

# Smeal Synopsis

NOVEMBER 2013

## Student Spotlight: Danielle

### Senior, SCM Major

Being a Supply Chain Management major at The Pennsylvania State University has been a wonderful experience, thus far. Coming into college I had no idea what I wanted to major in, I just knew I wanted it to be something in the business school. After taking the introductory course for Supply Chain (SCM301) I was hooked! I found Supply Chain so fascinating. I had never thought about how products got to the store shelves. After taking Supply Chain classes you learn there is so much work that goes into producing one item!

My favorite class was my SCM 421 course- Supply Chain Analytics. I feel as though every business major should be required to take this class. I have learned so many skills in excel that I otherwise would not have known. All of the courses I've taken in supply chain helped me this past summer during my internship. I interned at B&G Foods, Inc. where I worked on a number of different projects, most of them being excel based. I visited the B&G distribution centers often, and helped to resolve inefficiencies they were having by creating a vendor compliance, which I had learned about in my SCM 404 class. I would not have been able to be successful in my internship without having the most incredible professors! The Supply Chain department truly wants to see you succeed and is willing to help with any career advice you may have. Prior to this fall's career fair, I sat down with Dr. Novak and together we edited my résumé and he gave me plenty of tips on how to prepare for my interviews. The Supply Chain Management program at The Pennsylvania State University is one of the top in the nation, and even has it's own 3 day career fair! As more and more companies attempt to gain strategic advantages over their competitors, having a Supply Chain degree from The Pennsylvania State University is extremely beneficial.



Save  
the  
**DATE!**

**Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>** 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
*UBS Wealth management Summer Intern presentation*

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>** 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
*Summer Study Abroad Night*

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  
*Excel workshop with Johnson & Johnson*

**Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>** 6 p.m.-4 p.m.  
*Chase information session*

# From Behind the Desk:

## Professor Felisa Preciado

### *Clinical Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management*

Mommy, Daddy, I want to study Supply Chain Management!

Many college students majoring in the field of Business have a relatively easy time explaining to mom and dad what their careers will entail. For instance, people seem to understand quite easily what Finance, Marketing, Accounting, and Management professionals do. However, a growing choice among aspiring business people makes parents wonder what their child will *really* do to earn a living. Supply Chain Management? What is that? Do you mean you will be driving a truck? Are you going to be packing boxes? Questions pour unabated, as many students struggle at first to understand what Supply Chain Management (SCM) is, and even more to explain it to their parents searching for guidance. Therefore, in my time as faculty in the Supply Chain and Information Systems Department at the Smeal College of Business, I have tried to distill the explanation of what SCM is in the plainest language possible. So, if you are one of those students contemplating the possibilities that a career in SCM offers, please read on.

SCM is the management of the chain of activities that result in supply meeting the demand. Any organization offering a product or a service succeeds when they can give their customers what they want, where they want it, when they want it, in the quantities they want, at the price they are willing to pay, and with the level of quality they expect. However, most companies will not achieve this purpose in isolation. Look around you; everything that surrounds you is the result of the efforts of multiple organizations linked together to provide raw materials, transform materials into components and finished goods, and make those goods available to end customers. This also requires that materials and goods be transported, stored, sorted, packaged and delivered. These efforts



must be coordinated and, as much as possible, synchronized to ensure all the participants in the chain (of organizations) reach their goals. SCM professionals have the challenge of thinking about what it takes to provide a product or deliver a service, by optimizing the interactions along the supply chain. A career in SCM could entail being involved in the procurement of what a company needs, or perhaps in the actual production of goods or services. You could also be involved in ensuring that a company can fulfill the demand from its customers. The exciting part is that SCM expertise is applicable to *all* sectors of industry and *all* levels of an organization. The possibilities abound, and the potential for future growth in the field looks more than promising.

I enjoy tremendously when students discover what our field is about, and begin to share the passion for it that fuels my desire to teach the related subjects. The next time mom and dad ask you, “what is Supply Chain Management again?” – share the basic message that everything around them came from a supply chain... or tell them to come see me!



# Organization Station:

## Counsel of Supply Chain Management Professionals

Do you want to be apart of one of business' most innovative and fastest growing departments? Supply Chain professionals are becoming increasingly sought after and demanded in the work place. By choosing Penn State, you have access to the #1 ranked Supply Chain Program in the United States and one of the field's largest and most recognized professional organizations—The Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP)

Formerly called the Supply Chain Management Association, Penn State CSCMP is one of ten Student Roundtables in the United States. Established in the Spring of 2011, the Penn State CSCMP Roundtable is designed to help current Penn State students with career aspirations in Supply Chain Management to obtain real world experience and gain knowledge outside of the classroom.

Penn State CSCMP brings students closer to landing their first career by holding resume and interview preparation classes, hosting recruitment and networking events with top Fortune 500 Companies and executives, and by providing valuable experiences such as Excel training sessions and field trips to companies' plants and distribution centers.

Students become involved by emailing Mary Cornelius, [mec5363@psu.edu](mailto:mec5363@psu.edu), to get on the listserv and by coming to our events!



Tip from a Smeal Student

“Smeal offer offers so many amazing opportunities through career fairs, workshops and other events! Don't miss out, make sure to take advantage of all of these great opportunities”

- Emily Leiden, Junior Marketing Major

## Study Abroad: Seville, Spain

Studying abroad in Seville, Spain was one of the most culturally engaging experiences of my life. I thought I was just going to be in Europe for four months to travel the world, take some cool pictures, and come back with some interesting stories. I am glad my experience was not limited to these expectations. In the four months that I lived in Seville, or Sevilla as they call it in Spain, I learned what it was like to adapt to a new culture. I really learned to appreciate all of the local history, the kind of stuff you don't typically find in a textbook. For example, I would have never known about the city's motto: No Me Ha Dejado Sevilla, which means Sevilla has never left me. It dates back to hundreds of years ago and is still alive all over Seville, with the saying imprinted on sidewalks, street signs, and benches. To be able to not only observe this culture, but to be ingrained in it, was something that will truly never leave me (no pun intended).

My Spanish even improved after I started interacting with locals. I never realized that learning the language would encompass the culture as well. I even started picking up some slang, which came in handy during Feria, the annual weeklong festival in which the whole town dresses up in flamenco dresses and suits, drinking traditional drinks called Rebutitos, and dancing till the morning. This was my favorite week of the whole trip, where I felt like a true Sevillana. As the weather is starting to get colder, you can bet I am missing my days relaxing by el Rio Guadalquivir or strolling past La Catedral on my way to class. It was as if Sevilla got to know me as much as I got to know it. On my last day I threw a message in a bottle into the river so that a part of me would never leave Sevilla just as it will never leave me. I know I will be back later in my life to visit my second home, but for now, all I can do is send a kiss on each cheek as they do to greet each other in Spain. My experience studying abroad in Sevilla was just the beginning of a great friendship with a city that will be in my life for forever.

“No Me Ha  
Dejado Sevilla,  
which means  
Sevilla has never  
left me.”

*-Talia Levenson, Senior*



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Smeal Synopsis?**

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