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Great Mills High School Grad Speaks on Racial Violence

 by
January 19, 2010

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The sixth annual Southern Maryland Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast was held Monday, Jan. 18 in the Great Room of St. Mary’s College of Maryland’s Campus Center. The program featured William Yoast, the high school football coach portrayed in the film “Remember the Titans,” Lt. Christilene Whalen, who graduated from Great Mills High School during the desegregation era, and John W. Franklin, of the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History.

Also speaking at the annual breakfast was Del. John Bohanan, who presented the first MLK Jr. “Realizing the Dream” awards. The awards honored four St. Mary’s County residents who embodied exemplary character as described in King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, and who have made significant contributions to their communities.

Awards were presented to Everlyn Holland, Hollywood, Theodore Newkirk, Lexington Park, Donald Shubrooks, Great Mills High School and Aamon Smith, Leonardtown Middle School. A \$100 award and a

plaque were presented to each of the winners during the Prayer Breakfast.

Also featured were musical performances by the St. Peter Claver Catholic Church Gospel Choir and the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lexington Park Youth Choir. Masters of ceremony for the event were SMCM Black Student Union President Darren McCutchen, of Bowie and Jim Hanley, chair of the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission.

Ending the breakfast was the documentary film '[With All Deliberate Speed: One High School's Story](#),' shown in the Campus Center's Cole Cinema. St. Mary's College professor Merideth Taylor produced the film, which gave voice to those who experienced desegregation at Great Mills High School between 1958 and 1972.

The film outlined the difficult transition period of integrating the segregated high schools' communities. Following the film, Taylor led a discussion of the issues illuminated by the documentary.



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