

Bugra Demirel

CLASS OF 2007

Originally from Turkey, Bugra Demirel has called Tallahassee home since 2005. He began his academic journey at Tallahassee Community College, earning an A.A., before advancing to Florida State University, where he double majored in International Affairs and Political Science with a minor in Economics.

Throughout his career, Bugra has cultivated expertise in retail management, hospitality, human resource management, and strategic planning. His proven leadership in risk management and team building has been instrumental in navigating significant challenges, including the 2008 recession, Hurricane Michael, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, Bugra is the managing partner at Demirel International, a diversified company with interests spanning retail, hospitality, organic food, and commercial real estate. Under his leadership, Demirel International earned the 'Seminole 100' award in 2019, recognizing it as one of the fastest-growing companies owned by Florida State University alumni.

Bugra is the driving force behind the SoMo Walls project, a new development on South Monroe Street in Tallahassee. As a partner in both Walls Distilling Company and the Monroe Restaurant, he brings two distinct concepts to this vibrant district. Having witnessed Tallahassee's transformation from a small college town to a thriving mid-size city, Bugra remains an active advocate for economic development and private sector investment.

In his free time, Bugra enjoys perfecting his steak and cocktail recipes, sharing these creations with friends and family at gatherings.