The GHI offers fabulous opportunities for German historians of North America, and being part of facilitating this transatlantic scholarly exchange is a great pleasure for me. Another special attraction of being here is the institute’s bilingual and multicultural atmosphere; it provides a uniquely stimulating and enjoyable work environment.

— Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson
What do I like about being in Washington? Great quality of life, international environment, arts, culture, and blue skies.

—Jörg Schröder

Jörg Schröder, Deputy Administrative Director
Betsy Hauck, Administrative Assistant
Heather Hester, Receptionist
Julie Martin, Administrative Assistant
Shortly after the GHI celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary, I will be retiring after sixteen years at the institute. I have worked for three directors – Professors Junker, Mauch, and Berghoff – and have helped many research fellows over the years with the organization of conferences. In my final months at the GHI, I participated in the preparations for the anniversary celebration. The coincidence of the anniversary celebration and my retirement make this final event very special to me. I have always enjoyed working at the GHI and wish it all the best for the next twenty-five years.

— Bärbel Thomas
I love working in an international environment with American colleagues and having the chance to host scholars from all over - every historian seems to come to DC at some point! It’s simply great to be at a place where as a researcher you can enjoy using the amazing Library of Congress and the National Archives on a daily basis.

— Miriam Rürup
When I arrived at the GHI as an intern in the summer of 2009, it was my first time in the United States. The friendly atmosphere at the GHI made me feel at home right away. My internship gave me an opportunity to become acquainted with several research projects and to contribute to them. The international focus of the GHI makes it possible to establish contact with scholars and students from both sides of the Atlantic. The experience of interning at the GHI reinforced my determination to continue my studies and pursue a doctorate in history.

— Corinna Ludwig
The GHI is my bridge to Germany.

— Anita Brown

The Library Team (from left to right)
Anita Brown, Library Associate
Marianne Schmitz, Librarian
Elisabeth Mait, Library Associate
Being editors at the GHI really gives us the best of both worlds — the academic and professional, as well as Germany and the United States. We get to engage with stimulating texts on a wide range of historical subjects and experience the satisfaction that comes from helping authors achieve publication success.

— Patricia C. Sutcliffe
The GHI provided a great opportunity to experience a research environment in a transnational context and to think about German history from a comparative perspective.

— Tania Strützel

My internship gave me a chance to see an transatlantic research institute from the inside. The GHI intelligently links the cultures of Germany and the U.S. both in its scholarly work and in its pleasant everyday work environment.

— Alexander Konrad

Working at the GHI was a great opportunity for me to experience a transnational work environment. The internship fits perfectly with my studies, and Washington provides dozens of opportunities to broaden one’s horizons. It was great!

— Luisa Gaa
Christa Brown was a pillar of the GHI for nearly 24 of its first 25 years of existence. One of founding director Hartmut Lehmann’s initial hires, she played a decisive part in translating the ambitious plans for the new institute into action. “I started my career at the GHI with a leased typewriter and worked at a folding table,” she recently recalled.
Once she had taken care of creating and equipping a functioning office, Christa Brown turned her hand to an ever-expanding list of responsibilities. Her job title was “foreign language assistant,” but “master juggler” might have been more accurate. It was a rare day when Christa Brown was not tending to multiple projects and events simultaneously. Typically, she might jump from wrangling rooms from hotels without vacancies one moment to straightening out the director’s travel itinerary the next before shifting attention to the 1,001 details of hosting a conference at the GHI. Christa Brown retired from the GHI in the summer of 2011. She is fondly remembered by all who worked at the GHI during its first quarter century and much missed by the colleagues she left behind.

Christa Brown was for many people the face of the GHI. It was Frau Brown who tended to visitors and dignitaries, and it was also Frau Brown who took interns, grad students, and newcomers to Washington under her wing. Nobody knows more about all that has gone on at the GHI—both on and off the record—over the past twenty five years. During my time as director, I was impressed that she was never shy about speaking her mind and that she always spoke out for fair treatment of all GHI staff members. If I were limited to a single sentence, I would say simply, “Christa Brown is wonderful.”  

Christof Mauch, Director of the GHI, 1999–2007