By way of this final issue of my writing of the Byrd Business Review, I must say many thanks and farewell to my colleagues and friends. June 30 marks my retirement date as dean of the Harry F. Byrd, Jr. School of Business at Shenandoah University. After 8 years in Winchester, VA, I am now preparing to move on to the next phase of my career—a global, business school consulting practice. My wife, Mary, and I will be moving back to where she and I met in the 1960s—Fayetteville, AR—and where we got married.

I am pleased to report the progress we made against the vision created at the beginning of my tenure in the Byrd School. Through the determined and strategic efforts of our faculty, students, staff, advisory board, alumni, and central administration, our school is much different today than it was previously. If I were asked to prepare a dean’s dashboard on key accomplishments that we achieved together, I would have to list the following:

- Stayed true to our mission of educating students to become successful, principled leaders with a global perspective
- Strategically managed the school each day in accordance with its mission and long-term goals
- Achieved AACSB accreditation—both initial and maintenance
- Built Halpin-Harrison Hall
- Hired and retained outstanding faculty members—100 percent who are either academically or professionally qualified
- Developed a robust intellectual contribution portfolio
- Enhanced the school’s curriculum—a revised MBA program, MS in Nursing/MBA joint degree program, MBA Essentials certificate, a revised BBA program, new undergraduate majors in entrepreneurship and health care management, concentrations in accounting, finance, information systems and computer technology, international business, management, and marketing, and new minors in economics and entrepreneurship along with a revised business minor
- Developed and operated a dynamic assurance of learning system directly tied to the components of the school’s mission
- Expanded the size and the engagement of the Board of Advisors
- Provided rich out-of-the-classroom opportunities for students through Beta Gamma Sigma, Alpha Kappa, Psi, study-abroad programs, internships, field trips, Student Advisory Board, its Executive in Residence, its Senior Executive Counselor, and multiple student organizations
- Obtained a BB&T grant offering student scholarships, a distinguished lecture series, and curriculum development
- Expanded the highly successful student internship program
- Established new academic leadership positions in the school—the BBA Program Director and the MBA Program Director
- Launched the Alumni Mentorship Program
- Established a student chapter of APICS—The Association for Operations Management
- Received multiple national merit award recognitions of the student chapter of SHRM
- Developed the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurship Week
- Established a new marketing seminar with the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber and the Lord Fairfax SBDC
- Co-sponsored a new peer-reviewed academic journal—the *Academy of Business Disciplines Journal*
- Expanded the use of Halpin-Harrison Hall by local business and not-for-profit organizations
- Established the highly successful annual Business Symposium for the regional business community
- Hosted the 25th anniversary celebration of the naming of the Harry F Byrd, Jr. School of Business
- Developed a strong relationship with the local and regional business communities
- Maintained a student-focused culture valuing close student-faculty relationships

Working together, we accomplished a lot! Even though we may be miles apart, I hope we will stay connected, reminisce, and recall our collective and productive times together at a very special business school.

My best wishes for continued success,

W. Randy Boxx
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