



Young Professional & Student
Conference 2025

Supply Chain Mavericks: Shaping Tomorrow, Today

Title: The Importance of Student Chapters and Bridging
the Gap Between Academia and Industry

Name: Dr. Sebonkile Thaba

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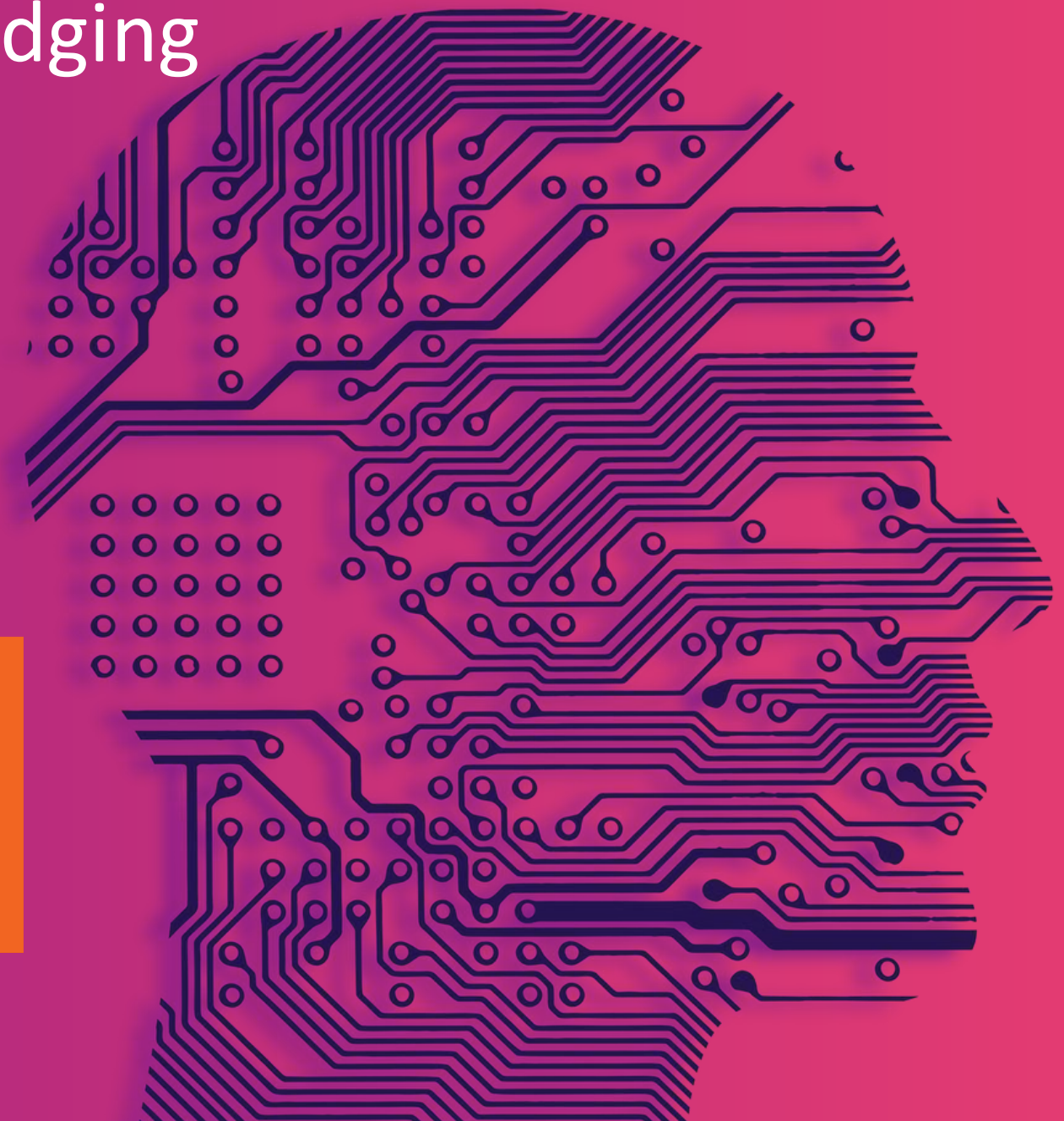


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The Role of Student Chapters

- IEOM student chapters engage in a variety of activities designed to enhance both academic and practical understanding:
 - Workshops and Seminars
 - Industry Speaker Sessions
 - Plant Tours
 - Communication Development
 - Career Development
 - Networking



- **The Role of Student Chapters**

- Why student chapters are essential in supply chain education?
- Key benefits:
 - Bridging theoretical knowledge with industry practices.
 - Connecting students with global networks and career opportunities.
 - Fostering leadership, problem-solving, and innovative thinking.



• **The Gap Between Academia and Industry**

- Could it be an outdated curriculum?
- Could it be a skills mismatch?
- Could it be the lack of experiential learning?
- Could it be insufficient funding and mentorship?
- Could it be the absence of an entrepreneurial mindset?



Innovative Strategies for Closing the Gap

- Strengthening ties between academia and industry:
 - Case studies and corporate partnerships.
 - Internship programs and practical training initiatives.
 - Sponsored research projects and technological innovations.
- UJ is integrating digital transformation tools into student learning:
 - **Blockchain, supply chain digital twins, AI-driven logistics, and ERP systems.**
- UJ is encouraging student-led innovation through competitions and hackathons.
- UJ is establishing a **structured incubator model** that facilitates research commercialization.



Actionable Steps for Students and Stakeholders

- Encouraging students to actively engage in student chapters and industry associations.
- Strengthening networks with professionals to ease the transition from university to industry.
- Advocating for universities to incorporate **entrepreneurial and technology-driven curricula**.
- Supporting **student startups** for sustainable business growth.
- Promoting technology adoption in supply chain education to **future-proof graduates**.



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Conclusion

- The growing role of student chapters in the professional success of future supply chain leaders.
- How industry-academia collaboration can redefine the future of logistics and supply chain education.
- A commitment to fostering **entrepreneurial mindsets** and innovative learning practices.

ASI LEDGE



TEXTILE TRACE



IN TOUCH WITH TOMORROW

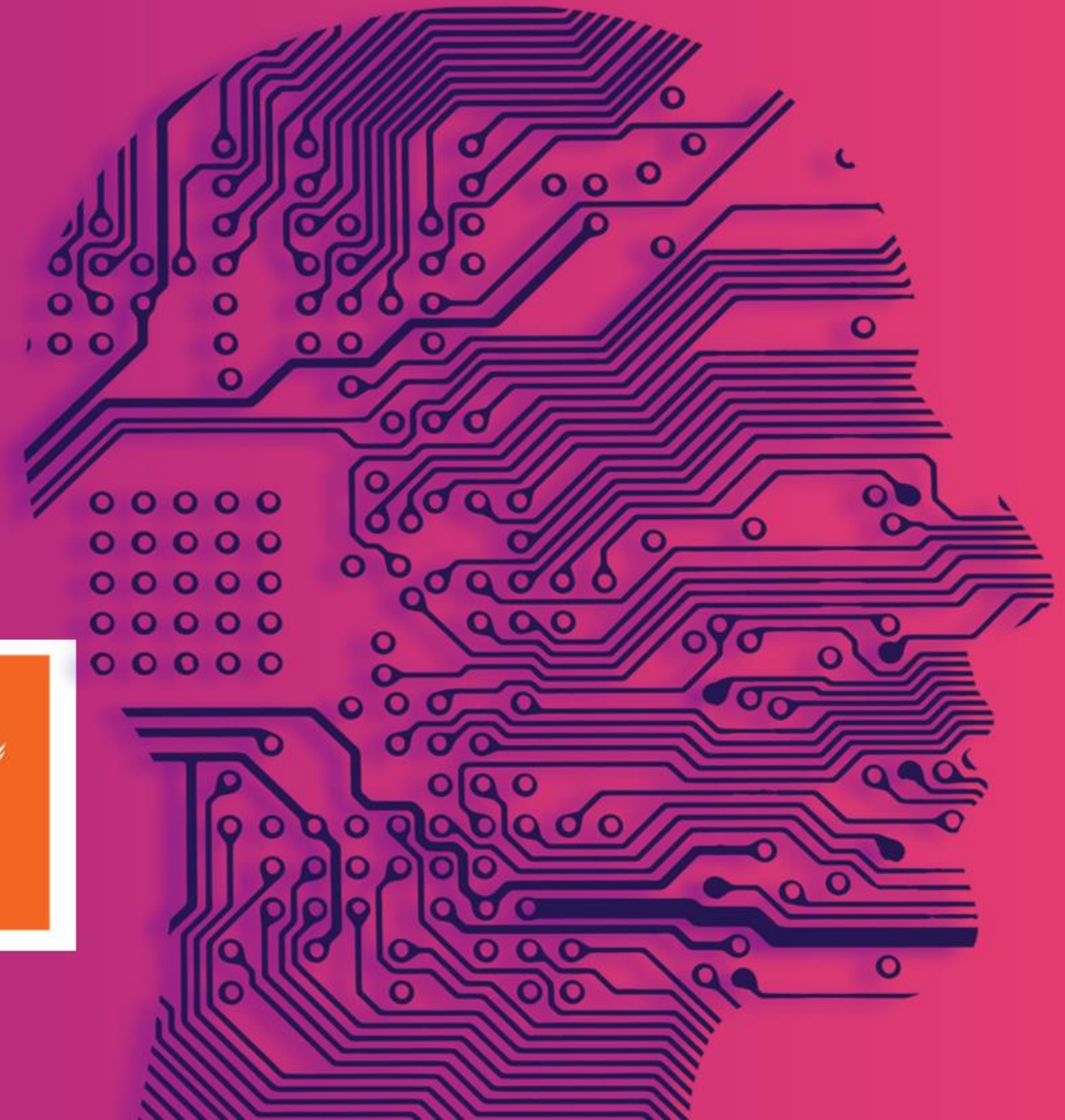
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Young Professional & Student Conference 2025

Supply Chain Mavericks: Shaping Tomorrow, Today

The Supply Chain Lab

Xihluke Maluleke



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INDIA:	3.7%
MOZAMBIQUE:	2.7%
UNITED KINGDOM:	2.3%
FRANCE:	1.7%
KENYA:	1.3%



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THE SUPPLY CHAIN LAB

Bringing expert insights & real-world solutions to the supply chain profession

A collaborative initiative by the **Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies (ITLS) Africa**, housed within the **Department of Transport and Supply Chain Management** at the **University of Johannesburg**.

This podcast serves as a vital bridge between industry and academia—where practical experimentation meets academic rigor. By fostering innovation and collaboration in **logistics and supply chain management**, The Supply Chain Lab creates a platform where **industry insights merge with academic expertise**.

The goal is to empower professionals to navigate the evolving landscape of supply chain dynamics with **confidence and agility**.



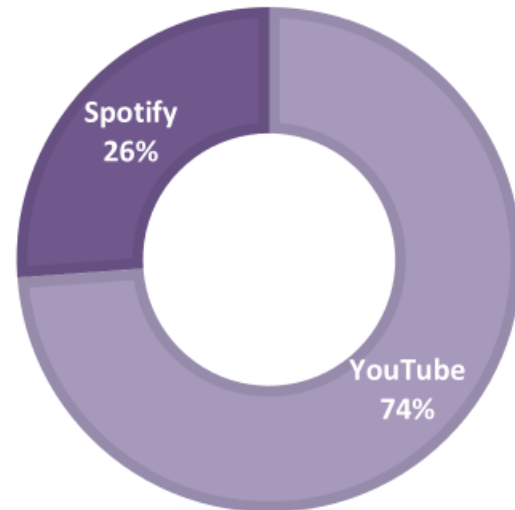
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IMPRESSIONS



THE SUPPLY CHAIN LAB



S @sizwemdakane506 1 month ago
 Very informative interview, thanks to the host and her guests

P @princemoloko8296 2 months ago
 Was unable to recognize Dr Mageto, my former Lecturer of Road Transport. I enjoyed the module very much. The guy is very good is explaining concepts.

BN @AllBasicNeeds 1 month ago
 Greetings I'm a student of UJ, partaking in the CEP "Diploma Logistics Management". I personally truly appreciate the Logistics content and looking forward to more in-depth into module based content if possible.

C @Centsoffith 2 months ago
 Thank you for asking the right questions and thank you to your guests. What an important and informative conversation. Personally looking forward to seeing how different industries collaborate and adapt and to our growing demands as customers.

L @lawranceseni1983 3 weeks ago
 Interesting podcast... I wish students can watch this

A @AshleyBerrys 3 weeks ago
 Great insight for students, have known Baphile from earlier days he had always had a passion for logistics and he had followed that journey.

L @lukhongo1528 3 weeks ago
 Baphile Dube well spoken brother

C @Centsoffith 2 months ago
 Thank you for asking the right questions and thank you to your guests. What an important and informative conversation. Personally looking forward to seeing how different industries collaborate and adapt and to our growing demands as customers.

WHAT OUR LISTENERS ARE SAYING

K Karama Rapolile 6 days ago
 Definitely...supply chain is filled with misappropriation of assets followed by fraudulent financial reporting compromising the entity's overall wellbeing

T Themba Mashaba 3 months ago
 An exceptionally informative episode featuring well-informed guests and an outstanding host

W Wadzanayi Bundo 25 days ago
 The enthusiasm is very contagious

BN @AllBasicNeeds 2 months ago
 Greetings Speaking is a Student under Diploma Of Logistics Management at UJ and I must say that I'm glad to hear such insights within Supply Chain Management because it makes things easier as a student to understand how the function of SCM works and it's process logistics system

T @TheGeopol 2 months ago
 There are opportunities, but implementing marketplaces presents challenges. While the technology itself is straightforward, overcoming the chicken-and-egg problem inherent in marketplaces is much more difficult.

T @TheGeopol 2 months ago
 Payments are also a challenge. The well-established payments industry in South Africa makes transactions more expensive, especially for e-commerce, where selling smaller items is common to minimize logistics costs.

P @pearlnonhlanhlamakhaye3656 2 months ago
 This was a great conversation thank you and your guest speakers are knowledgeable

