Sometimes everything comes together perfectly on its own. Just ask April Henry. She was majoring in business administration – and minoring in logistics – when the supply chain management major became available. An internship experience convinced her that this new major was the perfect path for her.

“Business has always been my core interest, and I’ve discovered that supply chain management is the ideal niche within that field,” says April.

After a professor mentioned a paid internship opportunity at Robert Bosch Corporation, April applied, landed the job and ended up working there for over a year. “Through that experience, she says, “I learned that this field is essentially about the strategies and systems involved in resolving huge, complex problems, and that really intrigues me.”

At Bosch, April used software that she’d studied at the College. “It was a great combination of mentorship and on-the-job training. I learned about specific systems, but one broader lesson has been that supply chain management is a limitless field. With this degree, I’ll be able to work in so many different areas whether that’s retail, manufacturing, hospitality, or some other field.”

A highlight for April was a study abroad course she took in Panama. Led by professors in logistics and real estate, the course examined the Panama Canal Extension project. “It’s amazing what’s happening there,” says April. “It’s really a dynamic situation and our professors offered insight into it as an in-depth case study.”

So, what’s best about this new major for April? “Charleston as a laboratory. We’ve got the Port of Charleston, foreign corporations and a lot of import-export businesses, so the opportunities for hands-on learning abound all around the area.”

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Students in this program garner an end-to-end perspective on the flow of products and services from the raw materials provider down to the customer and the flow of valuable information back up the chain. The course curriculum includes planning and analysis, global logistics, operations strategy, lean six sigma, production and operations management, procurement and management of information systems. In addition, students will be able to study green supply chains, statistics and supply chain risk management.