

Heye Ackermann

1937-2014

Assistant Principal
Chemistry and Sports Teacher



After a short serious illness, the former assistant principal Heye Ackermann passed away on Monday, November 3, 2014, in Achim near Bremen. Competent, fair and dryly "northern German," he was a chemistry and sports teacher who helped determine and shape the history of the DSW for many years.

As assistant principal, he was responsible, among other things, for drawing up the teachers' schedules. This tricky task showed his great sensitivity as a human being. Year after year, he managed to fulfill all the seemingly irreconcilable wishes of the teaching staff: a feat that is actually impossible, but which Heye achieved time and again to the amazement of his colleagues. One can well imagine that such

a feat of magic affected the contentment and harmony throughout the school year.

Heye was seldom seen without his big black chapeau, which he wore to protect himself from the strong Washington sun, and his bicycle, with which he made his daily commute from Caderock to the German School. In this way he kept fit and slim despite the many celebrations, where he and his wife Heide spoiled the numerous guests with delicious food.

In an all but long-standing tradition, Heye and Heide, who held a demanding leadership role in the Friends of the German School, invited the entire school staff to join them in their welcoming garden at the beginning of each school year. This was a get-together that lifted spirits, and where new and old members of the staff could get to know each other and exchange ideas in a relaxed atmosphere.

Heye liked the German School very much. Years later, he would show up here every once in a while during his vacations to refresh old relationships and to see how "his" school was doing. Once, during one of his visits, I remarked that he hadn't changed at all. He replied, with his typical dry humor, that once you get older, it's a great advantage because you just stay older.

We who had the privilege of spending time with Heye at the DSW and held him in high esteem remember him. He was an educator of the first order, a straightforward person of exceptional strength of character, who is fondly remembered by the school community. We extend our condolences to his wife Heide and his four children.

Ingrid Wrausmann