

Editor's Note

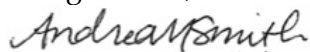
Members old and new gathered at East Tennessee State University in November 2025 to share their research at the 74th-annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference. We also shared concerns about an increasingly hostile political climate, economic challenges, and other issues that were affecting us both personally and professionally. At the end of the meeting, members voted to change the organization's name to the Mountain Interstate Forum on Languages and Cultures, a title that better reflects our values and our disciplines in the twenty-first century. We were, once again, reminded of the power of this organization to bring together innovative scholars who value the relationships that emerge from a vibrant and welcoming academic community.

The twenty-fourth volume of the *MIFLC Review* is a result of the research presented at East Tennessee State University. Thanks to the suggestions of MIFLC members, Dr. Eunice Rojas, the journal's associate editor, and I decided to open the volume to essays and creative writing. We are indebted not only to our creative writers and translators, but also to the colleagues who served as evaluators and copyeditors, thereby enabling us to expand the journal's peer-reviewed offerings. Another feature of this volume is the opening essay, which is an adaptation of Dr. María Paz Moreno's keynote address on "How to Read a Cookbook." The journal's last inclusion of a keynote was a decade ago, when we published Dr. David Gies' address at Furman University. His reflection on linguistic diversity in an internet-dominated society, which can be found on our website (see "Back Issues," Volume 17), remains relevant today, just as Dr. Moreno's remarks about the connection between food, human connection, and resilience will surely be meaningful to us ten years from now.

The Ulloa Award, which recognizes the lifelong contribution of Professors Leonor and Justo Ulloa to the journal and the organization, will be announced at the 2025 meeting at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The recipient, Kayla Burrell, is an independent scholar and an English teaching assistant at École élémentaire publique Ferdinand Foch and École maternelle publique Paraire in Rodez, France. The award recognizes Kayla's original poem and translation, titled "Figée" ("Immobile"), as well as her contribution to a co-authored article on the poetry of Renée Vivien.

On behalf of the editorial board, thank you for continuing to support this publication. We are excited to see you at the University of Alabama in Huntsville this October and, for those of you who cannot be with us, we look forward to seeing you next time.

With gratitude,



Andrea Meador Smith

October 2025