

# LINGUA FRANCA



YEAR IN REVIEW

News from Graduate Committee of the School of Languages and Cultures



# CONTENTS

2 Opening Remarks from the  
SLC Head

3 Opening Remarks from the  
SLC Graduate Committee  
President

4 SLC Coffee, Tea, and  
Conversation Hours

5 Chinese Tea Hour

6 Café Causette : French Coffee / Conversation Hour

7 Korean Conversation Table

9 Deutsche Kaffeestunde : German Coffee Hour

10 Chat- no - Ma , 茶の間 : Japanese Tea Hour

11 La Hora del Café en Español : Spanish Coffee Hour

13 Workshop on Academic and  
Non-Academic Job Careers  
for Languages

14 Student Spotlight

15 Shut up & Work Sessions

16 Spotlight of Movie Night  
: Korean Movie Night

18 Meet the Team : 2023-2024  
SLC Graduate Committee  
Officers





# Opening Remarks from the SLC

## Head



Many thanks to Hitomi Kurita and the others from the SLC Graduate Student Committee who have made this latest edition of *Lingua Franca* possible. It is my honor to write a few introductory remarks as we reflect on the past academic year.

This year, we warmly welcomed the Comparative Literature Program to SLC after its transition from the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. It has been a pleasure getting to know the graduate students in this program better over the past academic year!

SLC underwent an external review this year, a process that is required for academic programs under the Higher Learning Commission's accreditation criteria. As part of the external review, the SLC executive committee composed a self-study document in which, among many other points of pride, our graduate alumni placement was highlighted. Our MA and PhD students continue to secure excellent positions both inside and outside of academia!

We have been shuffling around within Stanley Coulter Hall this semester as we look ahead to the new graduate student spaces being finalized this summer. I have appreciated everyone's patience and understanding as we make room for the Department of English. We have a lot in common with our new building-mates, and we look forward to regularly coming together with them, both socially and intellectually.

Good luck to those of you who are graduating and moving on from SLC - and many heartfelt congratulations on your accomplishments! We know that you are equipped to succeed and thrive in the future with whatever you choose to do. Please keep in touch.

To those who will be returning in the Fall semester, we will miss you this summer and can't wait to see you back safe and sound in August, along with our new cohort of SLC graduate students!

Jen William  
SLC Head





# Opening Remarks from the SLC Graduate Student Committee

## *President*



On behalf of the SLC Graduate Student Committee, I warmly welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter, *Lingua Franca*. I present this issue with great pleasure as a platform for community engagement within our esteemed School of Languages and Cultures.

I am delighted to witness *Lingua Franca*'s continued growth and success, as it remains a vital resource for sharing insights, experiences, and achievements among our diverse community of faculty members and graduate students.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Hitomi Kurita, our Newsletter Chair, for her tireless dedication and exceptional leadership in overseeing the production of this edition. Hitomi's unwavering commitment to excellence has shaped the quality of our newsletter.

Furthermore, I would like to thank all those who contributed insightful articles to this edition. Your dedication to sharing knowledge and fostering dialogue enriches our academic community and inspires us to strive for excellence.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the SLC Graduate Student Committee. I wish you all enjoyable reading.

Warm regards,  
Masaki Minobe  
PhD Student and SLC Graduate Student Committee President



SLC

# Coffee, Tea, and Conversation Hours

Staaks' Lounge, SC131



## Monday

- German
- Japanese (Bi-weekly)
- Classics (1st Monday of the month)

## Tuesday

- Arabic

## Wednesday

- Russian
- Italian
- French

## Thursday

- Chinese

## Friday

- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Korean



# Chinese Tea Hour

By Dr. Li Wei



每周四下午三点到四点，普渡大学中文系的老师们都会在SC 131的SLC休息室举办中文茶会。每个星期，老师、学生、以及普渡社区中的其他中文学习者们齐聚一堂，一同探索中国的历史与文化，并参与丰富多彩的讨论和实践活动。本学期，我们的文化之旅从春节介绍开始。学生们学习了剪纸艺术来迎接龙年的到来。之后，我们又举办了以元宵节为主题的茶会，大家共同尝试绘制元宵灯笼，并分享了这个传统佳节背后的故事。不久之后，我们的另一次茶会以京剧脸谱为主题，学生们通过绘画脸谱将戏剧人物栩栩如生地呈现出来。此外，我们还探索了精美的中国结，在手工实践的过程中感受中国的传统艺术。

照片中展示的是本学期中国茶会的另一个亮点：学生们在台湾访问学者吴老师的指导下，学习亲手制作台湾珍珠奶茶。在这次活动中，学生们不仅学会了制作这一在东亚地区深受喜爱的饮品，还扩展了和点奶茶、制作饮料相关的中文词汇。活动的最后，大家一起享用了自己制作的新鲜奶茶，是一次寓教于乐的学习体验。

中文茶会不仅面向学习中文的普渡学生，也热忱欢迎所有对学习和体验中国文化感兴趣的人参加。



On every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 4 pm, the Chinese language faculty hosts the Chinese Tea Hour in the SLC lounge at SC 131. Each week, teachers, students, and other learners of Chinese from our community gather to explore various dimensions of Chinese history and culture and engage in enriching discussions and hands-on activities. This semester, our journey into the heart of Chinese culture began with an introduction of the Spring Festival, where students learned the art of paper-cutting to welcome the Year of the Dragon. Following this, we hosted a themed session around the Lantern Festival, featuring lantern drawings and stories behind this luminous event. The artistic expression continued with a session on Peking Opera facial painting, where students brought dramatic characters to life. Additionally, we explored the intricate art of the Chinese knot, pairing history with crafting activities.

A highlight of this semester's Chinese Tea Hours, showcased in the attached photos, was our hands-on experience making Taiwanese Boba Milk Tea. In this session, under the guidance of our Huayu BEST visiting scholar Chaoying Wu from Taiwan, students not only learned to prepare this beloved beverage in East Asia, but also expanded their vocabulary around ordering milk tea and discussing beverages. The session concluded with everyone enjoying their freshly made milk tea together, fostering a sense of community and shared learning. These tea hours are not just for students studying Chinese but are open to all who are interested in experiencing and learning about Chinese culture firsthand. From historical insights to contemporary practices, each meeting is an opportunity to deepen understanding and appreciation of the rich cultural tapestry of the Chinese-speaking communities around the world.



# Café Causette

## French Coffee / Conversation Hour

By Regina Abu



Le département de français organise, chaque semestre, une heure de café pour ses étudiants et pour tout français ou potentiel francophone intéressé sur le Campus. Le Café Causette, comme on l'appelle populairement, a lieu au SC 131 tous les mercredis de 15h à 16h sauf les jours fériés et la première et dernière semaine de cours. Mary Eddy, la coordinatrice adjointe de la langue française, s'occupe de l'organisation du café et des professeurs, et les TA l'aident à tour de rôle chaque semaine. Durant cette heure de café, les étudiants et les professeurs ont des conversations informelles sur une variété de sujets en langue française. Les sujets de conversation vont de la vie quotidienne aux cultures, à la nourriture et aux modes de vie spécifiques aux francophones. Les fêtes françaises sont également célébrées au Café Causette. Ce semestre, la fête française du Mardi Gras a été célébrée au Café Causette le 15 février. Des pâtisseries et des perles colorées ont été échangées et nous avons discuté des origines de cette fête. Mardi Gras signifie littéralement Fat Tuesday ; cela marque le dernier jour avant le Carême (une période de jeûne pour les chrétiens) et les gens mangent et boivent à leur guise avant le début du jeûne le mercredi suivant.



The department of French organizes, each semester, coffee hour for its students and for any interested French or potential French speaker on Campus. Café Causette, as it is popularly called, takes place at SC 131 on every Wednesday from 3pm to 4pm except on holidays and on the first and last weeks of class. Mary Eddy, the assistant french language coordinator, takes charge of organizing the coffee and faculty and TA's take turns assisting her each week.

During this coffee hour, students and faculty have casual conversations on a variety of subjects in the French language. Conversation topics ranges from everyday life to the cultures, food and lifestyles specific to francophone people. French festivals are also celebrated at Café Causette. This semester, the French festival Mardi Gras was celebrated at Café Causette on the 15th of February. Baked goods and colorful beads were exchanged and we discussed the origins of this festival. Mardi Gras literally means Fat Tuesday; it marks the last day before Lent (a period of fasting for Christians) and people eat and drink to their hearts content before fasting begins the next Wednesday.



# Korean Conversation Table

By Dr. Muni Jean

한국어 교수진은 한국어와 한국 문화에 관심을 가지고 있는 학생들과 매학기 10주 동안 SC 131호에서 모임을 갖는다. 매주 한국어 교수님들이 한국의 대중 문화, 전통 명절, 음식 문화, 그리고 현대인의 생활 등 다양한 한국 문화에 대해서 간단하게 소개를 하고, 참석한 학생들은 해당 주제에 대해 서로 의견을 나눈다. 이 모임에는 한국어를 배우는 학생들뿐만 아니라 한국인 유학생들도 참석을 해 한국과 미국에서의 경험을 공유한다. 이 모임에 참석한 학생들은 초코파이와 쌀과자 등 한국 간식 거리도 맛볼 수 있으며, 설날이나 추석과 같은 특별한 날에는 윷놀이나 공기놀이 등 문화 체험도 즐길 수 있다.



The Korean language faculty meets with students interested in Korean language and culture for 10 weeks each semester in Room 131 of SC. Every week, Korean language professors briefly introduce various aspects of Korean culture, including Korean pop culture, traditional holidays, food culture, and modern life, and participating students share opinions with each other on the topics. Not only students learning Korean but also Korean International students attend this meeting to share their experiences in Korea and the United States. Students who attend this meeting can also taste Korean snacks such as Choco Pie and rice crackers and also enjoy cultural experiences such as “Yut Nori” and “Gonggi Nori” on special days such as Lunar New Year or Chuseok.





# Instructor's Voice

By Prof. Jungeun Kim



목적은 학생들이 관심있는 한국문화, 한국음식 등에 대해 더 많이 알려주고 함께 의견을 나누는 것이에요. 그리고 한국어 수업을 듣는 학생들이나 한국어에 관심이 있는 학생들이 한국어로 연습할 수 있는 시간을 만들어 주는 것이에요. 또 새로운 친구를 사귀기도 해서 한번 온 친구들은 계속 오는 경우가 많아요.

많은 학생들이 한국문화, 한국어, 한국음식에 관심이 있다는 것을 더 많이 알게 되었어요. 서로의 문화에 대해 이야기 하면서 관심있는 한국문화에 대해서는 자세하게 이야기 해 줄 수 있어서 좋았어요. 특히 많은 학생들이 '윷놀이', '공기놀이' 등 한국 전통놀이를 좋아했어요. 그래서인지 같이 할 때 저도 즐거웠어요.^^

다음학기에도 'KOREAN CONVERSATION Table'은 한국어나 한국문화에 관심이 있는 학생이라면 누구나 환영입니다.

The purpose of our conversation tables was sharing Korean culture and Korean food with interested students. It has also served as an opportunity to practice speaking in Korean for students taking Korean classes or students interested in learning Korean. Additionally, many of them befriend each other, so attendance has been consistent with the students coming regularly.

Through the conversation tables, we learned that many students were interested in Korean culture, language, and food. While discussing culture, I was able to share many different aspects of Korean culture with the students, especially traditional games such as "Yut" or "Gonggi."

Korean Conversation Tables invites all students interested and excited about Korean culture and language!

이 커피 타임/대화 테이블에 얼마나 자주 참석하시나요?

How often do you attend this coffee hour/conversation table?

저는 하루의 대부분을 캠퍼스에 머물러야 하기 때문에 수업이 끝날 때와 연구실이 시작될 때 사이에 간격이 덜하기 때문에 대화 테이블에 자주 참석합니다.

I need to stay on campus for most of the day, so I attend the conversation table often because it leaves me with less of a gap between the end of my classes and the start of my research lab.

What do you like about attending coffee hour/conversation table?

커피타임/대화 테이블에 참석할 때 어떤 점이 마음에 드시나요?

참석할 수 있어서 제가 좋아하는 것은 한국 문화에 대해 더 많은 것을 배울 뿐만 아니라 만날 수 있고 이야기할 수 있는 사람들입니다. 그것은 또한 저에게 한국어를 연습할 수 있는 좋은 기회를 줍니다. 저는 "빼빼로 데이" 또는 "화이트 데이"와 같은 다른 휴일과 같은 한국 문화에 대한 몇 가지 흥미로운 주제를 배웠습니다.

What I like about being able to attend is the people that I can meet and talk to, as well as learning more stuff about Korean culture. It also gives me a good chance to practice my Korean. I've learned some interesting topics about Korean culture, such as different holidays like "Pepero Day" or "White Day".

# Students' Voice

Abigail Hyejin Lee

Class of 2026

(sophomore/junior)

Major : Chemical Biology  
and Biochemistry



예를 들어 3월 22일 모임에서는 한국 젊은 세대 문화인 '소개팅' 그리고 연인들이 기념하는 다양한 기념일에 대해 이야기를 나눴다. 이번 모임에서 우리는 한국의 데이트 문화에 대한 간단한 설명을 듣고 자신의 경험을 한국어나 영어로 자유롭게 이야기하였다. 우리는 이 모임을 통해 현대 한국 데이트 문화에 대한 이해도도 높이고 관련 어휘 및 표현 등도 배울 수 있었다!

At the meeting on March 22nd, we talked about 'blind dates', a culture of the Korean younger generation, and various anniversaries celebrated by couples. At this meeting, we heard a brief explanation of Korea's dating culture and talked freely about our experiences in Korean or English. Through this meeting, we were able to increase our understanding of modern Korean dating culture and learn related vocabulary and expressions!



Aidan Villegas

Class of 2025 (junior/senior)

Major: Robotics Engineering  
Technology

# Deutsche Kaffeestunde

## German Coffee Hour

By Dr. Vanessa Felten



Die deutsche Kaffeestunde, montags von 14:00 bis 15:00 Uhr, ist bereits seit vielen Jahren ein fester Bestandteil von SLC. Während des Semesters treffen sich hauptsächlich Studenten und Dozenten der deutschen Fakultät für eine Stunde in SC131, um sich über alltägliche wie auch kulturelle Themen bei Kaffee und Kuchen zu unterhalten. Die Kaffeestunde bietet Studenten nicht nur die Möglichkeit ihre deutschen Sprachkenntnisse ausserhalb des Klassenzimmersentspannt zu vertiefen, sondern auch die Gelegenheit, über verschiedene kulturelle Aspekte des deutschsprachigen Kulturraums zu lernen. Oftmals tauschen sich Studenten und Dozenten über vergangene und anstehende Reisen oder Austauschprogramme aus. Auch externe Gäste bereichern gelegentlich unsere Kaffeestunde. Dieses Semester zum Beispiel durften wir Alumni aus der Industrie wie auch die deutschen Weinköniginnen – offizielle Repräsentantinnen der deutschen Weinindustrie – in der Kaffeestunde willkommen heißen. Und, auch wenn die Kaffeestunde erst einmal über den Sommer pausiert, freuen wir uns wieder darauf, nächstes Semester zur gewohnten Zeit, zahlreiche Studenten und Gäste begrüßen zu dürfen.

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The German Coffee Hour on Mondays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. has been an integral part of SLC for many years. During the semester, mainly students, lecturers and faculty from the German department meet in SC131 for an hour to talk about every-day and cultural topics over coffee and cake.

The Coffee Hour not only offers students the opportunity to deepen their German language skills outside of the classroom in a relaxed manner but also the opportunity to learn about various cultural aspects of German-speaking countries. Students and lecturers often exchange ideas and anecdotes about past and upcoming trips or exchange programs.

External guests also occasionally enrich our coffee hour. This semester, for example, we were able to welcome alumni working in various parts of the industry as well as the German Wine Queens – official representatives of the German wine industry – to the coffee hour. Even though the Coffee Hour will be paused over the summer, we are looking forward to welcoming numerous students and guests at the same time next semester.





# Chat-no - Ma

# 茶の間

# Japanese Tea Hour



By Hitomi Kurita

大橋先生に独占インタビュー！

Interview with Ohashi-sensei!!

ー 茶道の紹介はパデュー大学で長い間されているのですか？

大橋先生：はい、私はこの大学で24年間日本語を教えているのですが、今から15年くらい前に、日本語という言葉だけでなく、日本の素晴らしい文化も学生に紹介したいと思うようになりました。その年に、日本に帰国して、ご近所に茶道の先生がいらっしゃったので、その門をたたきました。それ以来、茶道に夢中で、機会があるごとに茶の間や日本語のクラスに行ったり、茶道を伝えにいております。

- Have you been demonstrating the tea ceremony at Purdue University for a long time?

Ohashi-Sensei: Yes, I've been teaching Japanese at this university for 24 years. About 15 years ago, I felt the desire to introduce not just the Japanese language but also the rich culture of Japan to my students. That year, I returned to Japan and sought out a tea ceremony teacher in my neighborhood. Since then, I've been passionate about the tea ceremony, seizing every opportunity to share it with my students and others.

ー わ～！ ではもう15年ほど、パデューで茶道をされていらっしゃるんですね！

大橋先生：まだまだ茶道は深いので、私はまだまだ浅いところにおりますが、日本の文化として誇りを持って、これからも茶道を世界に伝えることを使命と考えております。

- So, you've been performing a Japanese tea ceremony for about 15 years now?

Ohashi-Sensei: The tea ceremony is profound, and I still consider myself a novice. However, I take pride in it as an integral part of Japanese culture, and I see it as my mission to continue sharing it with the world.

ー 最後に、SLCの大学院生や日本語、言語を学んでいる学生のみなさんに、メッセージをお願いします！

大橋先生：特に日本ということに関わらず、外国の言葉なり文化なりを勉強するという事は、本当に意義があることだと思います。他の言語を勉強すること自体も大事ですが、それによって自分の国の良さというものが比較してわかるので、絶対に外国語は勉強すべきだと思います。

若いうちに外国の言葉、文化に触れることは大切なことだと思います！

- Lastly, do you have a message for the graduate students and language learners at SLC?

Ohashi-Sensei: Studying foreign languages and cultures holds significant meaning. Learning foreign languages not only enriches us individually but also enables us to appreciate the strengths of our own culture through comparison. It's essential to expose oneself to different languages and cultures, particularly during one's formative years.

日本語学科では、隔週月曜日の午後3時半～4時15分に、「茶の間」という日本文化紹介イベントを開催しています。日本語学科の先生やTAだけでなく、日本語の授業を受講している学生もイベントの企画・運営に積極的に関わり、さまざまなイベントを開催しています。茶道体験や着付け体験などの日本の伝統文化に触れたり、切り絵、あやとりといった昔ながらの遊びを楽しむこともできます。また、「日本の会社で働くということ」というテーマで日本企業で勤務経験のあるTAによる講演も行われました。2024年春学期には、「福笑い」、「日本の歌と一緒に歌おう!」、「Line-up Game & あっちむいてほい!」、「坊主めくり」、「日本語でスカベンジャーハント!」など、多様なラインナップで毎回たくさんの学生がイベントに参加しました。

今回は、「茶の間」や日本語の授業で茶道を披露されている大橋先生にお話をうかがいました。

The Japanese Language Department hosts "Chat-no-ma," a bi-weekly Japanese culture introduction event, every other Monday from 3:30 to 4:15 pm. The event involves not only instructors and TAs from the Japanese Language Department but also students enrolled in Japanese language classes who actively participate in planning and holding various activities. These activities include experiencing traditional Japanese culture such as a tea ceremony and Kimono dressing, as well as enjoying traditional games like Kiri-e (paper cutting) and Ayatori (cat's cradle). In the spring semester of 2024, a diverse lineup of events was held, including Fukuwarai (a game similar to pin the tail on the donkey), "Let's Sing Japanese Songs Together!", "Line-up Game & Look over there!", "Bozu Mekuri (Hyakunin Isshu card game)," and "Scavenger Hunt in Japanese!" Additionally, one of our TAs who worked for a Japanese company, presented on the topic "Insights into Working for a Japanese Company." Many students have enthusiastically participated in these events.

In this edition, I had a conversation with Ohashi-sensei, who demonstrated the tea ceremony during one of the Chat-no-ma sessions.



大橋先生の「茶の間」での茶道イベントでは、日本のお茶と美味しい和菓子をいただくこともできますよ◎ みなさん、来学期の「茶の間」イベントもお見逃しなく！ You can enjoy Japanese tea and delicious Japanese sweets at the tea ceremony event during Ohashi-sensei's Chat-no-Ma. Don't miss the next events at Chat-no-Ma!!

# Explorando la Inmersión en el Idioma Español: La Hora del Café en Español en la Universidad de Purdue

By Anderson Carmona



En los concurridos pasillos del Edificio Stanley Coulter de la Universidad de Purdue, se desarrolla semanalmente un evento único, atrayendo a estudiantes, asistentes de enseñanza y profesores por igual a una experiencia cultural y lingüística como ninguna otra: la Hora del Café en Español. Situado dentro de los acogedores confines del Salón Staaks, esta reunión semanal sirve como refugio para los entusiastas del idioma que buscan perfeccionar sus habilidades en español mientras disfrutan de café y deliciosos bocadillos.

Para los estudiantes universitarios, la Hora del Café en Español representa más que simplemente un encuentro casual; es una oportunidad de oro para refinar sus habilidades lingüísticas en un entorno relajado, libre de las presiones de exámenes y calificaciones. Aquí, entre el bullicio y la risa, los estudiantes participan en conversaciones informales, recibiendo comentarios invaluable y apoyo de los asistentes de enseñanza designados y profesores voluntarios. Es un espacio seguro donde los errores son abrazados como oportunidades de aprendizaje, fomentando una atmósfera de crecimiento y camaradería.

Pero no son solo los estudiantes universitarios quienes se benefician de esta inmersión lingüística; para los asistentes de enseñanza, ofrece un respiro bienvenido de las rigurosidades de la academia. Entre sorbos de café y bocados de refrigerios matutinos, encuentran consuelo en conectarse con colegas y fomentar un sentido de comunidad dentro del departamento. Es una oportunidad para recargar energías y rejuvenecer, todo mientras contribuyen al desarrollo lingüístico de los aprendices ávidos.

Como defensor de la enseñanza de idiomas mediante la inmersión total, he sido testigo de primera mano del poder transformador de la Hora del Café en Español. Aquellos que participan activamente semana tras semana experimentan una evolución notable en su dominio del idioma. Lo que comienza como intercambios vacilantes gradualmente florece en conversaciones fluidas, marcadas por una confianza y fluidez recién descubiertas.

El éxito de esta experiencia de inmersión radica en su naturaleza orgánica; no hay libros de texto ni lecciones estructuradas, solo interacciones auténticas alimentadas por una pasión compartida por el idioma. Desde discutir matices culturales hasta compartir anécdotas personales, cada sesión ofrece un microcosmos del mundo de habla hispana, enriqueciendo la comprensión de los participantes más allá de las reglas gramaticales y listas de vocabulario.

Además, la inclusividad de la Hora del Café en Español garantiza que los aprendices de todos los niveles se sientan bienvenidos y apoyados en su viaje lingüístico. Ya sea que seas un principiante navegando frases básicas o un hablante experimentado perfeccionando tu acento, hay un lugar para ti en la mesa. Es este sentido de inclusión y aliento mutuo lo que distingue a la Hora del Café en Español como un faro de excelencia en el aprendizaje de idiomas.

En un mundo donde la competencia lingüística abre puertas a oportunidades ilimitadas, iniciativas como la Hora del Café en Español sirven como catalizadores para el crecimiento personal y académico. Más allá de los límites del aula, es aquí, entre tazas humeantes de café y conversaciones animadas, donde la magia del idioma realmente cobra vida. Entonces, si te encuentras anhelando un sabor de la cultura y camaradería españolas, no busques más allá del Salón Staaks de Purdue, el corazón y el alma de la experiencia de la Hora del Café en Español.



# Exploring Spanish Language Immersion: The Spanish Coffee Hour at Purdue University

By Anderson Carmona

In the bustling corridors of Purdue University's Stanley Coulter Building, a unique event unfolds weekly, drawing students, TAs, and professors alike into a cultural and linguistic experience like no other—the Spanish Coffee Hour. Nestled within the cozy confines of the Staaks Lounge, this weekly gathering serves as a haven for language enthusiasts seeking to hone their Spanish skills while indulging in rich coffee and delectable snacks.

For undergraduates, the Spanish Coffee Hour represents more than just a casual get-together; it's a golden opportunity to refine their language abilities in a relaxed setting devoid of the pressures of exams and grades. Here, amidst the chatter and laughter, students engage in informal conversations, receiving invaluable feedback and support from designated TAs and volunteer professors. It's a safe space where mistakes are embraced as learning opportunities, fostering an atmosphere of growth and camaraderie. But it's not just the undergraduates who benefit from this linguistic immersion; for Teaching Assistants, it offers a welcome respite from the rigors of academia. Amidst sips of coffee and bites of morning snacks, they find solace in connecting with colleagues and fostering a sense of community within the department. It's a chance to recharge and rejuvenate, all while contributing to the linguistic development of eager learners.



As an advocate for full immersion language learning, I've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of the Spanish Coffee Hour. Those who actively participate week after week undergo a remarkable evolution in their language proficiency. What begins as hesitant exchanges gradually blossoms into fluid conversations, punctuated by newfound confidence and fluency.

The success of this immersion experience lies in its organic nature; there are no textbooks or structured lessons—just authentic interactions fueled by a shared passion for language. From discussing cultural nuances to sharing personal anecdotes, each session offers a microcosm of the Spanish-speaking world, enriching participants' understanding beyond grammar rules and vocabulary lists.

Moreover, the inclusivity of the Spanish Coffee Hour ensures that learners of all levels feel welcome and supported on their language journey. Whether you're a novice navigating basic phrases or a seasoned speaker refining your accent, there's a place for you at the table. It's this sense of inclusivity and mutual encouragement that sets the Spanish Coffee Hour apart as a beacon of language learning excellence.

In a world where linguistic proficiency opens doors to boundless opportunities, initiatives like the Spanish Coffee Hour serve as catalysts for personal and academic growth. Beyond the confines of the classroom, it's here, amidst steaming cups of coffee and lively conversation, that the magic of language truly comes alive. So, if you find yourself craving a taste of Spanish culture and camaraderie, look no further than Purdue's own Staaks Lounge—the heart and soul of the Spanish Coffee Hour experience.



# Workshop on Academic and Non-Academic Job Careers for Languages

Speakers : Dr. Yan Cong and Dr. Elsayed Issa

Workshop on Academic and Non-Academic Job

Careers for Languages" was hosted on February 29th from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm at SC 179. Dr. Yan Cong and Dr. Elsayed Issa presented to the SLC Graduate Students ,offering practical advice for navigating the job market. The session began with an exploration of where to find non-academic careers and an explanation of the role of linguists in various industries. The discussion also delved into the nuances of application processes between academia and industry.

Students were introduced to potential job areas aligned with the skills that students are acquiring at Purdue University, such as corpus creation/analysis and experimental linguistics, with potential career paths spanning statistical analysis, translation, machine learning, and more.



Dr. Yan Cong and Dr. Elsayed also mentioned that in searching for a job, connections are one of the most important assets. The importance of marketing yourself on platforms such as LinkedIn was discussed. In addition, they shared that learning new skills and getting certificates on LinkedIn for free using LinkedIn Learning might advance your job application process by expanding your profile!

They recommended reaching out to recruiters and people you know in the field to create job connections. Moreover, even temporary work can be a good opportunity to gain experience! Good luck to everyone who is preparing to apply jobs!

By Hitomi Kurita





# STUDENT

1st year, MA, in Spanish Literature

# Natalia Arango

# POTLIGHT

By Hitomi Kurita

I interviewed Natalia for this issue. It was early April when Natalia was about to finish her second semester at Purdue. I interviewed her about her reasons for studying at Purdue and her life as a graduate student, including teaching.



Where is your home town ?

I am from Manizales, Colombia, which is 8 hours from Bogotá. It is a small city, kind of similar to West Lafayette.

What is your major?

I have a modern languages degree.

What do you specially study?

I'm studying Spanish literature. Here, at Purdue, you can focus either on Spanish Literature from Spain, or Spanish Literature from Latin American countries. Right now, I want to focus on Latin American Literature. Since I'm from Colombia I understand a little bit more of my own context and my own literature.

Why did you choose to come to Purdue, and study at SLC?

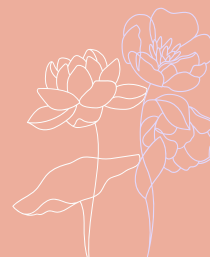
There are a lot of reasons. First of all, there was more support from Purdue University. It is difficult to find this elsewhere. Also, I have a passion for literature, and this program of Spanish Literature offers what I wanted to study, and really matches my interests.

Now you are working as a Teaching Assistant, right? Which class have you taught so far?

Yes, when I first came here, I taught Spanish 101. Now I'm teaching Spanish 102.

What do you like about teaching here? What's your experience of teaching so far?

I like a lot! I really think that I have a lot of passion about teaching. Of course, it's very different to teach here than to teach in Colombia. The environment and the culture are different and the students speak English, which is not my first language. So the environment is going to be different.



What do you think is the difference between American students and back home Colombian students?

The students in Colombia are more talkative and can be closer. As we're in the same context in Colombia, it is like we are on the same page because of the shared context between teacher and students. Here it is a little different. But, it also has advantages because you can learn new things from your students and they can learn new things from you as a teacher. I really like the idea of showing people my own language and my own culture.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to read a lot, but it's basically what I do for my masters. So I also love to watch cinema and hang out with friends. When I'm in Colombia I spend time with my family and my cats.

Thank you so much for your time for the interview, Natalia!

# Shut up & Work Sessions

By Hitomi Kurita



Engaging work sessions were held on March 21st and April 18th at SC136. Students studied together in a fresh environment with a variety of sweets, snacks, and drinks. Participants could enter a raffle for a gift card as well.

The organizer, Anderson Carmona, told us the purpose of holding this event : “Our graduate committee is always trying to get social events for graduate students, and this time, I wanted to create an event that was just an open and new space that students can study while you’re doing some socializing, but still being productive and advancing their assignments. Sometimes it is good to have peer pressure from people, so you feel motivated to work. Besides, since you’re in a different environment, so it might refresh your mindset.”



One of the participants told us what she likes about this event : “I usually study at the library, but changing the environment helps me to focus more. In addition, here you can meet up with new people. Usually, you only meet people from your department, but you can extend your social network by attending this event.”

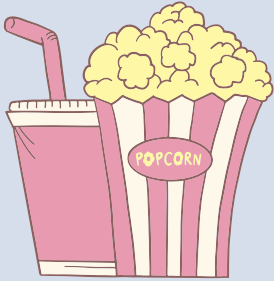




# Korean Movie Night

Spotlight of Movie Night

By Dr. Huai-Rhin Kim



*The Korean department was able to host multiple Korean Movie Nights, about twice a semester. This academic year, students were able to watch movies such as Life is Beautiful, Taegukgi: The Brotherhood of War, and Past Lives. Gathered around in a room with free popcorn, drinks, and Korean snacks, it was a place for students to convene, enjoy the cinematic works, and discuss their thoughts after viewing the movie.*

Life is Beautiful is a first, one-of-its-kind jukebox musical released in Korea. A novel approach to films in Korea, it utilizes music that was popular in the 80s and 90s to convey the feelings of the characters. The movie provides with many opportunities to understand Korean culture, especially family dynamics, it also helps us understand what brings the nostalgia feeling for Korean audiences. The soundtrack of the movie was aimed to stir such feeling, and it provides students a glimpse of the recent past.



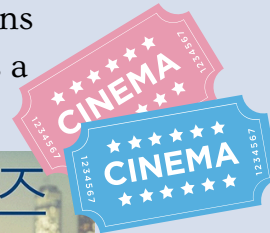
Watching Taegukgi: The Brotherhood of War proved to be a valuable means of getting a glimpse at Korean history. Movies are a method of understanding the culture, beliefs and values of society, and a movie such as Taegukgi, filmed in 1987, has demonstrated how Koreans during this time viewed their past of war, famine, and poverty. There is no doubt that Korea has had a troubled past with colonization and warfare, and the movie exemplifies the struggles. It shows how the Koreans view this struggle, helping us understand that Koreans view this past as inevitable, yet valuable for the growth of the nation.

Parasite, an acclaimed Korean movie that won multiple Academy awards, has been a success in terms of engagement and attendance. It has sparked discussions on why it succeeded, even drawing attention in the United States. It has been fascinating to hear diverse student perspectives on this, as it adds another layer of interest and excitement to our gatherings. Interestingly, viewing the movie together has yielded a deeper understanding of the complex, intertwined thematic elements and the societal implications that comes with it.

The film has been an inspiration for some to pursue Korean cinema, while it has served as deeper layer of understanding of Korean culture for others.

The screening of Past Lives, an award winning film, was a collaboration with Asian Studies and Cinema Boiler. Aimed to foster growth within the Asian community on campus, it has created a level of connection with the audience viewing the movie. Many students of different nationalities come to study Korean at Purdue University. However, a handful of students taking Korean are from a Korean household, or a second generation Koreans.

Their experiences closely resemble that of Nora, who left a part of her identity in Korea. The movie has provided a cinematic example for these students to see their experiences on screen, but it has also helped other students understand the identity complications that come with living as a second generation.



Overall, the films have helped foster interest for Korean culture and Korean studies. This interest is what has helped with the establishment of the Korean minor program, and it has proven to be valuable to the students. Selecting war films or those delving into Korean history provides a platform to discuss aspects of Korean culture that students might not be familiar with. The students have thoroughly enjoyed exploring these themes. Moreover, students interested in Korean cinema or the Korean language minor have shown enthusiasm for a new Korean film class offered this semester. The class seats were quickly filled up, and it is without doubt that the Korean Movie Nights helped with garnering interest for the class. Looking ahead, movie nights remain open to anyone interested in Korean cinema next semester. Whether it's for cultural exploration, language practice, or simply the love of movies, everyone is welcome.







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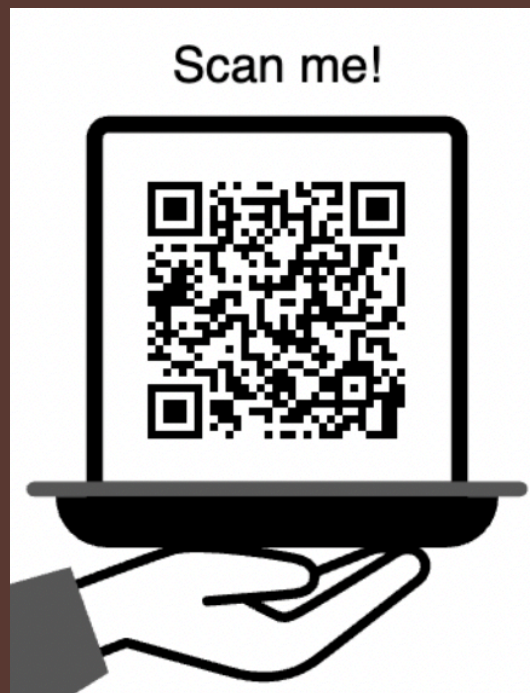
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