LETTER FROM THE DEAN

IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID that the only constant in life is change itself. The weather offers one such example. One day we’re lamenting the cold rains of March, and the next the heat of summer. It’s the ability to make the best of these changes—to find beauty in both the early flowers of spring and the sunny beach and a good book…and everything in between—that yields joy in our lives.

At the Haslam College of Business, we teach our students to anticipate and work with change instead of against it. For some like Marty Brown (page: 14), that meant working full time while in college to complete his degree and then taking that tenacity and applying it to multiple moves within the accounting industry that ultimately helped him play a large part in making a local firm into a national brand. PYA, with Brown’s leadership, has become recognized across the country, hiring many Haslam alumni.

Our faculty and departments also take great pride in moving ahead of the waves of change. Yemisi Bolumole, the Ryder Professor of Supply Chain Management, began her career in the oil and gas industry, using her undergraduate degree in biochemistry (page: 7). Trying to solve distribution issues there led her to further her education, eventually leading her into the world of supply chain management. These days, Bolumole teaches and researches in the discipline, while consulting with policy makers who influence how transportation management and global supply chain affects the world at large.

Our Department of Accounting and Information Management is adjusting to the needs to the modern business world (page: 8) by expanding its curriculum to include areas such as information technology consulting, cybersecurity, and fraud detection. Technology and analytics are today playing a role in the MAcc degree that might not have been dreamed of a few short years ago.

The college itself is moving ahead, changing, and growing at significant speed (page: 18). Majors from within the Haslam College of Business now represent seven of the top 20 degrees awarded at the campus-level. As we add students in a variety of disciplines, faculty to teach and mentor them, and the myriad programming and staffing that accompanies such rapid growth, we’ve even outgrown our buildings! A new, state-of-the-art business facility is being planned for the heart of campus, just across the street from the Haslam Business Building. As planning for this new building progresses, I look forward to sharing more about this exciting development. Onward and upward!

With gratitude,

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