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## Tribute to Christiane Keck, Founding Editor

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## TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIANE KECK, FOUNDING EDITOR

Professor Christiane Keck, Professor Emerita of German and former Head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures [as of January 1, 2012, the School of Languages and Cultures] at Purdue University, provided the driving force for the creation of *Global Business Languages* in the mid-1990s. From its beginning in 1996 she served as Editor of the journal, and although she retired from the university in 2002, she continued her editorship until 2010. Last year when she announced she would be leaving the journal, it was too late for us in our production schedule to offer more than brief thanks for her long service and devotion to business German, business languages in general, and the journal. I am honored that several of her colleagues wanted to share their thoughts upon her departure from the journal, and these remarks follow.

Christiane Keck's retirement provides me with a poignant moment of reflection and the perfect opportunity for an expression of gratitude. About the time that I was beginning my academic career as an Assistant Professor, probably back in 1992 or 1993, I met Professor Keck for the first time at a business language conference. Although I was very interested in business language education, I was extremely apprehensive about how this would affect my professional career. And there I met Christiane Keck, my example of a liberal-arts-trained professor (with a PhD from UT Austin no less), who was able to balance her training in literature with her passion for business language, a person who could be the Head of a Foreign Languages and Literatures Department and an Associate Director of a CIBER. Christiane, it was your example that gave me the confidence to know that it was possible to blend both worlds. Thank you, Christiane, for providing me with one of the pivotal moments that solidified my career path.

Orlando R. Kelm 柯安良, (kē, ān liáng)

Associate Director, Business Language Education

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Christiane has been an inspiration for countless “business German” and, indeed, “business language” teachers in their professional aspirations. From the early days of the Eastern Michigan University Conference on Languages for Business and the Professions to the CIBER conference and other activities supporting business language initiatives, to AATG’s “Business German Committee,” Christiane has represented a commitment and sense of professionalism about our field that is greatly admired. She has promoted professionalism by supporting doctoral level training for aspiring professionals and by founding the refereed professional journal *Global Business Languages*. In addition, Christiane has been a warm and generous colleague. Personally, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Christiane for providing an outstanding model for my own professional growth and development.

Pat Paulsell

Professor of German

Co-Director, Center for Language Education and Research (CLEAR)

Michigan State University

I have known Christiane Keck for many years and recall meeting her first at a Goethe Institute-sponsored retreat at Unicoi State Park in Georgia in the 1980s that really marked the birth of the business German movement (maybe she remembers the year). She was thus among the first to note the possibility and importance of reaching out to other disciplines to forge new partnerships and new curricula for German in American higher education. It was a sign of her vision and energy that she saw not only the need for outreach to other disciplines, but also the need for an academic journal with this focus. We all owe her a great deal! I would also like to thank her for allowing this vision to spill over into the Purdue graduate program. When we did a national search for a new person in German at URI with a background in pedagogy and business German, Christiane sent us my long-time colleague Norbert Hedderich, who now chairs our entire language department. So, thank you, Christiane!!

John M. Grandin

Professor of German Emeritus

University of Rhode Island

Dear Christiane,

Thank you so much for everything you have done for the teaching of Languages-for-the-Professions in your long career! As founder and long-time Editor of *Global Business Languages*, you have done a tremendous service to our profession. *GBL* is well established and continues to be an important forum in the field.

You were one of the true pioneers of a movement in language teaching that began in the late 1970s by putting business German on the map and by taking on a leadership role for the *Prüfung Wirtschaftsdeutsch International* for many years. I am very grateful that our paths crossed during my years in the PhD program at Purdue from 1988 to 1991. You were a wonderful mentor and have always been an inspiration to me.

Best Wishes,

Norbert Hedderich (PhD Purdue, 1991)

Professor of German

Chair, Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Director, German Summer School

University of Rhode Island

My colleagues and I owe Christiane Keck a debt of gratitude for her many contributions to our profession. She co-founded *Global Business Languages* with Allen Wood. It has become the leading global journal specializing in languages for specific purposes. Editor for many years, Christiane worked hard to ensure the quality and academic reputation of the journal.

A few years ago, I traveled to Purdue and stopped by unannounced to say hello to Christiane Keck. She welcomed me into her office. I was not prepared for what I saw, even though I knew she was Head of Foreign Languages at Purdue. I found Christiane Keck ensconced in the largest faculty office I had ever seen. It was enormous. Immense. Larger than many apartments, bigger than any dean's office I'd seen. It reflected, I am sure, her status at the university, and communicated her power and influence there.

Not only was Christiane Head of Purdue's large FLL Department, she also served as Associate Director of the Purdue CIBER. It is worth noting that few

of the over thirty CIBERs have ever had directors from foreign languages. Most come from business. Savvy, politically astute, and an accomplished leader at Purdue and beyond, Christiane has raised the bar for her colleagues and shown us what it is possible to achieve. She has my profound respect and thanks—for her outstanding work, dedication, and remarkable collegiality. Congratulations to Christiane upon her retirement. Thank you for inspiring me and showing me what it is possible to achieve. Vielen dank, meine Freundin!

Christine Uber Grosse  
Professor Emerita, Modern Languages  
Thunderbird, School of Global Management