

# DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Autumn/2017-2018

## Letter from the Interim Chair *Angela Brintlinger*

Dear Alumni and Friends of Slavic,

It seems like a great time to be studying Russia and Eastern/Central Europe. When I was in graduate school, at the end of the Soviet period, faculty joked that enrollments rise and fall with the news cycle, and that certainly seems to be the case these days.

We are embracing the opportunity to share and expand knowledge of the languages we teach—Russian, Polish, Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian, Romanian—and the cultures we study. Students have been flocking to our doors, and we want to accommodate them. With enrollments up in Russian language and culture especially, we aim to educate today's students using film, literature, and even food.

New developments in our curriculum include several on-line versions of courses, in particular R2335.99: Russian Culture, and R2355.99: Russians and their Vodka: Deconstructing Myths. Students appreciate the convenience and report that given our quality instructors, they truly enjoy the opportunity to learn from the department's online classes. In the classroom, too, we are reaching almost 1000 students this autumn—it's exciting to contemplate the impact they will have on the world in the future.

Faculty continue to research and publish at a great rate, and our graduate students are delving into all three major fields in the department: linguistics, literature and culture, and second language acquisition. We are pleased to be the new home for the *Slavic and East European Journal*, the professional scholarly journal now edited by Yana Hashamova with assistance from Alexander Burry and new editorial assistant Sean Ray. Read below to learn more about the journal and our other accomplishments and endeavors!

Having just returned from a sabbatical, I was happy to be asked to relieve Yana Hashamova for a semester while she takes a well-deserved research break. Yana will return as chair of the department in January, but in the meantime, feel free to contact me if you have questions, ideas, or initiatives you'd like to see us pursue. We are always eager to hear from alumni and friends and urge you to send us your news and think about donating to the department to support the programs you love.

Angela Brintlinger



Professor Brintlinger visiting  
Tolstoy's Garden in Moscow



The ancient city of Pskov, Russia (photo by A. Brintlinger)

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# Welcome to DSEELC

## New Graduate Students in 2017-2018



**Andrew Thompson**

I was born in California, but my family moved to the South when I was about three or four years old. Though I have lived in numerous locations, I have spent the most time in North Carolina, which I consider my home. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I studied Russian language and literature. I like reading and running, and my favorite author is Dostoevsky.



**Katya Tikhonyuk**

I completed my undergraduate studies at Moscow State Regional University in 2012, and spent a year at Davidson College, NC, teaching Russian as a recipient of the Fulbright FLTA grant. I taught English and Russian at university level prior to arriving at Ohio State. My current research focuses on the representations of political ideologies in the post-Soviet Russian mass media and film."



**Viktoriia Kim**

I am a native of St. Petersburg, Russia, who came to the US several years ago from Hungary where I taught Russian for one year. Since then I have been teaching Russian in the US. I am interested in SLA theory as well as Second Language Instruction.



**Jacob Beard**

My areas of expertise are nineteenth century Russia, intellectual history, and Pyotr Chadaev. I obtained my BAs in History and Philosophy in 2013 at Northwest Missouri State University and my MA in History from Miami University in 2017.



**Ke Lin**

I received my B.A. in Linguistics and B.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017. In the past, I have been involved with the Lower Resource Language for Emergent Incidents (LORELEI) project at the Language Technology Institute of the Carnegie Mellon University. My interests include language typology, bilingualism, and morphology. At OSU, I hope to further develop my prior research work concerning morphosyntactic processing in Russian.



# Summer Study in Saint Petersburg, Russia

By David Szolosi

This summer I was blessed with the opportunity to study in Saint Petersburg, Russia for two months. I sought this opportunity to complement my studies for the Russian and International Studies majors at Ohio State. I participated in the Russian as a Second Language program offered by the School of Russian and Asian Studies (SRAS). The program was held at the Saint Petersburg State University of Economics in the heart of Saint Petersburg. I lived in the international student dormitory with the other American students in my program, as well as some students from other countries finishing their spring semester.

The main purpose of my stay in Russia was to study the Russian language, but I also developed a much deeper understanding of Russian culture and politics. In class I learned a variety of nuances in the Russian grammatical structure and greatly increased my vocabulary. Living in Saint Petersburg, the location of the Communist Revolution, during the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Revolution, I learned much about this pivotal time in Russian history. The highlight of this aspect of my study this summer was a seminar on the Communist Revolution toward the end of my program. We took a bus tour around the city in which we visited the key sites of the revolution, including the Aurora cruiser, Vladimir Lenin's apartment, and the Winter Palace. In addition to this seminar on the revolution, I visited many other cultural destinations in Saint Petersburg. For example, I took a walking tour of a variety of places where the stories of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's are set. Another academic highlight of my program was the interview I conducted with a native of Saint Petersburg for my capstone project. I interviewed a retired woman who makes additional money by sweeping outside on the university's campus. I



David in front of a statue of Lenin.



SRAS cooking class, learning to make blini and pelmeni.

found her story very interesting and I greatly appreciated having the opportunity to have a glimpse into the life of a retired person in Russia.

She told me about her life in the Soviet Union, how things changed over the years with a different government, and her children growing up. She now lives off of the money she makes sweeping and gives her daughter her entire pension from the government so she can support her child. Making friends with locals was an integral part of my language learning experience. Outside of class and trips to the grocery store, I had very few opportunities to use Russian, despite living in Russia. I would argue instead that I progressed in my language

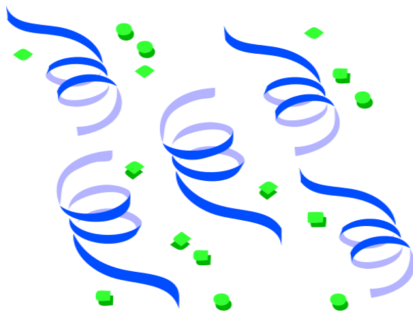
proficiency more through frequent interaction with the friends I made than I did in class.

(Continued on pg. 9)

# Congratulations to our 2017 Graduates!



**Greg Ormiston, PH.D.** graduated Spring 2017 and is currently a lecturer at DSEELC, teaching second-year Russian. Aside from teaching, he is continuing his research on Russian literature and prison. We are happy to have him working with us, and proud of his achievement!



**Katherine Lane, M.A.** (on left) is currently a graduate assistant and Dodge-Lawrence Fellow in the Department of Russian and Soviet Nonconformist Art at the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University, where she is working towards a Master of Science in Library and Information Science. She graduated in Spring 2017. We wish her the best in her future endeavors!





# Catching Up with our Faculty

- Dr. **Andrea Sims** was on sabbatical in 2016-17 and spent part of the year as a visiting scholar at Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), the University of Belgrade (Serbia), and Ghent University (Belgium). She worked on a project with Matt Goldrick (Northwestern U.) looking at how syncretism (homophony among inflected word-forms) resolves morphosyntactic case conflicts in Serbian. In July she taught Introduction to Morphology at the Linguistic Society of America's biennial summer school, held this year at the University of Kentucky. Along with collaborators (Adam Ussishkin (University of Arizona), Jeff Parker (DSEELC Ph.D. 2016), Samantha Wray (NYU - Abu Dhabi) and Ekaterina Kibler (current DSEELC graduate student)), she also organized the Morphological Typology and Linguistic Cognition workshop (July 22-23, 2017).



Dr. Sims (far left) with students Introduction to Morphology at the 2017 Linguistic Institute (Photo by A. Sims)

- Her recent publications: Sims, Andrea D. and Jeff Parker *How inflection class systems work: On the informativity of implicative structure. Word Structure*. Sims, Andrea D. and Brian D. Joseph. *Morphology versus syntax in the Balkan verbal complex*. Mouton de Gruyter. Sims, Andrea D. *Slavic Morphology: A review of new approaches to some classic problems*.

- In July 2017, Dr. **Yana Hashamova** became the editor of one of the oldest journals in Slavic languages, literatures, and cultures, *Slavic and East European Journal*, the publication of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. She also joined the editorial boards of two journals of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, *Art Studies Quarterly* and *Journal of Psychological Research*. Last, Dr. Hashamova was named Honorary Research Associate of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences (Institute of Culture and Memory Studies).



A stork's nest and cross from the village of Tarnėnai on the far outskirts of Vilnius (Photo by B. Joseph)

- Dr. **Angela Brintlinger** started her 3-year term as Vice President on the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Executive Council. Her book *Seasoned Socialism: Gender and Food in Late Soviet Everyday Life*, ed. Anastasia Lakhtikova, Angela Brintlinger and Irina Glushchenko is forthcoming with Indiana University Press. She has several articles also published: "The Remarkable Pushkin". *Slavic and East European Journal* 60.2 (2016), 221-240; "Biography as an Oratorical Genre." In *Avtobiografiā: Journal on Life Writing and the Representation of the Self in Russian Culture* No. 5 (2016) 153-171; "Mothers, Father(s), Daughter: Svetlana Aleksievich and The Unwomanly Face of War" in special issue of *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, "Aleksievich and her Times," ed. Heather Coleman, forthcoming Autumn 2017

- Dr. **Brian Joseph** was the external "opponent" on a dissertation in Classics (on Greek in ancient Egypt) at the University of Helsinki in early June, and then spent a week in Lithuania doing fieldwork on correlated landscape change and linguistic change (a joint project he is working on with a colleague, Mažeika Sullivan, of the School of Environment and Natural Resources). He will be doing fieldwork in southern Albania, on the Greek of the region, in September, and also visiting Skopje, in Macedonia.

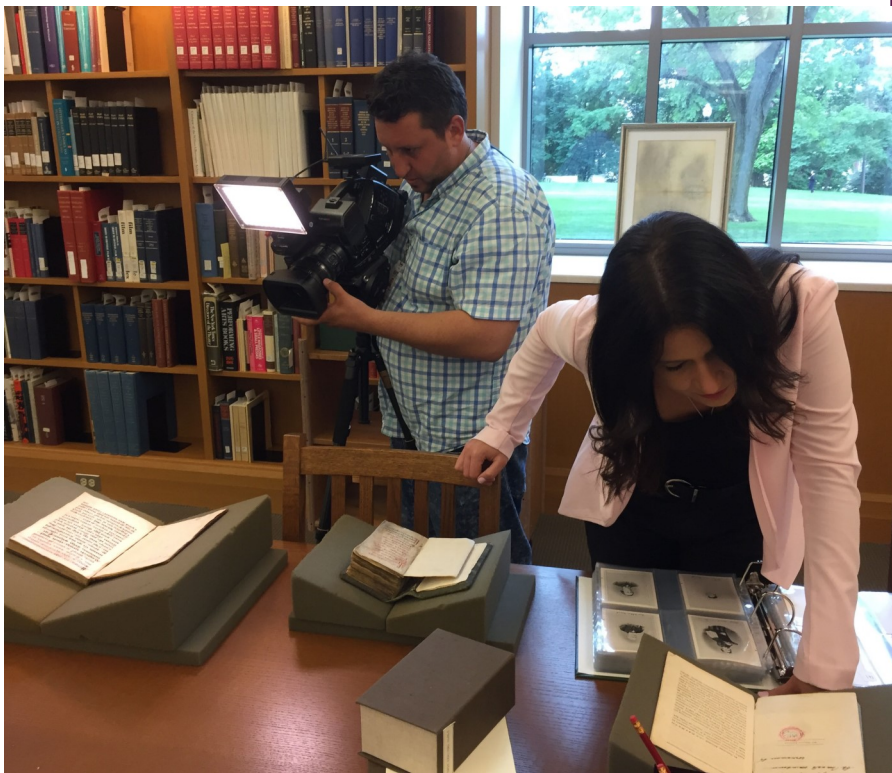
# Catching up with Faculty (Continued)

- Dr. **Ludmila Isurin** published her monograph: Isurin, L. (2017). *Collective remembering: Memory in the world and in the mind*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. She also Co-edited volume: Isurin, L. & Riehl, CM. (Eds.) (2017). *Integration, identity, and language maintenance of young immigrants: Russian Germans or German Russians*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing. She was awarded a six week Visiting Fellowship by the Center for Advanced Studies of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany for Spring-Summer 2018 (fully funded + grant) and had two papers accepted at international conferences: International Symposium of Bilingualism (ISB 11), Limerick, Ireland, June 2018, World Congress of Applied Linguistics (AILA 18), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 2018
- In May Dr. **Dan Collins** presented “Was phonemic secondary palatization a consequence of the jer-shift in Old East Slavonic” at The Slavonic Languages Conference in Chicago and in August presented “The Slavic Reflexes of the Proto-Indo-European Syllabic Sonorants at the International Conference of Historical Linguistics in San Antonio. He also was an instructor for the 2017 Medieval Slavic Summer Institute hosted by the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies and the Hilandar Research Library.

## 2016-2017 Outreach and Engagement

By Academic Program Coordinator Derek Peterson

While our faculty, staff, and students are busy throughout the year in the office and in the classroom, they also find time to bring their hard work and expertise out into the community. Dr. Hashamova assisted the Dublin Police Department with a Macedonian translation and provided an interview with a Bulgarian news network on the resources for Slavic Studies available at Ohio State. In addition to supporting numerous lectures around campus, all of which were open to the public, the department supported a symposium for Czech and Slovak Scenography for Shakespeare in conjunction with the *Shakespeare in Prague: Imagining the Bard in the Heart of Europe* exhibition at the Columbus Museum of Art. In the spring of 2017, the Slavic Department hosted the Ohio High School Olympiada of Spoken Russian. Over 30 students from around the state came to campus to show how much Russian they've already learned. While competing, the students sampled Russian snacks, watched Russian cartoons, and got an idea of what it is like to study Russian at Ohio State.



Matey Mandazhiev and Elena Ivanova of 3a BITElevision views some materials at the Hilandar Research Library, after Elana interviewed Dr. Hashamova.



# Kenneth E. Naylor Symposium

20th Anniversary Naylor Memorial Lecture  
20 January 2017



Top to Bottom, left to right: Olga Mladenova, Robert Greenberg, Christina E. Kramer, Joseph Schallert, Marc L. Greenberg, Catherine Rudin, Donald Dyer, Grace Fielder, John Leafgren, Cynthia Vakareliyska, Howard Aronson, Ronelle Alexander, Brian Joseph, Victor Friedman, E. Wayles Browne

It was an unusually warm weekend in January when we gathered for the 20th Anniversary of the Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series. The symposium, entitled: *The Current State of Balkan Linguistics: Where do we Stand?* was held January 20-21, 2017 at the Blackwell Inn and Conference Center at The Ohio State University.

The Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship of South Slavic Linguistics was established on November 5, 1993 in the College of Humanities (now part of the College of Arts and Sciences) through gifts to The Ohio State University from the estate of Professor Naylor. The professorship is a five-year renewable appointment, dedicated to preserving and continuing the scholarly legacy of Dr. Naylor.

Professor Naylor was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh from 1964 to 1966, when he joined the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University. At the time of his death, Professor Naylor was the Acting Director of OSU's Center for Slavic and East European Studies.

Professor Naylor was the recipient of numerous awards, grants and fellowships, including ones from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Fulbright program, and the countries of Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, which awarded him medals of honor. In 1990, he testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee on ethnic rivalry in Yugoslavia and the development of the Serbo-Croatian language.

Professor Naylor's research centered on Serbo-Croatian and on South Slavic linguistics in general, and the overwhelming majority of the seventy articles that he authored are on these topics. He also served as editor of several journals. His dedication and many accomplishments live on in his work and in the love of the field he instilled in his students.

In 1997 Professor Brian Joseph became the first appointed Kenneth E. Naylor Professor, and established an annual Lecture on South Slavic Linguistics in Kenneth Naylor's memory that brings leading scholars in the field to OSU each spring to give a public lecture and to speak in Professor Joseph's South Slavic and Balkan classes. Since then, DSEELC has hosted 19 Naylor Lecturers, 15 of whom were able to attend the 20th Anniversary Symposium.



Professor Naylor, (1975)

## Undergraduate Student Spotlight: Suzanne Pietrzak

*At the Spring Tea last school year Suzie Pietrzak received the Luczkowski-Habash Polish Studies Award. We caught up with her at the end of the summer to see what she had been up to.*

After wondering and wondering how to best use my Luczkowski-Habash Polish Studies Award, it finally came to me. I have spent much of my summer babysitting my Polish “cousins,” and by “cousins,” I mean very close family friends of my parents. These two girls are three and six years old. Although their mother is the daughter of Polish immigrants, the Polish language has not fully made its way to them. So, I decided to put my scholarship and long hours of babysitting to use by teaching these two “cousins,” Emily and Sarah, how to speak Polish.

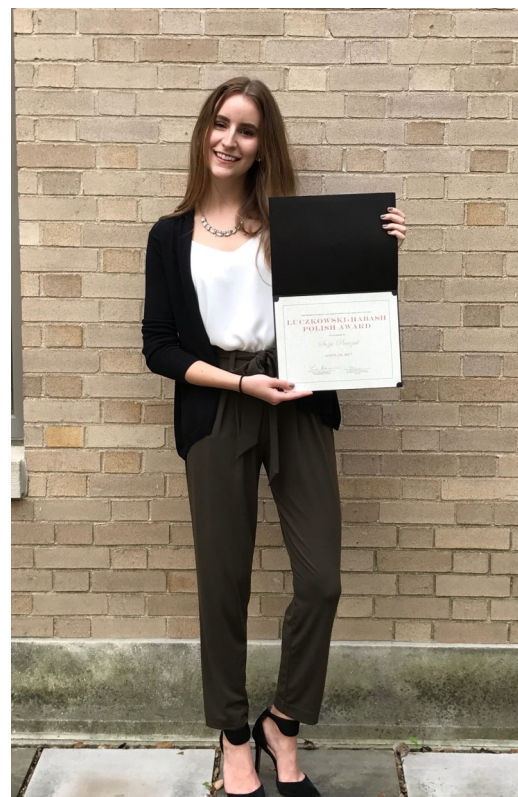
Learning the basics of Polish allowed these two girls to better communicate with their grandparents and great grandma who live just down the street. Improving Emily’s and Sarah’s skills also removed the burden of their grandparents of having to speak in broken English just to talk to their granddaughters. With my scholarship money, I was able to buy them all the supplies they needed, from notebooks and pencils to Polish flash cards, to develop their limited Polish. A more exciting item I purchased for Emily and Sarah was a small pink purse that actually spoke and sang in Polish. I hope to be able to find more Polish-speaking toys for these two girls.

Although getting two little girls to sit and focus can be pretty difficult, I got the girls to practice their flash cards every week. I also chose to speak to Emily and Sarah in Polish throughout my days of babysitting. By speaking to the girls in Polish, I improved my own language skills as well as their understanding ability. Having Emily and Sarah hear Polish on a more regular basis vastly improved their strength in their family’s native language.

My favorite memory from babysitting the girls this summer was taking them to the Toledo Zoo for a day. Our trip to the zoo was a learning experience in itself. The girls were able to learn the names of all the animals we saw in Polish. Emily and Sarah were so excited to see the pingwiny, słonie, małpy, and other animals. Although I think their favorite part had to have been the ice cream we got after exploring the zoo on a hot summer day!

Being able to take the Polish language as a course at The Ohio State University has opened so many doors for me. By strengthening my reading and writing skills and perfecting my speaking skill in the small classes, I was able to better communicate with my family here in America and back in Poland. Since most of my communication with family in Poland is online, gaining an understanding in reading and writing Polish allowed me to finally type messages to my cousins without the help of Google Translate or my mother. With my improved Polish skills, I was able to pass on my knowledge to Emily and Sarah with the belief that I am improving their family relationships. Helping these two girls learn Polish has not only improved all of our Polish language skills, it has helped me grow closer to them and it has helped them grow closer to their family. Their parents and grandparents have been very appreciative of my help and have agreed to continue furthering Emily’s and Sarah’s growth in the Polish language even after I go back to school in the fall.

As a student at The Ohio State University, I am minoring in Slavic Languages and Cultures because I want to set myself apart from the 50,000 some students on this campus. I am one of thousands majoring in Microbiology but I am one of few with a minor in Slavic Languages and Cultures. My minor has allowed me to broaden my knowledge of other Slavic cultures beyond that of my own Polish traditions. Taking Polish 1103 and 2104 allowed me to connect to my roots but taking Slavic 2367 allowed me to make connections of my own customs to that of other Eastern European cultures. The great honor of receiving the Luczkowski-Habash Polish Studies Award has given me the opportunity to share what I have learned during my first year at OSU with my two favorite little “cousins”, and that is priceless.

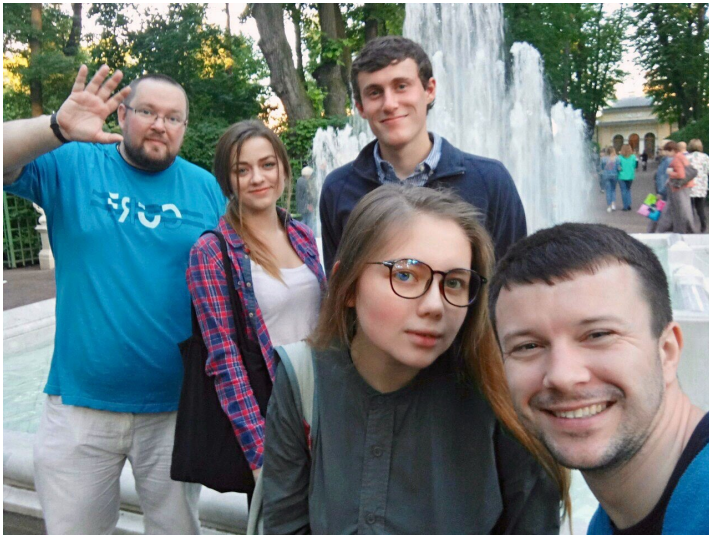




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The day after I arrived in St. Petersburg, I went to Mass because it was Sunday and I am Catholic. After Mass I found a group of other young adults who were either students or recent college graduates. They quickly welcomed me and we started to get to know each other. I learned that this group meets twice a week, so I started going to all their gatherings. On some days when the group did not meet, I would meet one of the guys in the group for dinner. We took turns helping each other practice our English and Russian. I quickly grew close to several of the people in this group and spent much of my free time with them. I was fascinated by the diversity in the group. There were people in the group from different parts of Russia and even different countries around the world.

I enjoyed hearing these people's perspectives about life in Saint Petersburg after having grown up in countries, such as Poland, Ukraine, and Norway. I was also fortunate enough to meet a priest in the Russian Orthodox Church. He invited our group to come to a service at the main Orthodox Cathedral in Saint Petersburg, the Savior on Spilled Blood, to see a youth choir from Kiev, Ukraine sing. The choir was beautiful and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to witness an Orthodox service in one of the most beautiful churches in Saint Petersburg. Outside of our meetings and shared meals, my friends and I loved going on walks around the city center. We developed a frequent route that took us past the Savior on Spilled Blood cathedral to the Neva river, along the river to the Winter Palace, then back to our starting point. I am extremely grateful for the friends I made and I am eager to stay in touch with them.



My experience in Saint Petersburg shaped my future in a variety of ways. I now have several new friends from all over the world, I progressed in my proficiency in the Russian language, and I grew in my understanding of Russian history and culture. I plan to move forward from this experience and continue my study of the Russian language and culture here in Columbus. I look forward to employing the knowledge I gained this summer in my future career.

## Contact Us

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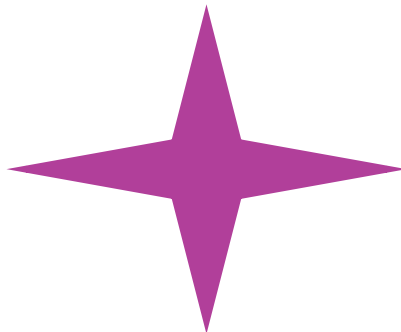
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