AT THE UNIVERSITY of Tennessee, Knoxville, students become a community of Volunteers, where an emphasis on service, servant leadership, and impact beyond self helps guide their steps. The Volunteer spirit shines not only in outcomes, but also in the small wins, failures, and challenges along the way. Students take the tenacity formed through these experiences with them into the “real” world where challenges often spring from unexpected sources.

Our cover subject, Dave Carver, applied this can-do attitude first in his career in the pharmaceutical industry. His tenacity served him well and helped prepare him for one of his greatest challenges—recovering from a spinal cord injury. The Carvers, who have worked as a team to get Dave back on his feet, offer great advice for business and life, saying, “Instead of getting frustrated...appreciate every tiny improvement.”

Seemingly tiny improvements add up to sea changes in many settings, including in how education is delivered, how research is conducted, and how business is done. Our Department of Business Analytics and Statistics saw years of hard work rewarded recently when the Master’s of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) program received the UPS George D. Smith Prize from INFORMS, the leading professional and academic society in operations management. The prize recognizes best in class collaboration between industry and academia. Haslam’s MSBA was recognized as a program able to continually pivot both its curriculum and its capstone experiences to fully address new challenges in data science. Receipt of the Smith Prize further affirms the program’s status as one of the country’s leading data analytics programs.

Teamwork, service to others, tenacity, impact beyond self—these are hallmarks of Haslam programs, students, alumni, and faculty and staff. Thank you for continuously striving to exhibit these valued characteristics.

With warmest regards,

Stephen L. Mangum
Dean and Stokely Foundation Leadership Chair
Haslam College of Business