Dr. Rami Pugatch
Department of Industrial Engineering and Management
Faculty of Engineering

My life before BGU:
I completed an undergraduate degree in mathematics and physics at the Technion, and a Master’s in physics at Tel Aviv University and the Weizmann Institute of Science. I got my PhD in physics at the Weizmann Institute. I did my postdoc at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, on systems biology and the performance of biological systems. I then was a faculty member at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, in the Department of Quantitative Biology.

Why BGU?
Because I am a multidisciplinary researcher, I looked for a department where that would be seen as an advantage. The Department of Industrial Engineering and Management at BGU is a leader in its field, and I found an academic home with experts in in numerous topics. In addition, I felt that they immediately understood what I’m doing and where I am going and there was also a personal connection.

An insight from my research:
From my research on how bacteria grow close to optimally under conditions of uncertainty, I have learned that to get ahead in life, you should advance simultaneously on all the tracks that are important to you, and carry out feedback control. If one track is not advancing at a satisfactory rate, you should allocate resources in order to get back on track and so forth. To do this, you must keep in reserve 10% of resources to enable rapid response to unexpected changes, and additionally to regroup at every opportunity.

Something that doesn’t appear on my resume:
I write poetry, mainly by Bialik, and steal jokes, especially by Kaveret. I’m an avid fan of Monty Python, the Cameri Five and Yod Schwartz.

A source of inspiration:
Books that left their mark, such as Homo faber, Primo Levi’s trilogy, Man’s Search for Meaning, Several Days (Panfilov’s People), and poetry by Yehuda Amichai, Leah Goldberg and Abraham Halfi. In general, the Holocaust and revival generation - the people who went through horror and hell and rose as a phoenix with the strength of their faith in the future, and hard work, and established the State and its institutions and fought, and dreamed and rebuilt their lives - inspire me.

When I grow up:
As a kid I wanted to be a scientist or a pilot. Today – a scientist.

Nature has not heard of the artificial distinctions we make between disciplines, and we have much to learn from biological systems about the operation of complex systems in uncertain conditions.

Lennon or Mc Cartney?
Radiohead

Maccabi or HaPoel?
Radiohead

Pizza or Burger?
Ramen

Facebook or Twitter?
A face-to-face conversation

Penn in US
2019

Ran in now

Pyram in US
2019

Pizza in voow
2019

CV

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