

THE SAPPHIRE NEWSLETTER

Spring Issue - June 2024



OVERALL FOREWORD:

By Palmer Moore, 2024 Sapphire Overall

Hi Sapphires!

Holly and I are incredibly proud of all that has been accomplished this past semester. So far this year, our leadership team has put together over 100 hours of programming all aimed at developing our members in accordance with our strategic vision. Our events engaged Sapphires by providing opportunities to recruit with top companies, develop presentation skills alongside friends and give back to our community. The leadership team has truly gone above and beyond to create a multitude of ways for students to be involved with the program and gain relevant skills. We appreciate your continued support and hope you enjoy this snapshot of all that went on!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Letter from Our Faculty Director - Pg. 2
Smeal Relations: The Beginnings - Pg. 3
Leadership Development: Leading by Doing - Pg. 3
Spring First-Year Fundamentals - Pg. 4
First-Year Etiquette Dinner - Pg. 4
DE&I Across the Teams - Pg. 5
Community Service: Card-Making - Pg. 5
Events with Overalls - Pg. 5
Lead & Leadle: Acting Out & Strengthening Bonds - Pg. 6
Communications Around the World: Sapphire's Abroad - Pg. 6
Leadership Development: Looking Forward to the Future - Pg. 7
Community Service: Adopt-A-Classroom - Pg. 7
Culture and Experience: Expanding the Horizons - Pg. 8
Communications & Accomplishments - Pg. 9
First-Year Fundamentals Session 7 - Pg. 9
Sapphire Ambassadors Startup - Pg. 10
Professional Development: Sourcing Sapphire - Pg. 10
Sapphire Formal - Pg. 10
Contemporary Conversations: Death Lemonade - Pg. 11
Community Service: Nonprofit Symposium - Pg. 11
Sapphire THON - Pg. 12
General Body Meetings - Pg. 13
Sapphire Smeal Senior Award Recipients - Pg. 14
Sapphire Spring 2024 Leadership Team - Pg. 15
Looking Ahead to Fall 2024 - Pg. 16

A Letter from our Faculty Director...

Hello, Sapphire Family! I hope you're having a great summer! Now that we're able to rest and enjoy some freedom from the rigors of the academic year, it's a good time to reflect on the Spring 2024 semester and what's coming in the months ahead. The Spring 2024 semester was all about "opportunity" for the Sapphire program. Several first-year students took the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills by serving on the Sapphire Leadership Team, and we saw several upperclassmen use their final semester as an opportunity to give back to the program through their seasoned leadership. Among the great programming that our student leaders planned and executed, we hit new heights with a few high-profile Professional Development, Community Service and Sapphire Involvement events. Our second-ever Sourcing Sapphire event was even better than the first! This Sapphire-only networking event with an array of corporate recruiters allowed Sapphires from all cohorts to engage with potential employers in a social and professional setting that mirrored real-world career fairs. The "mocktails" were a big hit and helped create a friendly atmosphere for Sapphires to learn about internship and full-time opportunities while recruiters learned more about the Sapphire program. Our Nonprofit Symposium gave Sapphires and others the opportunity to learn about local service organizations and how we can help our community through servant leadership. Many Sapphires are already involved in charitable and other organizations that help those in need, and this very successful event gave everyone a chance to get even more involved in shaping our community and lifting up others. Finally, the Sapphire Formal provided us all the opportunity to have some fun with music, food and conversation. Whether you stayed for the entire event or popped in to grab a snack and see your Sapphire friends, it was great to see the smiles on everyone who attended.

As we look ahead to the Fall 2024 semester, I'm excited to meet the incoming first-year cohort. As we always do, the Sapphire program has sought out high-achieving applicants from around the country and the world who show the most promise to develop into rockstar business leaders. We'll also continue to develop our Four-Year Roadmap that will provide even greater structure and purpose to every Sapphire's professional and leadership development journey. Finally, our Sapphire Leadership Team remains busy planning events and activities for the Fall 2024 semester. Enjoy your summer and return to campus ready to continue your Sapphire journey!



Dr. Chris Solo
2024 Sapphire Faculty Director

Smeal Relations: The Beginnings

By Sharanya Gera, 2024 Smeal Relations Chair

This semester, we introduced a new team to the Sapphire Leadership Team — Smeal Relations. This new team was created to enhance brand recognition and establish a distinguished identity for Sapphire within Smeal, Penn State and with strategic corporate partners by showcasing the program's relevance, uniqueness and excellence. Recently graduated senior Sean Armstrong and I worked diligently over the past semester to develop a core understanding of what Sapphire is and what we do with these strategic partners.

Leadership Development: Leading by Doing

By Chris Cervantes & Jessie Chen, 2024 Leadership Development Chairs

This past semester, our Leadership Development team has been focusing on allowing students to “be comfortable with the uncomfortable.” We implemented randomized groups and team leaders in many of our events, creatively allowing students to build connections with other cohorts and to enhance our Sapphire community. We found that this strategy had a positive impact on our events and that the more that we prioritized team bonding and connection, the more Sapphire students were willing to engage and benefit from our programming.

One event from this past Spring that we were extremely proud of was “Love and Leadership”, an experimental event designed to force Sapphire students to take on group leadership challenges firsthand in a Valentine’s Day-themed scavenger hunt around the Business Building. Each group was made up of students from various Sapphire cohorts, but the team nature of the event allowed students to grow closer and build real relationships within their own teams. Teams rotated stations, each event challenging them to work together and solve problems, all while under a time crunch in the heat of competition with other groups.

According to Mark Vighetti, the Leadership Development Captain, “Be a part of the change, it’s worth it.” We stand by this statement and hope to provide Sapphires with communicative and engaging leadership programming for the semester ahead. It’s not us or the student leadership that enhances and grows our community. It’s you, the participants and members of Sapphire that make leadership development so essential to growing professionally and personally as a leader.



Spring First-Year Fundamentals

By Mark Vighetti, 2024 Leadership Development Captain

Last Spring, the First Year Fundamentals Series shifted its focus from Professional Development to Leadership Development. We oriented our FYF programming around the Be/Know/Do Leadership Model and focused on the three leadership competencies within it: lead, develop and achieve. We recruited the best Smeal leaders and faculty to host sessions, each related to a different component and/or competency of leadership. Dr. Jeanette Miller, Dr. Bob Novack, Dr. Jennifer Coupland, Dr. Jennifer Eury, Dr. Chris Solo and Dr. Jamie Campbell led the first six FYF sessions, providing Sapphire first-years with access to an elite network of leaders and different perspectives on leadership. The culmination of the First-Year Fundamental Series involved Sapphire members getting an out of the classroom experience that they are unlikely to forget. Navy and Marine ROTC Midshipmen and Cadets led the 2027 Cohort through a Field Leaders Reaction Course, requiring members to work together, communicate, get a little dirty, and complete a physically and mentally demanding obstacle course. Our final FYF helped to build camaraderie amongst the cohort and celebrated the conclusion of their first year at Penn State. Sacha Smith (Class of 2024) and Mark Vighetti (Class of 2025) were truly honored, grateful, and humbled to lead the Spring 2024 First-Year Fundamentals.

First-Year Etiquette Dinner

By Mandy Baldwin, 2024 Communications Chair

The Sapphire First-Year Etiquette Dinner is always a favorite amongst Sapphire students and staff. The instructional etiquette dinner is an extension of FYFs, and it is an opportunity for first-year students to heighten their professionalism and develop their etiquette skills. This year's dinner was held at the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center. It was led by a trained professional, and first-year Sapphires learned how to conduct themselves with proper dining and business etiquette in a professional setting and over a multi-course meal. The dinner teaches Sapphires that proper table manners are essential in leaving a lasting impression both professionally and personally!



DE&I Across the Teams

By Holly Deemer, 2024 Sapphire Overall

Going into the 2024 year, Sapphire remains committed to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging into our programming and external events. With the DE&I and Ethics Consultants roles being phased out, we stayed true to this promise through our Professional Development, Leadership Development and Smeal Relations teams. The LD team hosted an event driven to allow participants to discover themselves as authentic leaders through their own characteristics, identity and personality types. This allowed for a practical form of promoting DE&I and allowed students to take their own traits to create a leadership style and find role models and mentors true to them. Our Smeal Relations team began creating connections with various Smeal and Penn State offices and helped promote their events internally to Sapphire to promote DE&I and Ethics. While these events were not Sapphire specific, they drew a Sapphire audience mixed with Smeal students to allow for more external bonding and to promote Sapphire's presence in the college. In the coming semester, Sapphire will continue to promote DE&I within our group through PD and LD events. Furthermore, with the help of our upcoming Smeal Relations team, Sharanya Gera and Brenna Boer, we will continue to strengthen our relationships with Smeal and Penn State offices to offer students robust DE&I training, programming and also promote connectedness between those internal to Sapphire and external.

Community Service: Card-Making

By Rhea Khettry, 2024 Community Service Chair

Throughout the year, we hosted events that allowed us to display our support for members of the local community as well as people across the country. We wanted to show our appreciation for their strength and to show that they do have a support system around them. The first card making event we hosted was for Valentine's Day. The cards were for hospitalized children. In our cards, we wrote messages for the kids who were spending the holiday away from home. The cards were sent through an organization called "Cards for Hospitalized Children", which mailed the cards to different hospitals across the country. The second card making event we hosted was for First Responders. Sapphire students wrote letters to First Responders in and around Centre County to express their gratefulness and appreciation for the work that they do.



Events with Overalls

By Mariana Agadis, 2024 Sapphire Involvement Chair

This year, the Sapphire Involvement team looked to involve Overalls in events to build strong connections. The event, Music with Holly, pulled on Holly's love for music. We played several rounds of music trivia with strong competition between randomized teams of students and their Overall, Holly! With Cooking with Palmer, we continued to build the relationship with our Overall Palmer by highlighting his experience on *Guy's Groceries Games*. Students watched his particular episode while eating chicken sandwiches, the dish he cooked on the show. We cannot wait to continue the integration of our Overalls with our students in the coming fall!

Lead & Leadle: Acting Out & Strengthening Bonds

By Natalie Isett, 2024 Sapphire Involvement Captain

Lead and Leadle pairs challenged each other's adaptive thinking during Charades Night! We had multiple rounds of Charades that required the pairs to compete together and separately as leads vs. leadles. We saw a lot of creativity and it was a fun evening full of laughs! Over the course of the semester, leads and leadles got together amidst their busy schedules to take time to develop their mentorship bonds. We were able to see the pairs grow closer and create relationships that will last them throughout their college careers. SI is looking forward to being a part of the future of this amazing program and to continue seeing great relationships form!



Communications Around the World: Sapphires Abroad

By Natalie Korzuch, 2024 Communications Captain

This semester, we have discovered new ways to highlight the educational and leadership adventures that Sapphire students are experiencing. We continue to spotlight Sapphires weekly to emphasize the important work they are doing beyond the program and throughout Penn State. We had many Sapphires decide to spend their Spring semester in a new place while continuing their studies. While Sapphires were abroad embarking on their own adventure, we wanted to remain in touch with our Sapphriends and keep them involved with the program. Although they were thousands of miles away, we took it upon ourselves to share their experiences with the rest of the Sapphire community. By doing this, we highlighted their journey through Instagram and LinkedIn, reporting on their favorite memories, what classes they were taking and the adventures they were excited to encounter next. By sharing the details of our Sapphires abroad, we hoped to inspire others who were interested in studying abroad to reach out to their fellow Sapphires for advice. Even separated by oceans, our team worked to encourage the connections within Sapphire and keep the public informed of all the accomplishments and opportunities involved. We have had a blast working to update the Sapphire community and Penn State community on the happenings of Sapphire students and the program itself. We look forward to continuing the Sapphire abroad postings throughout the summer and semester to come, as well as continue to expand our outreach within Sapphire.

Leadership Development: Looking Forward to the Future

By Jessie Chen, 2024 Leadership Development Chair

This past semester, our Leadership Development (LD) team hosted several Sapphire Cohort mandatory events for Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. We collaborated with Sapphire alumni from KPMG, facilitated group discussions on understanding leadership successes and failures and explored strategies for handling common workplace challenges. Our goal was to ensure that all Sapphires leave our events with meaningful connections and practical lessons that enhance their daily activities. Being a leader is not just about being in charge of a group; it's about taking responsibility for the team and creating the best possible experience for everyone involved. So, as we continue to host and plan future events, we would be happy to listen to your feedback. Please share any ideas or thoughts with us at jpc7019@psu.edu or csc5677@psu.edu. We want to provide you with the best Sapphire experience possible and appreciate your suggestions to help us meet your needs. We look forward to the next semester and many new, exciting events!



Community Service: Adopt-A-Classroom

By Olesya Lebedeva, 2024 Community Service Chair

In the previous semester, the Community Service team had the opportunity to return to Mrs. Olivia Dreibelbis' first grade class to educate and leave an impact on children who will one day be the future of our community. To highlight the business aspect of our program, we decided to surround our work in the theme of investing. While that may be a more challenging topic for the age level of first graders, through books and activities our Sapphires were able to instill concepts of money saving and spending among the children. Our Sapphires got to experience this series that helped them understand volunteering and giving back to their community in a non-typical way. Through educating kids in various fun activities, such as giving them "money" they could learn to count out and buy treats with, our Sapphires were able to contribute to meaningful education that will leave a lasting impact on the students of the class.

Culture & Experience: Expanding the Horizons

By Riley Radosavich, 2024 Director of Culture & Experience

As the Director of Culture and Experience for the Sapphire Leadership Academic Program at Penn State, my role was centered around fostering a cohesive, enriching, and supportive environment for all members throughout their four-year journey in the program. This position was crucial in ensuring that each individual's experience is both fulfilling and aligned with the overarching goals of the program.

Development of the Semester Long Project

The inspiration for the semester-long project emerged from a deep-seated concern for the quality of experiences that members have during their time in the Sapphire Leadership Academic Program. Recognizing that each member's journey is unique and valuable, I designed this initiative to enhance their academic, social and professional development. The project aimed to create a structured, yet flexible framework that allowed members to engage deeply with the program's resources, build meaningful connections and develop their leadership skills.



Collaboration with Overalls and Directors

A significant aspect of my role involved active participation in weekly meetings with the Overalls and Directors. These meetings served as a platform to discuss strategic initiatives, share updates and ensure that all aspects of the program were progressing smoothly. My contributions in these meetings were focused on:

- 1. Aligning Vision and Goals:** Ensuring that the strategic vision of the Overalls was effectively communicated and integrated into the plans and actions of the various teams.
- 2. Addressing Concerns:** Bringing up any concerns or feedback from members to the attention of the leadership and fostering an environment where all voices are heard.
- 3. Collaborative Planning:** Working together with the Directors and Overalls to brainstorm and develop new initiatives that can enhance the overall experience of program members.

Collaboration with Each Team

In addition to the high-level meetings with the Overalls and Directors, I was also present at weekly meetings with the various teams within the program. These sessions were critical for:

- 1. Strategic Alignment:** Ensuring that each team's strategic vision aligns closely with the broader goals set by the Overalls. This alignment is vital for maintaining consistency and coherence across all activities and initiatives within the program.
- 2. Support and Guidance:** Providing support and guidance to teams as they developed and implemented their projects and initiatives. My role was to help them navigate challenges, refine their strategies and achieve their objectives.
- 3. Facilitating Collaboration:** Encouraging collaboration and communication between different teams to foster a more integrated and cohesive program experience.

Communications & Accomplishments

By Natalie Korzuch, 2024 Communications Captain

Throughout this past semester, the Sapphire Communications Team worked to implement new ideas and increase outreach through social media. While our team manages the Sapphire Instagram and Sapphire LinkedIn, we also manage the Sapphire Alumni LinkedIn and are currently working to use that network to create better relationships with our alumni. The Sapphire Alumni LinkedIn is not the only addition to media that we have been working on. While we have added Sapphires Abroad, we have also added Sapphire of the Month, which is an additional recognition to our Sapphire Spotlight posts. Sapphire of the Month was a new award recognizing one Sapphire who had gone above and beyond during the month. This increased community engagement and allowed us to emphasize Sapphire students that have done exceptional work. Looking towards the future of our media outreach, we plan on continuing to recognize Sapphires through our networks, and we are very excited to see all the Sapphire accomplishments next semester.

First-Year Fundamentals Session 7

By Noah Aberegg, 2024 Communications Chair

To end the semester, the first-year class, joined, by First Year Fundamental leaders Mark Vighetti and Sacha Smith, completed the Military Field Leaders Reaction Course. Hosted by the Penn State Naval and Marine Corps ROTC, the first-years endured numerous challenges while hauling heavy equipment, all while keeping it off the ground and working together. Split up into teams, each group worked its way over many elevated walls, leapt over raised logs and raced under barbed wire while carrying weighted water jugs, a tire and heavy ammunition boxes. Together, the groups had to communicate in order to successfully get over the obstacles without dropping anything. They needed to ensure that each person could get over the height, the weighted objects were passed, and the remainder of the group could get over. With the help of the ROTC cadets, staff, and the Sapphire cheer squad, each group was able to get through the obstacles with strong communication and teamwork.



Sapphire Ambassadors Startup

By Sharanya Gera, 2024 Smeal Relations Chair

With the introduction of the Smeal Relations team to the Sapphire Leadership Team, we became even more recognizable as a group with the development of the Sapphire Ambassadors program. The Sapphire Ambassadors are a group of highly motivated students within Sapphire with the main goal of ushering in the next generation of Smeal students by offering tours of the Business Building to prospective students and their families. We also held presentations and panel discussions for accepted students to showcase all that Smeal and Penn State have to offer. Ambassadors occasionally led VIP tours with alumni and Smeal donors, which helped us to create a deeper, meaningful connection with the Smeal College of Business as a whole! Smeal hosted 700 students and 568 family members for a total of 1,268 people at the Accepted Student Programs and our Sapphire Ambassadors gave continual tours at all four ASP days!

Professional Development: Sourcing Sapphire

By Kelsea Harshbarger, 2024 Professional Development Chair

This semester, the Professional Development team held the program's second Sourcing Sapphire networking night. After the success of the inaugural Sourcing Sapphire event during the Fall 2023 semester, the PD team was committed to elevating the event even further. We were joined by representatives from ten different companies, including KPMG, EY, Abercrombie & Fitch and Shell, who met with Sapphires within all cohorts and majors to make connections and discuss future professional opportunities. We also introduced a mocktail component to the event this semester for both students and recruiters to enjoy. We are excited to continue finding ways to grow Sourcing Sapphire as we strive to make it an even more enriching experience for everyone!



Sapphire Formal

By Natalie Isett, 2024 Sapphire Involvement Captain

One of our favorite events this semester was the Sapphire Formal. We hosted the event at 3 Dots, and our theme was Sparkling Sapphires. Sapphires had the chance to enjoy some good food, music and each other's company. It was such a fun night watching all Sapphires get to socialize in a non-business setting! It was definitely one of our favorite memories!

Contemporary Conversations: Death Lemonade

By John McKillop, 2024 Professional Development Chair

In an effort to connect Sapphires of different cohorts while encouraging critical thinking and communication, we hosted Contemporary Conversations: Death Lemonade. The Contemporary Conversations layout focuses on small group discussions on a current event in the business world. This semester, we discussed the recent controversy regarding Panera's Charged Lemonade. This topic was very relevant, as most of us college students tend to rely on not only caffeine, but Panera's tasty beverages as well. During the event, we did an in-depth stakeholder analysis on different stakeholder perspectives, while also evaluating Panera's marketing of the beverage. We look forward to continuing these types of events next semester!

Community Service: Nonprofit Symposium

By Matthew West, 2024 Community Service Captain

This semester, we hosted our Third Annual Nonprofit Symposium, giving Sapphires a unique opportunity to learn from four established community service leaders in Centre County. Our goal as the Community Service branch is to make Sapphires "life-long servers". We accomplished this goal by giving local nonprofits a platform to spread their mission and having outside speakers talk about their experiences in the sector. Two of our speakers, Bellamarie Bregar, the founder of ACRES Project, and Denise McCann, the executive director of Centre Helps, advocated the importance of giving back and the challenges of starting nonprofits. Josh Portney, the youngest State College Council member in over 50 years, discussed openly his journey into service, navigating workplace dynamics and the values that drive his personal mission. During our final speaker's session, Ann Echols, the Executive Director of Volunteer Centre County, Sapphire students learned about six current issues facing the nonprofit space and shared implementable solutions she could share with Centre County nonprofits. We strive to have Sapphire students engaged in open conversations between themselves and our speakers, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of the nonprofit space and life lessons that they will remember long after the event. The Nonprofit Symposium has been getting better and larger since its inception, and we can't wait to keep the streak going next year!



Sapphire THON raised **\$15,785.41**



Sapphire THON 2024

By Nora Fritz, 2024 Sapphire THON Captain

The theme for THON 2024 was Treasure Every Adventure. This theme was really touching as it reminded us to live in the moment and take in everything THON 2024 had to offer. Everyone came together to “shake the floor” in the Bryce Jordan Center to raise a record-breaking **\$16,955,683.63** total! THON weekend was full of line dances, a performance by Walk the Moon and so much more. On our side of things, our hardworking Sapphires came together to raise **\$15,785.41!** These phenomenal totals are proof that the Penn State community and the Sapphire Leadership Academic Program are passionate and driven to continue the fight to end childhood cancer. One day we will dance in celebration, until then, we will dance for a cure and treasure every adventure.

We were lucky enough to have two THON 2024 dancers: Kayla Anthony and Elijah Duck! Both of our amazing dancers stayed strong and dominated the entire 46 hours. Kayla and Elijah were both seniors in the Sapphire Leadership Academic Program and brought their own personal stories as to why they THON. This year we were able to team up with a fellow business organization, Women In Business, to form a support system in the stands to cheer on our dancers. It was an unforgettable weekend for all Sapphires involved! We thank everyone that joined us THON weekend, our dancers and everyone who came out to our fundraisers throughout the year, especially for making our newest fundraiser, Mr. Sapphire, such a success! Furthermore, we continued to spend time and get to know the Grab family. Hailee always brings a smile and brightens the room. We always love getting to meet with Hailee and her parents whether it is in person or over Zoom. The whole THON team is excited about what next year holds and to see the future of our organization. We thank you for the continued support of THON. FTK!



General Body Meetings

Each semester, the Sapphire Leadership Academic Program invites all Sapphire members to four General Body Meetings (GBMs) with guest speakers, games, and learning opportunities. These events have become especially exciting throughout the past year as it is one of the few times Sapphires across all cohorts are able to see each other! Below are the brief recaps of the four GBMs that were offered during the Spring 2024 semester.

GBM #1: "Looking Ahead with Dr. Solo"

For our first GBM of the semester, we kicked off with our Sapphire Faculty Director, Dr. Chris Solo, who laid out the direction of our program and some updates for the upcoming semester. Dr. Solo began the event with some fun riddles and went into the vision and values of the Sapphire Leadership Academic Program. The Sapphire Leadership Team had an opportunity to present its goals and mission statement for the semester, as well as some upcoming events before Dr. Solo wrapped up the evening with important updates for the year.

GBM #3: "Leadership with President Neeli Bendapudi"

For our third GBM, we brought in Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi, who talked about her leadership journey and personal branding. President Bendapudi led the room in an engaging conversation about how different roles and careers can be described as leaders. She also gave time for students to ask questions about her personal growth and branding as well as key ways to grow.

GBM #2: "Ethical Leadership"

The second GBM of the spring featured the Director of the Tarriff Center, Dr. Michelle Darnell, who talked about how to lead and motivate others to be ethical. Dr. Darnell hosted an intriguing conversation with Sapphires, where she led students through the importance of ethics in academic settings and how to build systems of trust within organizations.

GBM #4: Words with Sapphire Alumni Nate Brodsky"

Our final GBM of the spring was led by 2021 Sapphire graduate Nate Brodsky who currently serves as a Business Development Manager for Informatica. Brodsky talked about his experience as President of the IFC, and after graduation, his role in sales for the NBA with the Cleveland Cavaliers and Brooklyn Nets. At the end of the event, Brodsky discussed his need for change from the NBA and how it is okay to leave what was once your dream job in pursuit of something new.

Sapphire Smeal Senior Award Recipients

Out of 1600+ seniors graduating from Smeal, Sapphires earned numerous, high-achieving awards:



Riley Radosavich, Marketing
2024 NEILSTRONG Award
In honor of Sapphire Student, Neil Patel

Julia Saganowich, Marketing
4.00 GPA and Marketing Student Marshal

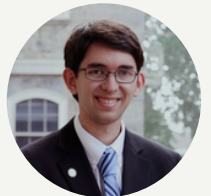


Emma Scott, Supply Chain
4.00 GPA and Supply Chain & Information Systems Student Marshal

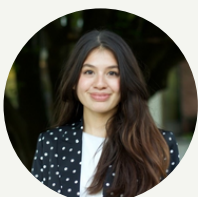
Sacha Smith, Corporate Innovation and Entrepreneurship - Ralph H. Wherry Student Service Award
Kayla Anthony, Management - Ralph H. Wherry Student Service Award
The award honors graduating seniors who excelled in service to the college, have exhibited academic achievement and manifest the promise of a successful professional career.

Lydia Mabamije, Marketing - John M. & Anne B. Stevens Academic Integrity Award
The award honors graduating seniors who demonstrate leadership in academic integrity by serving on a college committee, task force or in a leadership role, and are dedicated to upholding the Smeal Honor Code and to promoting a culture of academic integrity.

Ryan Stetzenfand, Accounting - Helen Eakin Eisenhower Award
The award honors graduating seniors who has demonstrated scholarship, leadership, character and service to the Smeal College of Business.



Three talented Sapphire Leadership Team members graduated in 2024:



Sacha Smith
Professional Development
Captain



Sean Armstrong
Smeal Relations Captain



Riley Radosavich
Director of Culture
and Experience

Sapphire Spring 2024 Leadership Team

Overalls



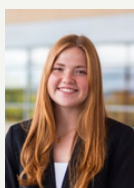
Palmer Moore



Holly Deemer

Communications

Chair



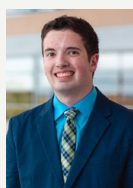
Mandy Baldwin

Captain



Natalie Korzuch

Chair



Noah Aberegg

Community Service

Chair



Rhea Khettry

Captain



Matthew West

Chair



Olesya Lebedeva

Leadership Development

Chair



Jessie Chen

Captain



Mark Vighetti

Chair



Chris Cervantes

Sapphire Involvement

Captain



Natalie Isett

Chair



Mariana Agadis

Professional Development

Chair



John McKillop

Captain



Sacha Smith

Chair



Kelsea Harshbarger

Smeal Relations

Captain



Sean Armstrong

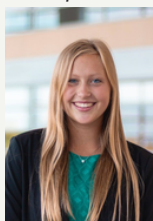
Chair



Sharanya Gera

Sapphire THON

Captain



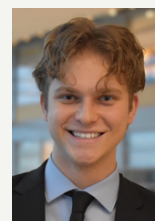
Nora Fritz

Chair



Jack Shaffer

Director of Culture and Experience



Riley Radosavich

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL 2024

By Holly Deemer, 2024 Sapphire Overall

Looking ahead to Fall 2024, we are excited to introduce new programming and innovation to Sapphire. With the help of our Sapphire Leadership Team, we are excited to build new initiatives to increase our professional development, leadership development and community involvement for all members of the program.

In the fall, we will be realigning our team with Sapphire Leadership Team members graduating this spring. Second-year students John McKillop and Kelsea Harshbarger will spearhead our Professional Development team, replacing recent graduate Sacha Smith. Second-year Sharanya Gera will take over the newly created Smeal Relations team, replacing Sean Armstrong. Additionally, we are excited to continue the spirit of innovation with Spring LD Captain, fourth-year Mark Vighetti, stepping into a new role as the First Year Fundamentals Director. With Mark's role, this will open the floor to first-years Jessie Chen and Chris Cervantes as co-LD Captains.

Going forward, we will be using data collected by Riley Radosavich, the Director of Culture and Experience for Spring 2024, to create a stronger bond among Sapphire students. We will be redefining the Lead and Leadle Program as the "First-Year Mentorship Program" to build stronger relationships between our first-years and upperclassmen. As we continue to develop our program, we are living out the vision of Sapphire to be a premier undergraduate student leadership development program. Additionally, we will continue to push the boundaries of what is possible within the program and allow Sapphire to be known far beyond the Smeal College of Business.

We thank you all for your continued support and engagement with the program. If you have career updates, have insight for Sapphire students, or want to participate in any Sapphire alumni events, please reach out to sapphire@smear.psu.edu. Have a safe and exciting summer!



We thank you for your continued engagement as an alumnus and would like to remind you to stay connected! If you have career updates, want to share insight with current Sapphires, or participate in our alumni pairing program, please reach out to us via email at sapphire@smear.psu.edu. Have a safe and amazing summer!



@sapphirePSU



@sapphireleadershippsu



Sapphire Leadership
Academic Program