What's Your StORy?
Anna Nagurney

I am the John F. Smith Memorial Professor of Operations Management at the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the director of the Virtual Center for Supernetworks. I am also a visiting professor at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. I have been an INFORMS member, including ORSA/TIMS, for three decades!

What is the best advice you can give to students in your field? Operations research is a very exciting, creative, dynamic discipline that will open many doors for you on your life's journey. Obtain as many skills as you can while a student in terms of modeling and math, algorithms, and their development and implementation, and coding, and find applications that you are passionate about. After graduation, professionally you will continue to learn and your interests will evolve. Having excellent foundations will help to support you and give you confidence and build your reputation. Make sure that if there is an INFORMS Student Chapter at your university that you join it and do become an active member. You will advance your leadership and communication skills and meet many outstanding researchers and practitioners through speakers, programs, and other activities. Your network will grow. If you are a graduate student, start going to INFORMS conferences as soon as you can. You will make lifelong friendships through INFORMS communities, learn a lot, and have wonderful adventures and fun!

What are current issues/trends/challenges in OR? OR has made immense positive impacts on many sectors of our economy and societies, as well as government. Through methodological and algorithmic innovations, new models, software, and exciting applications ranging from cybersecurity to disaster management and advanced transportation systems, and even Future Internet Architectures, novel supply chains and services, social media analytics, renewable energy and sustainability, coupled with partnerships with collaborators in different disciplines, such as computer science and economics, as well as in medicine and healthcare, the discipline is reaching new heights and levels of recognition. With Big Data and our expertise and contributions to analytics, there are great opportunities to synergistically enhance education, research, and practice. Demands for expertise in OR and analytics from industry, the non-profit sector, and government will be keeping us all very busy in pushing the frontiers. These are truly exciting times.

More Q & A from Anna are in the Open Forum on INFORMS Connect!
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