

## German Society of Maryland Awards Scholarships to Four College Students



**From left to right:** Brittany Grasser, Lucy Erickson and Stephen Paul in front of a dessert table in the “Adlersaal” at Zion Lutheran Church. (Sophia Burton, absent)

At its Annual Dinner Meeting on April 13, 2007, the German Society of Maryland honored four students who are majoring in German at Maryland universities. Sophia Burton, Lucy Erickson and Stephen Paul, who are students at the University of Maryland College Park, and Brittany Grasser of the University of Maryland Baltimore County were congratulated by Dr. Armin Mruck, Chair of the German Society’s Education Committee. Then Brigitte Fessenden, President of the German Society, presented each student with a certificate of merit and a \$ 500. check. The award letter that each student had received from President Fessenden several weeks prior to this event included the following: ***“Your transcript, essay, and letters of recommendation show that you are an exceptionally outstanding student with a***

***special interest in the German language and the field of German studies. In presenting you with this award we recognize your past achievements and encourage your continued work in this area.”***

Outstanding high school and independent school students of German have been honored by the Maryland/ DC Metro Chapter of AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) for many years and the German Society of Maryland has contributed generously to the cash awards and the refreshments at this annual event held in the “Adlersaal” of Zion Lutheran Church. However, this recognition of four college-level students by the German Society represents a reinstatement of a previous scholarship program that had been discontinued. In the 1980’s and 1990’s one college student of the German language and culture had been honored with a scholarship each year. The initiative was reinstated in the spring of 2006 and expanded to include four students per year. Dr. Armin Mruck, Mrs. Linda Butt, Dr. Mohamed Esa and Dr. Maureen Helinski are the German Society Board Members who are responsible for administering this program. They distribute information to professors and department heads at the Maryland colleges and universities. Then they receive applications, transcripts and letters of recommendation from interested students. As a committee they make the decisions concerning which students will be honored by the German Society. They are to be commended for their success in encouraging college-level students to continue studying German.

**Mary Upman**