The Department Congratulates

Winner of the May, 2020 College of Engineering
Donald Beall Rockwell Award for Engineering Accomplishment

Mr. Arman Toplu, MSISE

Arman completed the MSISE in 2020, after two years of study. Prior to entering SJSU, he worked more than 14 years as a product manager in Istanbul, Turkey. He reports that "returning to academia after a long time in a new world was a hard decision since I had to leave my comfort zone in my home country.". But he had strong convictions about continuing his education and noted that SJSU, being in Silicon Valley would put him at the "heart of technology"

On arrival, he found himself facing and addressing many difficulties, including life accommodation, transportation and a radically different education system. As his comfort and familiarity with US life developed, he found that he had the urge to serve other Turkish young people who were facing the same challenges in the beginning years of their life in the US. Consequently, in his second semester on campus, and together with his wife who is also (currently) an SJSU graduate student, he started a new student club to unite the Turkish community at SJSU, called the "Turkish Student Association". The aim has expanded to not only help new Turkish students to adjust their life at SJSU but also to also offer assistance to domestic SJSU students who are interested in studying abroad in Turkey.

Arman has consistently exceeded in all areas of his coursework despite the challenges in the beginning of his student life at SJSU. He reports that he not only had the chance to learn about core IE subjects like Supply Chain and Operations & Research but also was able to study hot topics like the Circular Economy. During the two years of study in our program, Arman maintained a 4.0/4.0 GPA.

He started his culminating project research in Spring 2019 under the direction of Dr. Hongrui Liu. The topic of

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his research was "Designing a Deceptive Comment Detection Platform with a Rule-Based Artificial Intelligent Algorithm". The topic involved knowledge in industrial engineering, statistics, computer science and applied math, with extensive requirement for coding. This became an added project completion challenge, since Arman hadn't done much since his Bachelor's degree in 2005. I. He effectively brought himself up to speed again with the needed skills through extensive self-study and literature reviews.

While pursuing his graduate studies, Arman reports that he had various chances to participate in events in the area. Autonomous cars, blockchain technologies, and cloud computing are the topics that he likes to follow. In addition, especially after the pandemic started, he had more opportunities to visit the beautiful parks around the area that he can cycle, one of his hobbies in Turkey. Next winter he hopes to take up snowboarding in the Lake Tahoe area.

Arman says that after graduation, the skills and experience he gained during his ISE Masters program helped him a lot landing a job in the Bay Area despite the uncertainty due to the pandemic. Currently he is working as a Data Scientist in the Supply Chain field.