

STUDENT PROFILES: CLASS OF 2017

Cassandra Nowiki

Educational Background: Bachelor's of Health Service Administration

Why did you choose to attend EMU?

I chose EMU because I am from Michigan and I also like the way they run their program.

What are your interests in the field of O&P?

I have been interested in this field since I was fairly young, I had a soccer coach that had a prosthetic arm and leg. I found it fascinating that he could function so well with his prosthesis to the point that it was barely noticeable. I have been a technician for almost three years now and I find this field to be so rewarding.

Tell us about your first impressions of the semester:

I really like this program so far, it is very challenging and I have learned so much already. The courses change the way you think about things and the way that you will face challenges in the field. I can't wait to see what the future brings me in this great field.



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David Rice

Educational Background: Bachelor's in mathematics and general science with a secondary teaching certificate.

What is your background?

I worked for 14 years as a middle school teacher and left teaching to sell real estate. After the market crashed, I started taking night classes. I was originally looking to go into PA school until an injury to my hand turned me on to the O&P field.

What do you think of the new facilities in Rackham hall?

The new facilities are awesome. The classrooms, labs and shop are so spacious and well laid out. Its nice having the room to work without being in each others way.

Are you working on any projects/research this semester?

I am currently working on finishing my capstone project. It is a 3D printed mold of a transtibial limb that will allow the tibia, fibula and femur to be indexed properly within the mold when a cast of the limb is manufactured.



HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

- Second year students welcomed representatives from Hanger Clinic for residency interviews on November 13th. All 18 students interviewed for positions with their primary training clinics. We would like to thank Joey Koblasz, Lissa Adams, and Daniel Obey for making the trip to EMU to meet with our students. We also like to thank Robin Seabrook, executive director of NCOPE, and Arlene Gillis, chairman, who visited campus to host a dialogue on the residency process.
- The College of Health and Human Services has begun hosting interprofessional education forums to encourage students from different programs to work together. Events have included a flu epidemic simulation and a case study on lifelong care for a bilateral amputee. Last week, the first year MSOP class hosted a screening of "Murderball" followed by a discussion. For more information and to see upcoming events, visit <https://www.emich.edu/chhs/ipe/>
- Students have numerous opportunities to work with prosthetic patient models throughout each semester. This fall, students were focused on transtibial patients as they cast, fit, and aligned diagnostic prostheses. Students explored different socket designs, suspension methods, and feet as they designed devices for each patient. "The willingness of the patients to share their experiences with us has been an invaluable addition to our education" said Kasey Calvert, adding "It really prepares us for our future as clinicians". Other patient models this semester included transradial amputees, transhumeral amputees, and a scoliosis patient.

