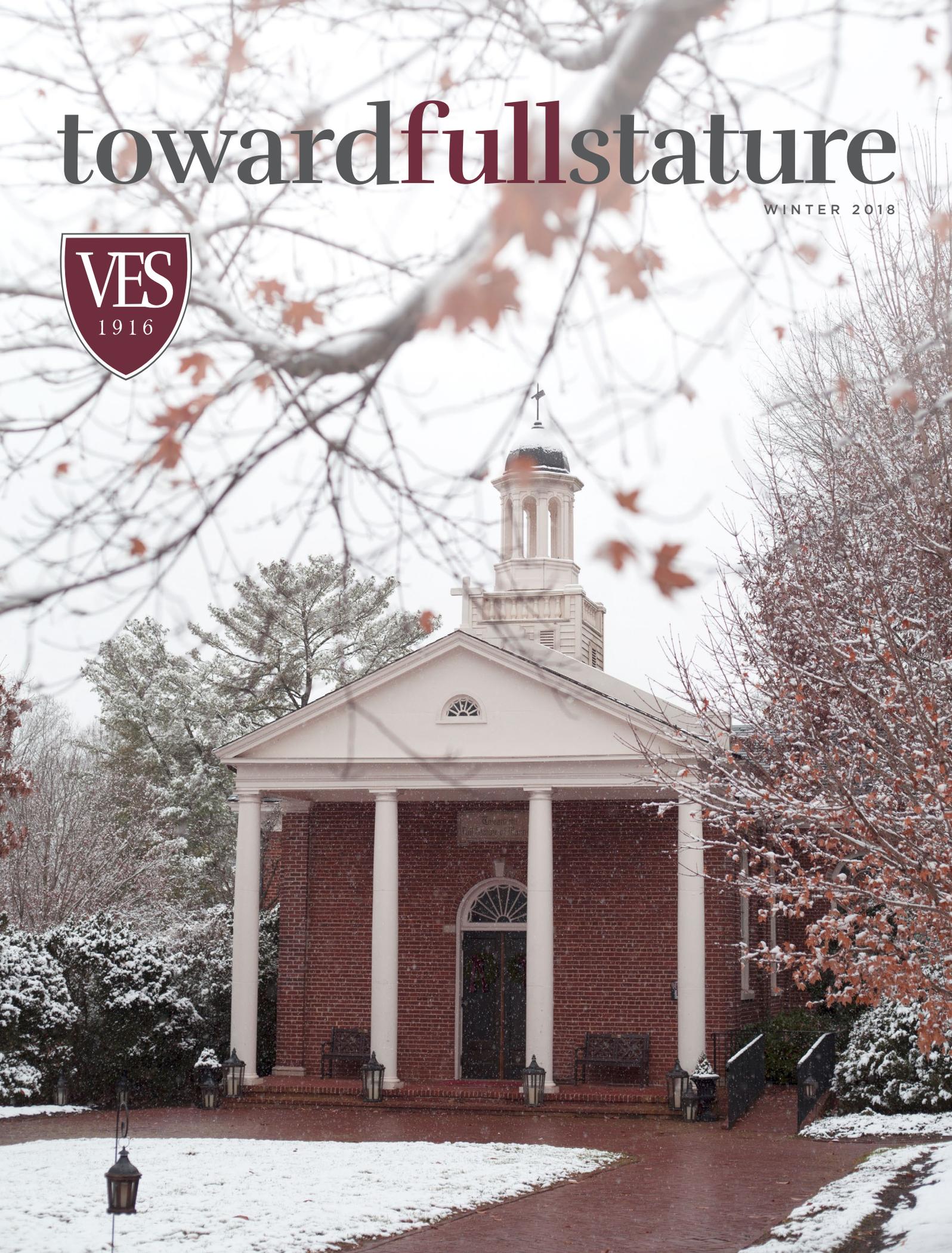


# towardfullstature

WINTER 2018





(L to R) *The New York Times Magazine* journalist Mosi Secret, Bud Doughton '71, Jerrauld Jones '72, Tony Johnson '74, Bill Alexander '71, Marvin Barnard '71, Jamie Johnson, Jr. '73, Grég Prioleau '73 and Terry Sherrill '73

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## VES REFLECTS ON 50 YEARS SINCE INTEGRATION

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**T**his year, VES launched the first in what will be a series called the *Dare to Imagine a Better World Dialogues*. Focusing on critical milestones in the school's history, these Founders Day conversations are designed to elevate awareness and drive thought-provoking discussions—about where we've been and where we are today as a school, a nation, a world. "Our hope for these conversations and related student studies across the school year is to highlight new ideas and solutions on topics ranging from integration and equity and inclusion to women's issues to globalization," said Chris Button, Associate Head of School.

In the fall, we honored 50 years since that pivotal moment when VES became an integration pioneer, and Bill Alexander '71 and Marvin Barnard '71—our school's first two Stouffer Foundation Scholars—matriculated in 1967. That courageous first step forward, led by Headmaster Austin Montgomery, made VES the first Virginia boarding school to integrate and forever improved our community.

In late September, VES welcomed home more than 200 Bishops to consider the impact of integration at VES—a particularly timely event following VES' national exposure in the September 2017 publication of journalist Mosi Secret's *The New York Times Magazine* article, "The Way to Survive It Was to Make A's," and hour-long podcast, "Essay B," on *This American Life*—both in-depth studies of the selection, matriculation, experiences at school and adult lives of seven of the eight men, all Stouffer Foundation Scholars, who attended VES.

Leading up to Founders Day, our students studied VES' history and issues of integration, civil rights, culture and identity, communities and power through English and history classes, Student Life programming, books, films, materials in the VES archives, and Mr. Secret's work.

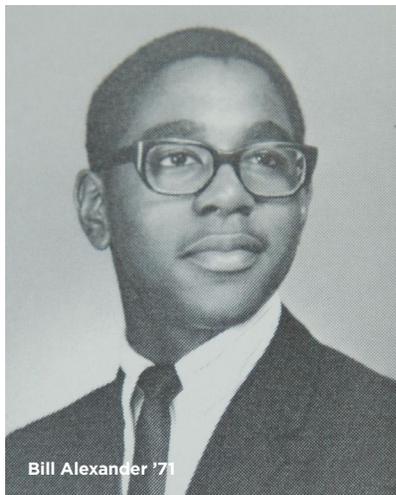
When Founders Day arrived, Dr. Barnard and Mr. Secret joined students in classrooms, for a special assembly and at lunch tables. That evening, Mr. Secret moderated a dynamic panel discussion with Drs. Alexander and Barnard, former VES teachers

Nat Jobe and Jim Hopkins, and classmate Bud Doughton '71. The panel highlighted the impact of the eight young men who led the way at VES from 1967-75 and explored the issues of diversity, inclusion and equity that still exist today. A dinner followed, honoring these men and VES' first black faculty member, Hank Wilson (1979-82). While on campus, their stories were captured on video and in Bishop Radio interviews by Paul Skorcz '18.

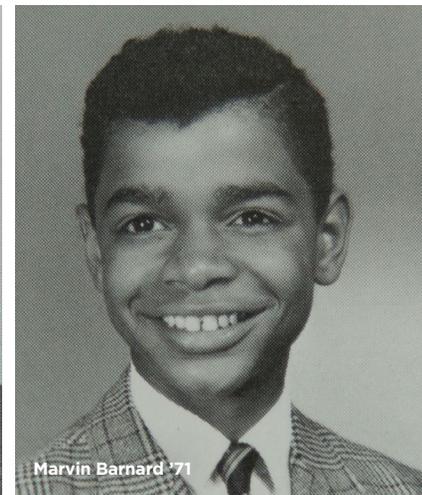


(L to R) Trae Watkins '08, Marvin Barnard '71 and Lucas Sandidge '08

Headmaster Battle noted, "The VES of today was shaped by the indomitable will and spirit of these 'Magnificent Eight' pioneers, and we are a stronger, smarter and much more interesting community as a result of the diversity that we now enjoy. We are proud that our school continues to guide students to think beyond themselves and that we work diligently to improve the experience and education for every student who passes through Jett Hall."



Bill Alexander '71



Marvin Barnard '71

Following these events, to demonstrate deep respect for these men's leadership in integrating VES and their continued commitment to the school, the VES Trustees made financial gifts to support increased access to education at VES for diverse students—\$50,000 to augment the existing Dr. Bill Alexander Diversity Scholarship Fund and \$50,000 to establish the Dr. Marvin Barnard Diversity Scholarship fund. 🍷



## Join Us in Building Endowed Scholarships

It takes at least \$1.25 million to endow a full scholarship for one year. If you are interested in helping us build support that will educate a student with financial need and a diverse background, we invite you to direct a gift toward these scholarship endowments.



(L to R) Arnie Crews '73, Tony, Marvin, Ivy Drew '18, Bill, Greg and Terry