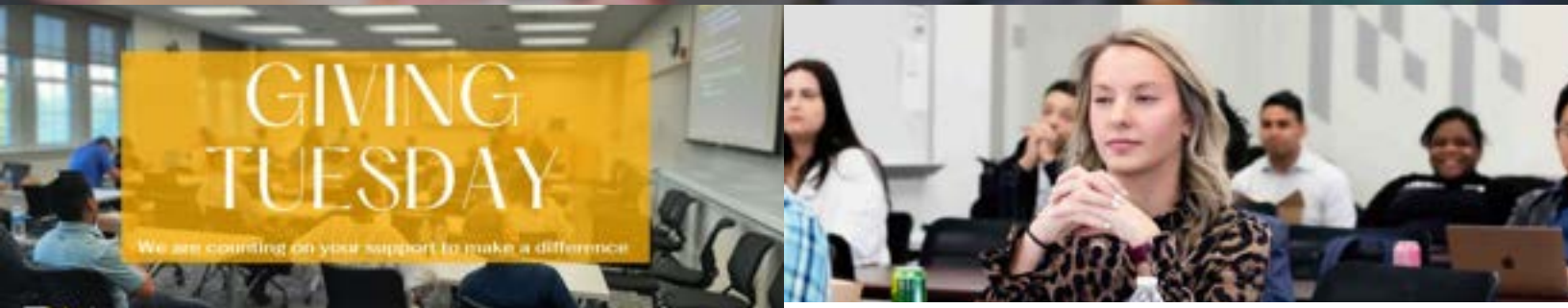




## Supply Chain Management



### GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN

This fall, some of our students who have been supported by the supply chain management program spoke about the impact they have made because of the program.

<https://bit.ly/SCMGIVINGTUESDAY>

### FALL CAPSTONE NIGHT

Speakers, advisors, and future capstone students gathered in person to support and learn from this semester's EBTM 881 class. Each student presented their semester's work in the culmination of their Graduate Degree here at TU.

### TU'S 2023 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Towson University celebrated 3 commencement ceremonies over December 20-21 to honor graduates from fall 2023. For supply chain and project management, this includes 9 students for fall 2023

Watch full ceremonies here:

<https://www.towson.edu/academics/commencement/>

**Congratulations to all the TU graduates of fall 2023!**



# BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION B.S. + PROJECT, PROGRAM, PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT P.B.C.



Learn more:

[towson.edu/cbe/departments/business-analytics-technology-management/undergrad/business.html](http://towson.edu/cbe/departments/business-analytics-technology-management/undergrad/business.html)

Business Administration majors, Business Analytics, Business Systems & Processes majors, and Business Administration minors with a 3.0 GPA or better are eligible to apply for the individualized accelerated B.S./P.B.C. program.

In this option, students take up to two 600- to 700-level courses (6 units) in place of certain undergraduate courses, which count toward both a B.S. degree and a post-baccalaureate graduate certificate.

## ACCELERATED BUSINESS ANALYTICS + SUPPLY CHAIN M.S.

Screened undergraduates will establish a customized plan with the Program Director that seamlessly blends their Business Analytics courses with Supply Chain Management courses.

Students with a declared major or minor in Business Analytics with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and above are eligible to apply.

Take up to 3 master's level courses during undergraduate study to count for both degrees!



Learn more:

<https://www.towson.edu/cbe/departments/business-analytics-technology-management/undergrad/business-analytics-minor.html>

# FALL 2023 STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

**Q. What are some of the biggest trends you see in your industry or field of study, and how do you stay up to date with the latest developments?**

One of the biggest trends I've seen in the supply chain management field, as well as most fields in general, is the increased use of artificial intelligence. This ranges from the use of services such as Chat GPT to complete everyday tasks to the more complex optimization of supply chain networks using AI. The bottom line is, whether the effect is big or small, AI has touched many aspects of supply chain management.



**Abigail Kassel**

<https://bit.ly/AbbyKassel>



**John Lawrence**

<https://bit.ly/JohnLawrenceLinkedIn>

**Q. How has this program helped you in your career or personal goals?**

I feel prepared to tackle real-world challenges because the program doesn't stop at book knowledge or formulas to memorize.

I have been given tools and learned lessons about the various ways to apply those tools, so that I am not just equipped to solve today's problems, but to creatively pursue solutions to problems we don't even know about yet.

# FALL 2023 PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Xiaolin is currently a Professor of Business Analytics and Technology Management.

His areas of expertise include:

- E-Business
- Supply Chain Management
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

“According to organizational behavior theory, the different behaviors and strategies adopted by a company determine the degree of inimitability and value of CSR activities, which ultimately affects corporate competitive advantage”.

-Dr. Li

<https://www.towson.edu/cbe/facultystaff/profile.html?FacMem=xli>



Dr. Xiaolin LI

<https://bit.ly/XiaolinLI>

## *Honoring our Fall 2023 grads*



### **Congratulations:**

*Daniel Akindayo*

*Biruktawit Aklok*

*Basel Al Turk*

*Mufaaddal Anis*

*Devin Chavis*

*Boladale Katunga*

*John Lawrence*

*Paola Paredes Ramirez*

*Breanna Riley*

## **Together We Celebrate #TUProud**

# TIGER TIDBITS

WITH

Dr. Natalie M. Scala

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nataliescala/>

Dr. Scala received the Provost Research Fellow Award and she spoke at the FACET conference where she discussed her work on “Risk Management in Election Security.”

## 17TH NATO CONFERENCE

Dr. Scala, one of the directors at the Empowering Secure Elections Research Lab, recently presented at the 17th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference. The paper titled “Voting Perceptions and Impact of Misinformation” was co-authored by lab students Jada Riley and Vanessa Gregorio, highlighting the lab's commitment to collaborative research.



To learn more about these papers, and other ongoing research efforts, scan the barcode below.



View Our Photos here:



**We are**

A graphic with a light blue border containing the text '#TUPROUD of our students &amp; professors' and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Below the icons is the text 'Follow Us on Social Media! @TUSupplyChain'.

## STUDENTS IN ACTION



This semester, Hao Nguyen presented her capstone project culminating from her research using information theory to analyze security behaviors of supply chain professionals.

We are very proud to have Hao represent the SCM team within the Empowering Secure Elections Research Lab.



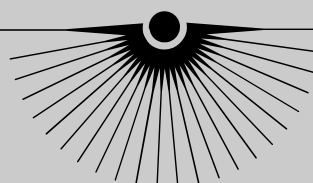
This semester, Amarachi Offor presented at the Cyber4All event held at Towson University. She presented a topic on

“Enhancing Election Security through Supply Chain Resilience.”

We are very proud to have Amarachi to represent the SCM team at the Cyber Center.

---

**Student success does not stop there...**



# SUPPLY CHAIN STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH - CAPSTONE PROJECTS-

Each semester senior Supply Chain graduate students present their independent research or applied projects in the area of Supply Chain. Students work under the supervision of their faculty advisors to address a significant theoretical or applied problem in Supply Chain Management.

## *Loss Prevention in Amazon's Middle Mile Transportation*

**John Lawrence**

**Advisor: Elizabeth Hogan**

This project focuses on Amazon's Loss Prevention in the middle mile, targeting Unexecuted Moves (UEMs) and Gas Card misuse as key fraud streams. The objective is to deter fraudulent activity in the middle mile rather than recovering losses post-incident. UEMs involve delivery drivers failing to fulfill assigned routes, potentially engaging in theft, while Gas Card misuse entails drivers using designated cards for personal expenses. The analysis emphasizes the financial implications of flagged gas card charges and UEM counts. Recommendations include refining gas card policies, setting purchase thresholds, and imposing stricter penalties on Amazon Freight Partners (AFPs) for fraud. Overall, Amazon aims to establish a standardized approach to loss prevention, enhancing the integrity of its middle mile operations through data analysis and targeted interventions.

<https://bit.ly/JohnLawrenceLinkedIn>

## *Understanding the Effects of COVID-19 and Key Events on Trade Regulations*

**Breanne Riley**

**Advisor: Dr. Feng Cheng**

In my capstone project, I dug into how U.S. international trade works, especially looking at how rules and supply chains interact. Because there's not a lot of exact data on certain rules, I had to interpret things more. I looked at data from the past 30 years to see how big economic downturns, like the 2008 crisis and COVID-19, affect different industries. Surprisingly, when trade slows down, there isn't a big difference in the trade deficit between what the U.S. buys and sells. But, when I checked specific services, especially in travel, there were some interesting differences. This showed that during tough economic times, we might need to make special rules to help out certain industries. I used data from reliable sources, like the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, to test out my ideas and contribute to a better understanding of how trade rules and supply chains work together. As the world keeps changing, my capstone suggests we should keep improving how we study these important economic things.

<https://bit.ly/BreanneRileyLinkedIn>

## *Analysis Information Security Behaviors of Supply Chain Professionals*

**Hao Nguyen**

**Advisor: Dr. Natalie M. Scala**

Advancements in information technology and AI offer supply chain professionals opportunities to enhance efficiency, but the digitization of supply chains also raises the risk of cyberattacks. This study addresses the growing concern of cyber threats in supply chains, with a focus on insider risks posed by supply chain professionals. The objective is to evaluate their information security practices and propose improvement strategies. A survey, including 763 responses from Amazon Mechanical Turk, with 167 from the supply chain management field, revealed inconsistencies in security behaviors. The analysis highlights variations in Password Setting, Device Securement, and Proactive Awareness. By comparing datasets, the study aims to guide training programs, reducing the risk of breaches from trusted insiders in the supply chain.

<https://bit.ly/HaonguyenLinkedIn>

## *Artificial Intelligence's Effect on the Job Market: A Deeper Dive into Public Perception*

**Mufaddal Anis**

**Advisor: Dr. James Otto**

The arrival of Artificial Intelligence (AI) marks a defining moment in the evolution of the modern business landscape, where the fusion of advanced algorithms, unprecedented computational capabilities, and the explosion of vast data sets has ushered in a new era of transformative possibilities. Considering the increasing prevalence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the corporate landscape, a critical issue emerges: the potential consequences of AI on job security in the workforce. My research focused on how the media portrays the impact of AI on certain jobs in terms of their job security and the validity of this portrayal.

<https://bit.ly/MufaddalAnisLinkedIn>

## *Pick to Buffer Manual vs Automated*

**Paola Paredes Ramirez**

**Advisor: Dr. Xiaolin N. Li**

This project focuses on improving a specific process within the last mile delivery known as "Pick to Buffer" (P2B). Associates face challenges in this process, leading to missed packages, bottlenecks, and safety concerns. Through the deployment of automation technologies, such as warehouse automation, we aim to streamline the P2B process and enhance productivity while reducing costs and improving safety. By investing in automation, companies can achieve greater precision and reliability in their operations, ultimately benefiting their bottom line. However, managers must carefully assess the cost-benefit ratio and consider the potential risks and returns associated with automation investments. Finding the right balance between cost savings and desired outcomes is essential for driving success in today's competitive market.

<https://bit.ly/ParedesPaolaLinkedIn>



## *The Analysis of a University's Annual Expenditures using the ABC Method to Determine Supplier Relationships*

**Destiny Young**

**Advisor: Dr. Dong-Qing Yao**

As a Senior Procurement Agent at a State University, this study focuses on analyzing the annual spending for fiscal years 2020 to 2023. Processing 1,200 to 2,000 purchase orders annually, the aim is to enhance supplier relationships, promote development, and reduce costs. The analysis revealed engagement with over 600 suppliers, with three consistent suppliers contributing significantly to the majority of spending. An ABC Analysis categorized suppliers into A, B, and C categories, with A suppliers representing around 56%, B suppliers 8% - 12%, and C suppliers averaging 36%.

Recommendations include forming a Strategic Alliance with A Category suppliers, fostering collaborative relationships with B Category suppliers, and exploring alternatives for C Category suppliers, potentially transitioning to A or B suppliers or negotiating long-term agreements.

<https://bit.ly/DestinyYoungLinkedIn>

## *Procurement Analytics Impacts on Cost Savings and Quality Improvement in the Construction Industry*

**Biruktawit Aklok**

**Advisor: Dr. Barin Nag**

This research delves into the transformative impact of analytics-driven procurement in the construction sector. It highlights the increasing adoption of analytics solutions to streamline procurement processes and improve decision-making. Through interviews with industry experts, the study demonstrates how analytics tools contribute to cost savings and enhanced quality in construction projects. Findings reveal a positive correlation between the adoption of procurement analytics and reduced operational costs, along with improved adherence to quality standards. The study emphasizes the need for effective stakeholder collaboration, communication, and data privacy measures to maximize the benefits of procurement analytics. Ultimately, it underscores the importance of training construction workers in utilizing these tools effectively to drive efficiency and innovation in the construction industry.

<https://bit.ly/BiruktawitAklokLinkedIn>