was the best... Todd writing on the maroon painted walls with chalk because he ran out of room on the blackboard (no whiteboards in those days!). His never-ending dissertation revisions. Being asked (by a gleeful and smiling Todd) if we learned anything from writing the crazy day-long take-home exam?

Todd was a fantastic teacher, mentor and one of the best role models I have ever had. I counted on Todd for advice. He was instrumental in helping me make some very significant career decisions. I remember asking Todd, "Should I pursue this term position at SDSU or stay in Edmonton and defend my dissertation proposal?" Todd replied, "Stay". So I decided to go. "Should I stay and finish my dissertation research or head to the University of Hawaii for another position?" Predictably, Todd replied, "Stay". Just as predictably, I chose to go. So although I clearly didn't always follow his advice, Todd never held my decisions against me, although he frequently used me as an example of what not to do! As unconventional as my path was, it worked out for me. Todd was there supporting me every step of the way.

I have always counted on Todd as someone I could reach out to when I had a tough question about 'what to do now' in a study. As I write this, I still can't believe he is gone and continue to find myself feeling adrift. My hopes for the future are that I can be half the mentor Todd was to my students and that Todd's passing can bring the small Measurement community in Canada and beyond even more closely together.

Have you ever really had a teacher? One who saw you as a raw but precious thing, a jewel that, with wisdom, could be polished to a proud shine? (Album, p. 192).

Todd – you were that teacher for me. Thank-you for always believing in and supporting me.

Professor Laurie-Ann Hellsten (PhD 2005)
Dean: University of Winnipeg

Todd put me on the right career path when I wasn't sure what to do with myself while going through the Master's program at the University of Alberta, I was a little bit like a lost lamb not exactly knowing what my plans were once I got my Master's degree. But after I got the highest mark (and the only 9!) in Todd's EdPy507 (Test Theory) class, he set a trap to get me to CRAME. Every time we bumped into each other in a hallway Todd would not pass the opportunity to ask "Joanna, are you coming to CRAME next year? We have a desk for you!" He told me about research and work being done by the CRAME students. Sounded interesting! He planted an idea in my head that I may be just good enough to join what I thought was an elite student group in the EdPsych department. He did that because he cared. Next year, I started my PhD program sitting at my new desk in CRAME and feeling like I always belonged there. That was by far, the best career-wise decision I made in my life. I want to acknowledge that I got a lot of support from other professors and also from my colleagues while studying at the University of Alberta, but Todd Rogers was the one who supported and influenced me most. He shepherded me through the PhD program giving me amazing opportunities to learn, to teach, and to do research. He was there for me every step of the way, always encouraging and at the same time demanding that I do my best. Today, I have been a psychometrician for over 20 years working for large testing companies and I truly enjoy what I do for a living. I often tell my husband how incredibly lucky I was to meet and follow Todd when I was at a crossroads.

Thank you, Todd, for being such a great mentor to all of us CRAMERs!

Dr. Joanna Tomkowicz
PhD 2000

Todd is someone whom I deeply respect and fondly remember. He taught me so many things that made me who I am as a researcher and as a mentor now. Todd was the most generous mentor who wrote me a recommendation letter in applying for the Killam postdoctoral fellowship from Hong Kong – a place so far away so different in every sense on the other side of the world from Edmonton. Todd took me on as I struggled settling into Edmonton as a single mother raising a 10-year-old boy. Over the two years when I was at CRAME University of Alberta, he taught me immensely from validity to writing my first successful SSHRC grant. It is through working with him, publishing with him, and ‘arguing’ with him that I learned how to communicate my research ideas. Todd made tremendous impact on our research field – more importantly through his impact on many generations of scholars, and I am so very fortunate and grateful to one of his. Todd, may you rest in peace knowing I will continue to put it forward your teaching.

Professor Liying Cheng
(Killam postdoctoral fellow 1998-2000)
Professor, Faculty of Education, Queen’s University



I consider myself a very lucky person. While I rarely if ever win anything, amazing people have come into my life at the exact moments I need them. These people have mentored me, inspired me, and guided me.

As proof of my luck, I met Todd after randomly spotting Dr. David Bateson at an educational event in British Columbia. Dr. Bateson was one of my former professors when I did my teaching degree at UBC, and unknown to me at the time, he was good friends with Todd. I told David, I was interested in doing a Master's degree, and David suggested two people. Todd Rogers or Ross Traub. Todd returned my phone call.

As many people know, Todd and I became very good friends and close colleagues, even though we never met prior to 1997, and we never lived in the same city after I graduated in 2000. Nevertheless, in the years since my graduation, Todd and I would work on research together, travel together, and serve jointly on different committees. We often shared a hotel room when we travelled, which worked out great because I apparently snore but Todd was quite deaf. A perfect combination. We had many measurement and policy debates and discussions, often over dinner or at a baseball game. I am sure that the people around us thought we were not completely sane. We also shared much about our professional

We continued to work and travel together long after Todd retired. Each year, Todd would tell me it would be his last conference, and then a few months later he would ask if I was going to an upcoming conference. I would always keep one eye out for him, a relatively easy job given his height and white hair. I witnessed Todd slowing down but I also witnessed his ongoing dedication. He worked non-stop during our committee work, and our evenings continued drift between professional discussions and our and personal lives, our challenges and successes. At any conference, you could be assured that Todd would be attending conference sessions to ensure presenters would have an engaged audience. And Todd always engaged, especially if the presenter was a student. He was in his glory.

Todd's care and dedication to support others in their academic pursuits puts him in a special place for all who have worked with him. He was dedicated to quality and people worked hard to make sure they were achieving the standards Todd knew they could obtain. I was certainly no exception to this.

*I had the honour to call Todd a close colleague and an even closer friend.
I am a lucky person.*

Professor Don A. Klinger (PhD, 2000).
Pro Vice-Chancellor Education, University of Waikato.



*Thank you Todd for
helping to shape our
academic lives.*