Editor's Note

A diverse group of scholars gathered at the University of Alabama in Huntsville in October 2025 to share their research at the annual Mountain Interstate Forum on Languages and Cultures. At the opening reception, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of our organization with cake, door prizes with local flavor ("Huntsville: Whisk You Were Here"), a photography exhibit by José A. Betancourt, and as always, great conversation. Panel themes at the conference centered on African and Francophone Studies; Hispanic and Lusophone Studies; German Studies; Classics; Pedagogy; and Linguistics.

The twenty-fifth volume of the *MIFLC Review* is a result of the research presented at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. While the volume is small, the editorial board is proud to see an increasing number of submissions from graduate students, independent scholars, and academics working outside of traditional fields like Francophone and Hispanic Studies. They substantiate the goal MIFLC members set in 2024: to make this a more inclusive organization that better reflects our values and our disciplines in the twenty-first century.

The Ulloa Award, which recognizes the lifelong contribution of Professors Leonor and Justo Ulloa to the journal and the organization, was announced at the 2026 annual meeting at Elon University. The recipient, Dr. Álvaro M. Torres-Calderón, is Associate Professor of Spanish and Associate Department Head at the University of North Georgia. In his article, "Mujeres que escriben la patria," Dr. Torres-Calderón analyzes works by prominent nineteenth-century women—Juana Manuela Gorriti, Clorinda Matto de Turner, and Eduarda Mansilla—whose texts shaped the Southern Cone in ways that are often overlooked. He argues that their writing is as foundational to the articulation of the republican imagination as works by Domingo Sarmiento, Esteban Echeverría, and Bartolomé Mitre.

On behalf of the editorial board, thank you for continuing to support this publication. We are excited to see you at the Kennesaw State University in October 2027 and, for those of you who cannot be with us, we look forward to seeing you next time.

With gratitude,



Andrea Meador Smith
November 2026