

Letter from the President

Dear all,

On behalf of the School of Languages and Cultures Graduate Student Committee, I welcome you to the special Winter 2023 issue of *Lingua Franca*. I hope you find its content inspirational and fun, and that it further encourages a closer bond between the committee and the greater SLC community.

I especially want to thank Joel Meredith and Gwénaél Jouin for putting together this newsletter. Likewise, I would like to convey my greatest appreciation to the members of the committee: Ayaka Matsuo, Dafne Zanelli, Edier Gómez Alzate, Santiago Parra, and Anderson Carmona for their constant work and support during these months.

We are a new committee in the sense that none of our members have served in any positions in previous years. Therefore, there has been an impasse of getting used to our current responsibilities, but also an exchange of refreshing ideas about the new directions and projects with which we can contribute to our community. I wish for us to be a space for dialogue and growth: any feedback or suggestions you have will help us improve.

SLC GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE

Looking forward to serving you and bringing you more fun events
and helpful information for your academic and professional life
in the new year!

I wish you all a happy New Year and pleasant reading,

Lorena Piña Palacio
Ph.D. Candidate and SLC GSC President
School of Languages and Cultures.



SLC Grad Committee Questionnaire

SLC graduate committee members answer a few questions so you can get to know them, and their role on the committee.

1. What is your role on the SLC grad committee?
2. What program are you in?
3. How long have you been at Purdue?
4. What led you to your research interests?
5. How do you de-stress after a busy week?
6. What's something you're really proud of?



Edier Gómez Alzate

1. My name is Edier Gómez Alzate. I am the current workshop chair for the SLC grad committee. Along with my other committee members, I am in charge of putting together ideas for workshops, plenaries, panels, or other types of events that can be of benefit to our fellow grad students in the department.

2. I am pursuing my MA in Linguistics here at Purdue with a concentration on Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism.
3. This is my second year at Purdue already. I am at the end of my MA program.
4. My BA is directly connected to Foreign Languages and Teaching, a reason why I decided to go for Linguistics and a concentration on Bilingualism. Moreover, I worked as a Foreign Language Teacher for over five years in my country (Colombia), and that experience made me realize how important it is to learn and teach a language effectively, and all the advantages it can bring personally and professionally.
5. I usually read books (I like classic novels), watch series and anime. I also enjoy hiking and walking to new places; that helps me to breathe and clear up my mind.
6. I will always be proud of my family and the place where I live back home. I come from a very little village called Guacas located in the middle of the mountains in Manizales, Colombia. My community has always been a great example of strength, hard work and resilience, something that really inspires me every day.

Anderson Carmona

1. Social chair and webmaster. I design and prepare social events for grad students as well as interacting with them on social media.

2. Latin American literature PhD student.
3. This is my fourth year.
4. I'm a big fan of social studies, especially those related to art creation and how they take part in our world.
5. I'm a fan of movies, but I also enjoy being outside with my friends hanging around or traveling to new places.
6. I come from a humble and hardworking family and I was the first one to make it to college and beyond.



Gwénaél Jouin

1. Joel and I are working on the newsletter. The spring issue will cover challenges faced by students and current issues, such as the overturning of the Roe v. Wade law.
2. Comparative literature.
3. Two years and a semester.
4. The numerous novels I read since high school and my love for the work of Émile Zola, Victor Hugo, George Sand, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Marcel Proust, Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters, and others. A course on the picaresque novel when I was an undergraduate student. Shortcomings in literary theory.

5. I like to watch a good movie. My tastes are quite broad, but I love Isabelle Huppert. I also enjoy hiking.

6. To have had the chance to study at the Sorbonne, where I got my bachelor's degree, a master's degree in comparative literature, and prepared for my certification in education. These years were challenging, but I learned so much and met brilliant people.



Ayaka Matsuo

1. Treasurer. I decide on a budget for each event and deal with purchase and refund procedures.

2. Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy with a concentration in Japanese as a second language.

3. This is my fourth year!

4. I don't know. I liked school and wanted to stay—and now I'm doing a Ph.D.!

5. By being surrounded by my favorite things and people. 😊

6. I'm looking for it now...



Joel Meredith

1. Lingua Franca co-chair/secretary alongside Gwénaél Jouin.
2. I started as a French PhD student with an interest in postcolonial studies, but transferred to the English department in 2022 to pursue Arthurian and Celtic studies with a secondary focus on postcolonial studies.
3. I arrived at Purdue in 2018. Part-time PhD student since 2019.
4. I have always been interested in Welsh history and mythology. As a master's student, Edward Said's writing on political power and cultural discourse fascinated me. I took a course on Arthurian literature with Dorsey Armstrong in 2021 and realized that I could fit these interests together.
5. Going to the gym followed by a hearty meal with wine and cuddles with my cat.
6. Finally discovering my passion in Arthurian literature, even if it took me well into my 30s to find it.



Lorena Pina Palacio

1. I am the current president of the SLC Graduate Student Committee. I am in charge of organizing and leading our meetings; serving as a liaison to facilitate communication between the committee, students, and the SLC faculty/staff; and also pestering the members to let me participate in their activities.
2. I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Spanish Literature program. I focus on the Latin American area with an emphasis on the Hispanic Caribbean.
3. I came to Purdue in the fall of 2018, more than four years ago. I had been to the U.S. a few times before on short trips, but 2018 was my first time staying long term. Now West Lafayette feels very familiar, which I never expected.
4. I think it was inevitable. I loved books even before I learned to read, literature was always my path. The Caribbean, because of my upbringing and cultural affinity. Over time other details were added, such as the exploration of problems of gender, race, sexualities, identities, popular culture, etc.

5. I have movie nights with a couple of friends every Friday. We usually watch horror and dark fantasy movies or series. Anything gore, strange, or twisted is our style. Surprisingly relaxing.

6. My little brother just reminded me he shall always be my biggest pride and joy, so I guess I have no other choice but to say that. He also wanted to be on the cover of this newsletter, but I will try to talk him out of it.



Santiago Parra

1. My role on the SLC grad committee is that of Senator and I am charged with representing SLC graduate students at Purdue Graduate Student Government meetings and functioning as a liaison between the SLC and PGSG.
2. Linguistics.
3. Two years.
4. While doing my undergraduate program, I became interested in the pronunciation of other languages. As a result, I am conducting research looking at and applying methods to teach English pronunciation to native Spanish speakers using pedagogical technology.
5. I usually watch movies and series with my partner. I also go to the gym or go for a walk.

6. I am really proud of how I can enjoy both my personal and professional life. I live every day motivated to continue achieving my goals, enjoying everything in the process.



Dafne Zanelli

1. I am the current Symposium Chair of the SLC Graduate Student Committee. I am in charge of working and organizing the Interdisciplinary Symposium in Liberal Arts and serving as liaison between the organizing sub-committee and the SLC Executive Committee.
2. I am a second-year MA student in the Department of Linguistics. I focus on Second Language Acquisition and Heritage Language Acquisition.
3. I came to Purdue in the Fall of 2021, a year and a half ago.
4. I have always been interested in the process of how people learn languages other than their first. When I arrived, I was leaning into researching second language learners of Spanish but, as I got involved in some projects in the Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism Research Lab, I became more interested in Spanish heritage speakers.

5. I like to light a candle, get some snacks, and watch a movie. I also like going for walks when the weather is nice.
6. I am proud of the way I face challenges and the steps I take to better my mental and emotional health everyday.



Do you have a story idea for the Spring 2023 newsletter?

Contact Gwénaél Jouin (gjouin@purdue.edu) and Joel Meredith (mereditj@purdue.edu). We would love to hear from you!