



## Students and Faculty Visit Ford Stamping Plant in Hamburg, N.Y.

On March 30, NU supply chain students got to see some heavy industry in action. Exclusively for NU, Ford Motor conducted a thoroughly informative tour at its 2.5 million square foot facility south of Buffalo. Huge presses “stamp” sheet steel into auto body parts, such as doors and hoods. This plant supplies the Oakville, Ontario, Canada, plant producing the Ford Edge, as well as truck plants in the Midwest.

The tour was led by Joe Tomlinson, UAW joint apprentice coordinator, whose daughter, Paige, will be an NU freshman in fall 2023. Phil Catanese, the Holzschuh College of Business director of centers and college outreach, arranged the tour. Professor Ann Rensel described the tour as “impressive” and was encouraged by the excellent student questions during the tour. This site visit was part of the college’s recently launched student-business engagement initiative, and everyone agreed it was great to see the plant in action and understand how this operation fits into Ford’s supply chain. Echoing the sentiments of the students and faculty who attended, associate professor Jim Kling would like to recognize the efforts of Ford Motor Company, Joe Tomlinson, Phil Catanese, and others who made this happen.

## Fall 2023 Student Supply Chain Activities

A. Duie Pyle less-than-truckload (LTL) terminal tour, Sept.27

Tops Grocery Distribution Center site visit, Oct. 3

SCM Challenges Summit, Niagara Falls Convention Center, Nov.1

Linde/Praxair North American Logistics Operation Center Tour, November

## What Are NU’s Supply Chain Briefings and How Can I Learn More?

Since 2016, Holzschuh College of Business executive-in-residence Jack Ampuja has provided a semi-annual review of logistics costs and trends to help managers understand and anticipate how future costs and economic conditions will impact their supply chain operations. Associate professor Jim Kling provides an introduction to the 75-minute event by discussing inventory data and energy cost trends. Until 2020, these briefings were held in person as breakfast meetings on the NU campus with a lively question and answer period following. Since 2020, they have been presented live in a Zoom format with future dates planned to be both in person and Zoom. The next briefing will be Jan. 11, 2024, via zoom. To register, please contact Jack Ampuja at [JTAmputja@niagara.edu](mailto:JTAmputja@niagara.edu).

If you would like a summary of the most recent briefing, please contact Jim Kling at [Jkling@niagara.edu](mailto:Jkling@niagara.edu). See the insert in this newsletter for a summary of the June 2023 briefing.



## Jack Ampuja Named Robert B. Wegman Endowed Director

The Holzschuh College of Business is pleased to announce that Jack Ampuja has been named the inaugural Robert B. Wegman Endowed Director of Food Innovation and Supply Chain Excellence. He assumed his responsibilities on June 1, 2023.

Made possible by a recent \$1.5 million gift from the Wegmans Foundation, the endowed director is responsible for leading the growth of our centers of Excellence in Supply Chain Management and Food Industry Leadership and their associated programs. With his years of experience in logistics and in the food industry, his extensive teaching experience at Niagara University and other higher educational institutions, and with his vast network of industry connections, Jack is uniquely positioned to lead these efforts.

In his new role, Jack will also guide the efforts in creating a leading-edge facility on campus to house them. As director, he will also collaborate with supply chain and food industry leaders in Western New York to create, build, and inspire transformative programs to move Niagara University to the forefront of supply chain and food industry education.

Congratulations to Jack as he starts this exciting new role in the Holzschuh College of Business at Niagara University!

See the insert for more about Jack and the Wegmans gift.

All the best,

Mark Frascatore, Ph.D.  
Dean, Holzschuh College of Business Administration  
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 **SAVE THE DATE**

**for the NU Supply Chain Center’s first**

**Summit on Managing Current Supply Chain Challenges**

**Wednesday Nov. 1, 2023**

**Niagara Falls Convention Center**

**Niagara Falls, N.Y., USA**

Includes lunch, afternoon sessions, and 5 p.m. happy hour and networking. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Phil Catanese at [pcatanese@niagara.edu](mailto:pcatanese@niagara.edu).

# Fernando Naranjo, Ph.D.. Joins NU Lewiston Supply Chain Management Faculty



Imagine the ideal faculty member from a student’s perspective. He or she would have industry experience in a range of operating environments. They would have degrees from two of the best graduate schools in North America. They would have a passion for teaching and would bring a global perspective to business management and cultural understanding.

Fernando Naranjo, a recent Ph.D. graduate of the Ivey Business School at Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada, is all of the above and more. Niagara University and its students are fortunate to have him join our campus community. Born in Ambato, Ecuador, Dr. Naranjo grew up managing family businesses until he received a Fulbright scholarship to attend Georgia Tech, where he received his dual degree, a master’s of science in industrial engineering. and an MBA.

Returning home, he did some consulting in the agrifood, banking, and textile industries, and he also designed and implemented a new state-of-the-art factory for the family textile business to vertically integrate the spinning, weaving, and dyeing operations into a single modern manufacturing facility. He was the plant and operations manager of that company before progressing to General Motors as the regional general manager of one of Ecuador’s largest GM districts, overseeing 15 direct reports and \$130 million in annual sales.

This professional experience helped him expand and enrich his studies at Ivey, where his doctoral dissertation was titled, “Lean Supply Management in the Canadian Agri-Food Sector.” He has a 2023 journal article in the International Journal of Operations and Production Management, one of the top journals in the field.

Dr. Naranjo teaches Strategic Supply Chain Management in the Niagara MBA program and Operations Management to undergraduates. An MBA student, Shilpa Naik, had this comment: “This was fairly challenging for me, as I had no experience in operations, but Dr. Naranjo made it quite interesting by always going beyond the confines of the textbook and the classroom. Our class had students from various professional backgrounds, and Dr. Naranjo took special interest in each one of them to make the course relatable to their workplace.”

An undergraduate course Dr. Naranjo especially enjoys teaching is International Management, where he gets to share his own perspectives and discuss global and cultural issues. He also helped write and teach a new course in the fall 2022 semester, Food Logistics.

Dr. Naranjo also has other talents. He speaks four languages fluently (Spanish, English, Italian, and French). He is a soccer (football to him) enthusiast, playing in a competitive summer outdoor league and a winter indoor league. He is married with two children and lives, for now, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He is very happy to be part of the Catholic–Vincentian community at Niagara University. Students—if you haven’t yet had the opportunity to meet Dr. Naranjo, stop by his office in Bisgrove Hall, 254B.

## Dr. Naranjo Named “Researcher of the Year” by Holzschuh College of Business

Assistant professor Fernando Naranjo has had a very productive year in regard to research and publications. This spring, the International Journal of Operations and Production Management published his article “Lean supply chain management: a contextual contingent reconceptualization and Delphi method study.” Dr. Naranjo was the lead author, joined by Menor and Johnson from the Ivey Business School. In May, he had an article titled “Assessing internal organizational pathways to reduce knowledge waste: A lean thinking perspective” accepted in the Business Process Management Journal. This journal is highly cited given the pragmatism of its articles.

Dean Mark Frascatore presented Dr. Naranjo the award at the college’s end-of-the-year dinner and awards get-together on May 2.



## NU and Buffalo ISM Begin Partnership

The Buffalo chapter of the Institute for Supply Management and Niagara University held two joint events in the past year to kick off its strategic partnership. On Nov. 9, 2022, 12 NU students and four faculty members attended the ISM’s monthly educational dinner meeting at AcQua on the Niagara River in Buffalo.

The presentation and discussion for the evening revolved around “Hot Topics in the Supply Chain Business: Human Rights, and Forced/Child Labor.” The presenter, Jon P. Yormick, a partner at Flannery|Georgalis, outlined how the U.S. has placed increasingly stringent import restrictions and sanctions on many countries and products in an attempt to discourage unethical practices abroad. These well-intentioned policies have had some success, but also created a thicket of ever-changing regulations that customs brokers and import managers must navigate.

On April 3, 2023, the ISM brought its executive team and 10 professional members to the Niagara University campus to sponsor a dinner meeting; 18 NU students

and several NU faculty attended. The dinner was held on the fourth floor of Glynn Hall, overlooking the Niagara Gorge. The evening’s purpose was to encourage engagement between students and professionals and gave the ISM a chance to promote the value of its professional association for networking, education, and career advancement. ISM vice president Jim Austin, and NU alumna Katie Jastrzab, ’15, MBA’22, forecast analyst with Lactalis American Group, discussed ISM’s new certification for students and the importance and history of the ISM as a professional association.

After dinner, Deborah Alessi, vice president of procurement at Roswell Park Medical Center, provided a spirited keynote address to students, “How to stay invaluable to your employer/boss.” One of the 10 tips was to never bring an open-ended question to your boss, but to propose possible solutions, as well.

Both students and ISM members thought this was a great event, and there are plans to make it an annual spring affair.

## Supply Chain Center to Pay for Student ISM Membership

At the April 3 ISM-NU joint dinner, center director Jim Kling announced that NU will pay the \$35 student ISM membership for any NU supply chain students who would like to join. Kling and faculty members Jack Ampuja and Dr. Fernando Naranjo are ISM members.

What is the ISM? Founded more than 100 years ago, the former National Association of Purchasing Managers is now known as the Institute for Supply Management. According to its website, [www.ISMworld.org](http://www.ISMworld.org), “ISM connects, supports and advances the profession through best in class education, certification, leadership development and research. The ISM® Report On Business® – Manufacturing (PMI®) and Services (PMI®) – are two of the most reliable economic indicators available, providing guidance to supply management professionals, economists, analysts, and government and business leaders.”

For more information about ISM Buffalo, see <https://buffalo.ismworld.org/>

