50 Years of Management Science at Isenberg: Acknowledging the Past and Celebrating the Present and the Future

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University of Massachusetts Amherst

50th Anniversary of the PhD Program at the Isenberg School
April 5, 2019
The first PhD class back in 1967. The above photo has the 10 students (all males) and their significant others. The University of Massachusetts Amherst was the first public university in New England to offer a PhD in business administration.
A total of 437 PhD students have received their doctorates in Business Administration from the Isenberg School and, of those, **83 have concentrated in Management Science.**
In the Past 50 Years

The first PhD graduate was Harvey J. Brightman (class of 1970). His dissertation advisor was Professor Eugene E. Kaczka (who became Dean of the School of Management at Clarkson University). **Brightman’s concentration was Management Science!** Brightman is Regents Professor Emeritus of Managerial Sciences at Georgia State University (GSU). He is a Past President and a Fellow of the Decision Sciences Institute.

The title of his dissertation was: “Individual Behavior and the Small Work Group: A Simulation Study.”
Until 1990, Professor Van Court Hare was the most prolific supervisor of doctoral dissertation in Management Science, having chaired 22 dissertations, with his first one in 1971.

Other faculty who also chaired dissertations in Management Science until 1990 were: Professors Joseph Balintfy, Eugene Kaczka, Meyer Belovicz, William Whiston, Sidney Sufrin, Wynn Abranovic, Craig Moore.
The first female PhD at Isenberg with a concentration in Management Science was Patricia M. Anderson, whose dissertation advisor was Professor Sidney Sufrin. She graduated in 1977.

The title of her dissertation was: “Capacity Utilization and Investment in Manufacturing: A Theoretical and Empirical Explanation.”

She would be 88 years of age, if still with us.
In the Past 50 Years

Since 1990, we have graduated 46 PhD students, and two are officially graduating in 2019: Yueran Zhuo and Pritha Dutta.

Wonderful to have Dr. Catherine Lerme Bendheim (class of 1992 - Professor Ali’s student) and Professor June Dong (class of 1994 - my first female student) and Professor Shirley Shmerling (also class of 1994 and Professor Ali’s student) with us today and many other alums!

Since 1990, we have had the following Professors chairing doctoral dissertations in Management Science: Professors Iqbal Ali, Soren Bisgaard, Stephen Coelen, Ahmed Ghoniem, Sara McComb, Craig Moore, Anna Nagurney, Robert Nakosteen, Alan Robinson, Senay Solak. Information Systems is now a separate track in our doctoral program but was under the Management Science track for a short period.
Our Faculty Now

Anna Nagurney
Director, Virtual Center for Supernetworks, PhD
Coordinator & John F. Smith Memorial Professor,
Operations & Information Management

Robert Nakosteen
Department Chair & Professor, Operations & Information Management

Agha Iqbal Ali
Professor, Operations & Information Management

Senay Solak
Honors Program Director & Associate Professor,
Operations & Information Management

Ahmed Ghoniem
Associate Professor, Operations & Information Management

Priyank Arora
Assistant Professor, Operations & Information Management

Alan G. Robinson
Professor, Operations & Information Management

Michele Burch
Senior Lecturer, Operations & Information Management

Shirley Shmerling
Senior Lecturer II, Operations & Information Management

Anna Nagurney  50 Years of Management Science
Also, it is important to mention that our Department has evolved from being the Department of General Business and Finance to Finance and Operations Management to even Finance and Operations and Information Management, to, following a separation from Finance, the Department of Operations and Information Management!
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<th>Where Are Our Management Science PhD Alums (1990 Onwards) Now?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adelphi University</td>
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<td>Babson College</td>
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<td>Central Washington University</td>
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<td>Colorado School of Mines</td>
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<td>College of the Holy Cross</td>
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<td>IESEG School of Management</td>
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<td>Manhattan College</td>
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<td>Merrimack College</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
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<td>(Hazleton and Great Valley campuses)</td>
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<td>Roger Williams University</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Mary’s College</td>
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<td>State University of New York at Oswego</td>
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<td>Texas Wesleyan University</td>
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<td>University of Alabama Birmingham</td>
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<td>University of Connecticut</td>
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<td>University of Idaho</td>
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<td>University of Massachusetts Amherst</td>
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<td>Vienna University of Economics and Business</td>
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<td>WPI</td>
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<td>York University</td>
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Where Are Our Management Science PhD Alums (1990 Onwards) Now?

Decision Sciences
FedEx
MathWorks
Mass General Hospital - Institute for Technological Assessment
Microsoft
Nature Source Improved Plants
SAS
WISER (World Institute for Strategic Economic Research)
Our Isenberg Management Science PhD Students Today

Deniz Besik
Pritha Dutta
Amro M. El-Adle
Emre Eryigit
Zhangchen Hu
Mojtaba Salarpour
Wei Wei
Yueran Zhuo
Our program in Management Science emphasizes excellence in all three dimensions.

Research

- Our doctoral students start conducting research early in the PhD studies. We now have a core exam paper requirement at the end of the first year. Our students publish journal articles with their advisors and this helps to launch them on their subsequent careers.

- Our doctoral students in Management Science are consistently recognized with the Outstanding Doctoral Student Research Award given by the Isenberg School annually: Heng Chen, Tulay Flamand, Dong Li, Mohammad Reihaneh, Sara Saberi, and Min Yu.

- In addition, several of our doctoral students have received the prestigious Isenberg Scholar Award: Sara Saberi and Yueran Zhuo.
Research: Examples of a Few Recent Dissertation Titles

Quality Competition in Supply Chain Networks with Applications to Information Asymmetry, Product Differentiation, Outsourcing, and Supplier Selection, Dong Li, PhD, 2015.

Retail Analytics and Optimization for Store-Wide Shelf-Space Management, Tulay Flamand, PhD, 2016.


Network Game Theory Models of Services and Quality Competition with Applications to Future Internet Architectures and Supply Chains, Sara Saberi, PhD, 2016.

Game Theory for Security Investments in Cyber and Supply Chain Networks, Shivani Shukla, PhD, 2017.

Four of our doctoral students have earned national dissertation awards: Dr. Padma Ramanujam, Professor Qiang “Patrick” Qiang, Professor Deanna Kennedy, and Professor Heng Chen (who also won an INFORMS best paper award with his advisor Professor Senay Solak).

And, upon graduation, our doctoral student alums continue to receive accolades for their research with a variety of awards: Professors Jose M. Cruz, June Dong, Dong “Michelle” Li, Zugang “Leo” Liu, Fuminori Toyasaki, Min Yu, and Tina Wakolbinger, to name just a few.

Professor Iqbal Ali received the Goodeve Medal for the best paper, co-authored with Dr. Guven Ince, published in 2017 in the *Journal of the Operational Research Society*. 
And, speaking of “meteoric” academic careers, our keynote speaker, Professor Tina Wakolbinger, achieved Full Professorship only 4 years after her PhD!
Active Presenters at Conferences and Also Hosts of Speakers

Anna Nagurney
50 Years of Management Science
Many research collaborations of our PhD alums continue with Isenberg faculty, alums, and even present doctoral students. Sustained networks have arisen even spanning academic generations.
Teaching

Our doctoral students are required to teach. They, typically, begin teaching in their third year of the program and continue to teach a course each semester until graduation, unless they are supported by outside funding, such as an NSF grant.

Having teaching experience not only helps a student decide whether he/she wants to go on the academia track. Also, if that is the case (and that is for the majority of our doctoral students), then a nice teaching portfolio is built before the student enters the academic job market.
Teaching

Our Management Science doctoral students are now often assigned to teach the required Business Analytics (Statistics) course for all business majors in a face to face format. Options for students to teach online after their fourth year (including the summer) and in the fifth year also exist.

Our doctoral students also excel in teaching. For example, Farbod Farhadi and Shivani Shukla received the Isenberg Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award.

As Professors, Drs. Jose Cruz, Trisha Woolley Anderson, Dong "Michelle" Li, Dmytro Matsypura, and Fuminori Toyasaki have all been recognized from their academic institutions with teaching awards. Our very own, Professors Shirley Shmerling and Michelle Burch, have received awards from the Isenberg School for teaching!
Since 2004, a vital outlet for our students has been the UMass Amherst INFORMS Student Chapter, which was founded in 2004, and whose first President was Tina Wakolbinger!

The Chapter has garnered 12 consecutive national awards for its activities, which includes a Speaker Series. I have had the pleasure of serving as the chapter’s Faculty Advisor since its inception (15 years).
Striving for Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Service

Service

The Chapter has hosted renowned speakers from academia and industry, and many of our doctoral students have served as Chapter Officers, acquiring professional and leadership skills. And it has started its own youtube channel with interviews with speakers posted.

Several of our former doctoral students having been recognized by INFORMS with the Judith B. Liebman Award: Tina Wakolbinger, Qiang “Patrick” Qiang, and Amir H. Masoumi.
Striving for Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Service

Service
The Future

The future is bright; yet, challenging.

We are welcoming the first female Dean of Isenberg, Dr. Anne P. Massey, who will be starting in the Fall of 2019. She has graduate degrees in Industrial and Systems Engineering from RPI and was a long time member of the Kelley School at the University of Indiana and the former Dean of the Business School of the University of Wisconsin. She will also be joining our department.

There are now challenges associated with attracting international grad students.

We would love to hear from our PhD alums as to how we can improve recruiting of doctoral students and we could definitely use your support!
Thank you!

And, after a short break, we will reconvene for the Management Science panel of esteemed alums.