Hans Wagener (1940-2013) was a prolific scholar who published monographs and articles on topics ranging from the German Baroque all the way to 20th-century writers such as Erich Maria Remarque, Erich Kästner, Stefan Andres, Frank Wedekind, Gabriele Wohmann, Sarah Kirsch, Siegfried Lenz, Carl Zuckmeyer, Franz Werfel, Lion Feuchtwanger, and Robert Neumann. Indeed, interpreting literature in its historical and political contexts was Hans’s passion. He taught at UCLA for over 40 years, and on his website, he stated that he was passionate about “the function of literature as an expression and part of ongoing historical and political debates.” Hans was PAMLA President from 1990-91, served for many years on the executive committee, and presented papers at numerous PAMLA conferences. His unwavering dedication to scholarship and German Studies is evident in his edition of Zweig’s novel Sternstunden der Menschheit. Although he was unable to finish the book himself—his wife Gertraud published it posthumously—he continued to work on it, even during the last weeks of his life. Hans will be remembered for his engaging conversations and his unbroken spirit during his illness.

Thomas Saine (1941-2013) was an internationally noted scholar of eighteenth-century German culture (history, philosophy, literature, aesthetics), particularly of the works of Karl Philipp Moritz, Georg Forster, and Goethe. He was one of the founders of the now well-established Goethe Society of North America and the founding editor of the Goethe Yearbook, an important venue for Eighteenth-Century Studies, which he edited from 1982-1999. He began his career at Yale, his undergraduate and graduate alma mater, where he taught as assistant and associate professor of German from 1969-1975. After two terms as Visiting Professor at the University of Cincinnati, Tom moved to UC Irvine. Author of numerous books and articles and recipient of distinguished grants and many accolades, he was a strong advocate for German Studies in the United States and an accomplished practitioner of that discipline. The license plates on his car and motorcycle read GOETHE-1 and GOETHE, respectively. We all miss his engaging presence and will always remember him.
Gunter H. Hertling (1930-2014) was Professor Emeritus of Germanics and a prolific scholar of 18th- and 19th-Century German Literature. He grew up in Germany, where he received his secondary education. In 1948, he came to the United States. He earned his Ph.D. at Berkeley with a doctoral dissertation on the work of Ricarda Huch. Gunter then joined the faculty of the Department of Germanics at the University of Washington where he taught, published, and served the department and university for nearly fifty years before his full retirement in 2006. He was a highly active member of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association and served as a member of its Executive Committee and as Second Vice President, Vice President, and President (1995-1996). Gunter was a scholar of enormous range who authored countless articles and several books on German, Austrian, and Swiss writers, including Adalbert Stifter, Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, Theodor Fontane, Theodor Storm, Franz Grillparzer, Gottfried Keller, Georg Büchner, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, and others. In 2008, he published the moving autobiography Hard Times: My Youth under National Socialism (and Beyond). Gunter will be sorely missed by his colleagues and by the many generations of students he taught.

Wolfgang Nehring (1938-2013) studied German literature, philosophy, and classics in Germany and Austria at the universities of Bonn, Tübingen, and Vienna. A prolific scholar, he published on German literature from the 18th century to the present, on writers such as Schiller, Kleist, Tieck, Eichendorff, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Grillparzer, Saar, Schnitzler, Hofmannsthal, Keyserling, and Werfel. An expert in German romanticism and modernism, he nevertheless was particularly passionate about Austrian literature and, specifically, the Jung Wien movement and Hugo von Hofmannsthal. Wolfgang is the author of Die Tat bei Hofmannsthal: Eine Untersuchung zu Hofmannsthals großen Dramen (1966) and Spätromantiker: Eichendorff und E.T.A. Hoffmann (1998). Wolfgang was a long-time and highly engaged PAMLA member. He was PAMLA President from 2002 until 2003 and served on the Executive Committee for many years. He was a professor, mentor, and colleague to many PAMLA members, and his deep passion for literature was evident in his lifelong commitment to scholarship and lively debates about all things literary. His students will remember Wolfgang as an excellent professor who shared his sharp analytical insights with all who engaged with him. In testimonies and essays in the Festschrift collection Auf dem Weg in die Moderne: Deutsche und österreichische Literatur former students have already shown how deeply they miss Wolfgang in their professional and personal lives.

Jens Rieckmann (1944-2013) held teaching positions at the University of Virginia; at the University of Washington; and at the University of California, Irvine, where he also served as Chair of the Department of German. During his life, Jens wrote a number of brilliant books and countless articles on Thomas Mann and Viennese modernism. He also mentored several generations of students—undergraduates, graduate students, and “Doktorkinder”—for whom his guidance was a professional and personal cornerstone. Jens studied at the Universität Göttingen and then took his Ph.D. at Harvard in 1975. His landmark study on Thomas Mann’s Zauberberg appeared in 1977. Turning his attention thereafter to Viennese Modernism, Jens produced a number of important monographs and articles that transformed subsequent readings of the period. He showed us that Jung Wien writers were not merely indulging in narcissistic solipsism, but that their work was informed by the belief that literary form needed to become self-reflexive if it was to lay claim to a continued relevance in modernity. Jens was a long-time member of PAMLA and introduced several generations of graduate students to our association. With Jens Rieckmann, the fields of German and Austrian Studies have lost one of their greats. And many of us have lost a dear friend, mentor, and colleague we will forever miss.