



# Deniz Besik

## Management Science

Chair: Anna Nagurney

Dissertation Title: *Essays on Competitive Perishable Food Supply Chain Networks: From the Impacts of Tariffs and Quotas to Integration of Quality*

Placement: University of Richmond

### Message from the Chair:

“Deniz Besik entered our PhD program with an enthusiasm and positive energy that delighted everyone around her. She was born in Turkey and had worked in Germany and came to Isenberg with a global perspective and love of community. She is a true academic and, already as a PhD student, excelled in all areas of research, teaching, and service. Her dissertation advanced our knowledge on food quality and perishability from local food supply chains, such as farmers' markets, to global ones. Intrigued by trade wars, which dominated the news for many months, she rigorously formulated and analyzed the impacts of tariffs and quotas and who wins and who loses. Her intellectual curiosity had her delving deeply and her case studies from the dairy industry (including cheese from France) to avocados from Mexico and local peaches and apples will be classics. She published an incredible number of 6 journal articles as a PhD student, and one of these (on farmer's markets) continues to be among the mostly highly cited in the journal for the past several years. Deniz, so deservedly, was recognized with the 2019 Isenberg Outstanding Doctoral Student Researcher Award and induction into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in 2020. And her love of teaching and support of her students, having taught the Introduction to Business Analytics course, both in face to face and online formats, for multiple semesters, are apparent. Deniz made learning what may be a challenging subject fun and rewarding. Deniz also is a leader, in her very diligent and elegant way. She served as the President of the UMass Amherst INFORMS Student Chapter and helped to host numerous speakers as well as events. She built bridges with others across campus and made lasting friendships. At her PhD defense on March 6, there were over 50 in attendance, including an Isenberg PhD alumna who traveled from NYC for the occasion. I was honored to be the chair of Deniz's PhD committee and we bonded over our love of good food and travel to conferences as well as the importance of great colleagues, research, and our dedication to the academic enterprise.

The Robins School of Business at the University of Richmond in Virginia is lucky to have Dr. Deniz Besik joining their faculty in the Fall.”