

College of Engineering 2020 Donald Beall Rockwell Award



Arman Toplu

Arman joined our MSISE program at SJSU in 2018 after he had worked more than 14 years as a product manager in Istanbul, Turkey. It was a hard decision to leave his home country and start a new life in a new world. Arman found himself facing and addressing many difficulties in the beginning, including life accommodation, transportation and a radically different education system. As his comfort and familiarity with US life developed, Arman had the heart to serve other Turkish young people who were facing the same challenges as him in the beginning years of their life in the US. Together with his wife who is also an SJSU graduate student, they started a new student club to unite the Turkish community in SJSU, called the “Turkish Student Association”. The aim is to help new Turkish students to adjust their life at SJSU and 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. During the two years of study in our program, Arman maintained a 4.0/4.0 GPA. He received 6 A+ grades out of the 9 course subjects he completed during his first semesters in the program.

He started his culminating project research in Spring 2019 under the direction of Dr. Hugnui Liu. The topic of 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 was a bit lacking in coding experience. He effectively gained the needed skills through extensive literature reviews. Arman’s completed research has been submitted for publication in “Computers & Industrial Engineering”

In summary, Arman’s courageous transition of his life, his commitment and effort when facing challenging, his heart in helping others earned him the College’s 2020 Don Beall Rockwell Award for Engineering Accomplishment. Congratulations, Arman! ISE is very proud to have been part of your journey!