

The Maryland DC/Metro Chapter of AATG and the German Society of Maryland Honor High School Students

On May 20, 2007, more than 300 students, teachers, parents and special guests assembled in the *Adlersaal* of Zion Lutheran Church in Baltimore for the annual Awards Ceremony for high school students sponsored by the Maryland / DC Metro Chapter of AATG in cooperation with the German Society of Maryland and other organizations in Maryland and Washington.

Dorothy Louks, who serves as the Chair of the AATG Testing Program in Maryland, opened the ceremony with her greetings. Dr. Holger Roggelin, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, welcomed the guests and described the historical and architectonic significance of the “Adlersaal” constructed in the Hanseatic style.

Then Deborah McGee Mifflin, President of the AATG Maryland / DC Metro Chapter, opened her speech congratulating the students and their teachers with the saying: “You have as many lives as the languages that you speak.” She commended the students for their outstanding achievements in their study of the German language and culture and she also congratulated their teachers, who instructed them so energetically and effectively.

Two special guests who extended congratulations to the award-winning students were Ruth Brodesser of the German Embassy and Craig Childers of the Goethe Institute in Washington, DC.

Brigitte Fessenden, President of the German Society of Maryland, congratulated the students on behalf of her organization and announced that, as in previous years, the German Society had contributed a donation of \$ 5,000. to the financial awards that would be distributed at this ceremony. She then presented two special achievement awards. Lauren Hamby, a student of Sue Miller at South Carroll High School in Carroll County, received the *Julius Hofmann Memorial Award for Excellence in German* and Eric Brownhill, a student of John Innes at Loyola High School in Baltimore, was awarded the *Langenscheidt Award* for his outstanding achievement in learning the German language. He received a certificate of merit and a Langenscheidt dictionary.

At this point in the ceremony Dr. Mohamed Esa, German professor at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, provided an interlude of entertainment with a multimedia presentation that he had designed especially for this ceremony. He showed video segments of well-known songs by such German groups as *Rammstein*, *The Wise Guys*, and *Rolf and his Friends*. A great hit with the students at this ceremony was the children’s song *Schnappi* that lends itself well to singing along.

112 students then received prizes, a certificate of achievement, and a check for their outstanding results on the AATG National German Exam. Ingrid Laugtug, a student of Myrna Pigo at Wilde Lake High School, also won a 2007 PAD/AATG trip to Germany.

The Maryland /DC Metro Chapter of AATG would like to thank the German Society of Maryland, the Embassies of Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland, and the Goethe-Institut in Washington, DC, for their support of this event. In addition, the Chapter expresses its thanks to Heidelberg, USA, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program, the Association of German-American Societies of Greater Washington, DC, and the AATG national organization. The generosity of these co-sponsoring organizations enabled the Chapter to give 112 students the checks

and prizes that they received. Our sincere thanks to you all !