



## **Srinagesh Gavirneni**

May 3, 1967 – July 21, 2023

Our dear friend and colleague Srinagesh “Nagesh” Gavirneni, Ph.D., professor of Operations, Technology, and Information Management (OTIM) in the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management (the Johnson School) within Cornell’s SC Johnson College of Business, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 56. He is survived by his wife Ramadevi, his children Siddharth and Meghana, his parents Surendranath and Rajyalakshmi Gavirneni, and his siblings Srinivas Gavirneni and Sridevi Paleti.

Nagesh was born in 1967 and grew up in Andhra Pradesh, India. He completed his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in 1989 and received master’s degrees from Iowa State University and Carnegie Mellon University in 1993 and 1994, respectively. Working with his advisor Sridhar Tayur, he completed his Ph.D. in Manufacturing and Operations Systems at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in 1997.

Prior to joining Cornell in 2004, Nagesh worked as an assistant professor in the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, and as a research scientist at Schlumberger in Austin, Texas. At Cornell, he taught and conducted research in supply chain management, inventory control, production scheduling, simulation, and optimization. Nagesh was widely recognized for his passion for research with a practical impact, with applications to problems in healthcare, agriculture, and humanitarian logistics in developing countries. He published over 70 journal articles and book chapters, with 90 distinct co-authors. His active service to the research community included serving a senior editor for *Production and Operations Management* and associate editor for *Operations Research*, *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*, and *Decision Sciences*.

Nagesh made significant and sustained contributions to a broad set of applications in the field of operations management, including seminal work in assessing the value of sharing information across a supply chain, research on the impact of transfer pricing on global sourcing strategies, and work on verbal protocol analysis in inventory optimization decisions, which bridged theoretical and behavioral research. Nagesh was a finalist for the

*Manufacturing & Service Operations Management* Best Paper Award in 2016. The following year he received an award for the Best Theory-Driven Empirical Paper at the Decision Sciences Institute Annual Conference and won the Cornell Center for Hospitality Research Industry Relevance Award. In 2018, he won the Outstanding Associate Editor Award from the *Journal of Decision Sciences*.

Nagesh started out teaching the Managing Operations core course for the full-time MBA students before going on to teach the Semester in Strategic Operations immersion course, a critical component of the Cornell MBA curriculum, for which he built long-standing relationships with a number of local companies across industries. This unique course integrated the entire MBA spring semester, merging coursework in operations and supply chain management with weekly on-site visits to observe how industries put these principles into practice. In later years he taught elective courses in managerial and advanced spreadsheet modeling. He chaired the committee for three doctoral students and served as a committee member for 11 others. He also served as a faculty fellow at the Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, mentoring their scholars and advising in their research agenda.

Nagesh was an extraordinarily kind-hearted individual for whom collegiality was exceptionally important. As the area coordinator for OTIM, he far exceeded his standard duties of overseeing teaching assignments to organize biweekly lunches to facilitate area cohesion and camaraderie. He was one of the most engaged and accessible faculty members in the Johnson School's Sage Hall, leaving his office door open and always inviting colleagues to stop in for a chat. He was a candid and caring mentor to the junior faculty and doctoral students in the OTIM area, with whom he was always willing to share his wisdom on many subjects including career advancement and life in general.

Nagesh also went out of his way to take a personal interest in the Johnson School's administrative staff, making a real effort to make them feel valued and included as part of the Johnson School community. He was a great listener, remembering every life story and family member's name people ever shared with him. He generally ended these conversations with his hallmark question "What else can I do for you?"

Family was extremely important to Nagesh, and he was a deeply engaged and loving father to Siddharth and Meghana. He was happy to be able to use the flexibility of his academic life to help manage their parental responsibilities in order to allow his wife Ramadevi to maintain her remote career out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was well known in the neighborhood for his long daily walks, regardless of the weather, during which he would stop to talk to everyone he passed.

Professor Nagesh Gavirneni will be dearly missed by everyone fortunate enough to have worked or interacted with him, while his positive impact on our community lives on.

*Written by Li Chen, Vishal Gaur, and Lawrence W. Robinson*