

# Fifty years later, a dream revisited



50 years ago, a young African-American teen made history here. Today, his alma mater has more than 44 percent students of color.

**T**HE APPLICANT was an Eagle Scout. He was a member of the National Honor Society, a class president and he had completed award-winning research on fuel cells. He was bright, charismatic and kind. So why did parents withdraw their students when he was accepted? Why did the student receive death threats? Why did some people think he would "ruin" the school? Because Lee Smith '65 was black.

Fifty years ago last month, Martin Luther King led the famous March on Washington. Weeks earlier that same year in 1963, St. Mark's admitted Smith to summer school as the school's first student of color without much fanfare. Now, the school sits at a record 44 percent of students self-identifying as "students of color." But when Smith applied in the fall of 1964 to be a full-time Marksman, he was entering a completely different environment. Parents threatened to leave, donors threatened to withdraw their money from the school and the Board of Trustees called a special meeting.

In the end, Ralph B. Rogers, then the president of the Board, took a determined position to integrate the school, and then-Headmaster Christopher Berrisford invited Smith and his family to a special meeting where he admitted Smith to the school. Rogers did not face total support. He overcame a "great, heated debate," in his effort to integrate. "St. Mark's was probably not ready to integrate," Smith said in a 2002 interview with *The ReMarker*. "Finally, though, the school came around and took a position. I was admitted and I would stay"

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► by **Dylan Clark**, editor-in-chief, and **Aidan Dewar**, managing editor | illustration by **Zuyva Sevilla**, graphics director

## Under Hackbarth's direction, security cameras installed for students' protection

By **Ford Robinson** campus coordinator  
Former SWAT team officer Dale Hackbarth, who took over as director of security this summer, has amped up the school's security by installing 50 new cameras around campus and utilizing the Raptor identification system.  
The Raptor system answers the question 'who is on campus?' Faculty members and visitors to the campus are required to wear an ID badge at all times. If a visitor does not have an ID badge, his driver license is run through the Raptor system, checking him on



**Dale Hackbarth**  
New security chief bringing change

local and statewide criminal databases. "When visitors who have a ID badge visit the campus, they are allowed to come and go as they please," Hackbarth said. "If they don't, they are run through the Raptor system and if they have any history, they aren't allowed on campus." Hackbarth hasn't had a hard time changing from officer on campus to security chief. "The transition has been smooth," he said. "I've been involved with St. Mark's for 20 years, so when the opportunity was given, it was a no-brainer." While Hackbarth wants to implement new security measures, he hopes to keep the environment wholesome and friendly. "We want everyone to be allowed on campus," he said. "We want a community where kids can walk from class to class without having to worry about their safety."

"Let the students study, the teachers teach, and us security guys focus on the security issues," Hackbarth said. Hackbarth's presence at all of the parent previews has allowed him to instill confidence in the parents' heads. "Just in the first month of school he has gone to all the parent previews," Wortie Ferrell, head of Upper School, said. "His presentation is not only informative but it also gives the parents an incredible sense of calm. Having someone articulate the security staff's goals as well as he and also provide that level of reassurance is incredibly valuable." The security guards who work here stay here because they deeply care about the school and it's students. "Of all the people on the security force," Hackbarth said, "the least tenured security guard is three years. Everyone else has been

here for longer than that, and that speaks volumes. The security force likes working here, and they stay here because they really do care about the St. Mark's community." The security force has amped up security by quadrupling the number of cameras. "We had 15 cameras going into the summer," Hackbarth said. "We have just now completed installing 50 new cameras putting us up to 65 in total." Whether it be from checking lights to locking doors, the security team strives to keep the school a safe community. In order to do that, they must be observant and diligent. "Our main goal as a squad is to observe," Hackbarth said, "to be diligent and to make sure everything is running smooth around here. If anything is out of the ordinary, we must take the correct precautions in order to resolve that situation."