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## Note from Special Issue Guest Editors and Invited Contributors

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## Note from Special Issue Guest Editors and Invited Contributors

Dear Readers,

We are honored to contribute to this special issue focused on the Economics of the Foodservice System, and to serve as its guest editors. The inspiration for the special issue emerged from several sources.

First and foremost, the food system plays a significant role in scholarly and instructional activities in hospitality and tourism disciplines. In particular, the foodservice and restaurant industry, and other related supply chain businesses are an important element of the food system. As the food system grows more complex, we believe there is a need to bring all potential perspectives to posing essential questions in this space. Economic and Financial management concepts can provide critical value to this stream of research.

Second, we believe there is an opportunity to ramp up the broader focus on the food system from the perspective of the foodservice and restaurant activities. There have been several significant contributions to the broader perspectives that entangle the foodservice and restaurant activities, and many of those have been cited in the papers included in this special issue. We hope this special issue will serve as a continued reminder of the larger contexts within which the foodservice activity resides, that often becomes the primary focus of our scholarly endeavors.

Finally, and probably most importantly, we believe there is increasing value in conducting research investigations on the cross-section and inclusion of other disciplines. At the risk of making cliché statements, through the papers included in this special issue, we hope to stimulate thoughts on expanding the conceptual and theoretical frameworks in financial management research. For all the right reasons, there has been an emphasis on understanding the financial market dynamics as they relate to

hospitality industries. We have learned much and continue to do so. However, financial management perspectives go far beyond financial markets. In fact, the financial decisions are made in the broader context of macroeconomic and microeconomic environments. These decisions relate as much to individual choices as they do to business owners and managers. Context, too, has an influence on financial and economic decisions of key stakeholders in the hospitality industries. These aspects of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives, and varied contexts, present several opportunities for us to expand the coverage of financial management and economic research in the hospitality discipline. We hope the discussions of the papers included in this special issue can motivate inquiry into a broader set of questions relevant to our fields of study.

The food system is complex, and therefore, those complexities are reflected in the foodservice system too. The key stakeholders in the foodservice system include foodservice and restaurant businesses, management, consumers, and policymakers, amongst others. This special issue includes four papers, each focused in some manner on one or more of those stakeholders. Of the four papers, two provide empirical evidence related to the foodservice system, and the other two are conceptual and reflective papers. Each paper also focuses on at least one primary stakeholder. We therefore include a paper on investor perspectives, another on household decisions, a paper focused on foodservice system policies, and finally a paper focused on decision-making across the foodservice system.

Sincerely,

Amit Sharma  
Bendegul Okumus  
Seoki Lee