

# NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



[www.emich.edu/hphp/orpr](http://www.emich.edu/hphp/orpr)

## A Peek into the Lab



## JOB BOARD:

We are starting to receive job opportunities for students and alumni! As we receive them, we will post them in our newsletters.

## NOVACARE PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS

Novacare Prosthetics and Orthotics currently has several openings at various offices around the country! For more information, click [here](#).

## EMU O&P CLOTHING ORDERS ARE HERE!

Looking for ways to show off your favorite O&P program? Consider buying some apparel and support the student organization, OOPS (Organization of Orthotics and Prosthetics Students)! For more information, click [here](#).

## THANK YOU, GUEST SPEAKERS!

Thank you to our guest speakers who have come in to talk to our students. We've had representatives from Myomo, Ottobock (picture), Touch Bionics, and Hanger. Next up is Co Apt!



## MICAREERQUEST SOUTHEAST

Our program director Wendy Beattie and six O&P students had the opportunity to attend the MiCareerQuest to share the world of O&P with local high school students. Chris Casteel from Anew Life Prosthetics and Orthotics joined them. Chris is not only an orthotist/prosthetist and a business owner but also a lower limb amputee. He was a real-life example of just how effective prosthetic devices can be. The display included a MyoPro, several iLimb hands, a variety of upper and lower limb prostheses, and prostheses made by our students (picture). Thousands of students cycled through during this all-day event.

MiCareerQuest was a great interdisciplinary opportunity for EMU's representatives as well. Our O&P exhibit was within the Health Sciences section where there were showcases for everything from surgical technicians to EMTs. Our students had the chance to explore and even try their hands at robotic surgery. Students also got to see other domains such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, and construction. This was the first year that EMU's O&P attended MiCareerFest, but we are looking forward to heading back again next year.



## INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SIMULATION DAY

This past month, EMU O&P second year students participated in the College of Health and Human Sciences Large Scale Simulation. They worked with students across the college to provide a patient-actor the best possible care with a team approach. Other students included social workers, athletic trainers, physicians' assistants, health administrators, nurses, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. It was a great way for all students to learn about different disciplines and how they fit into the clinical team. For the full article about the event, click [here](#).

## SPOTLIGHTS

### CAPSTONE SPOTLIGHT: ANDREW MALEWITZ

**What is his project?** Andy is creating a transfemoral prosthesis alignment simulator.

**What progress has he made?** So far, he has made the socket (picture). He is now working on design for the lateral support coupler.

**Why/how did he choose this?** Building something was in his area of interest and he had questions about alignment manipulations. His faculty advisor, Nate Kearns, already had a concept for a transfemoral prosthesis and Andy had built similar devices before.



## CAPSTONE SPOTLIGHT: ZACH RADKE

**What is his project?** Zach is studying people's perceptions of their knowledge on the function of elevated vacuum suspension systems. As a side, he is also looking at the effects of elevated vacuum on the circulatory system.

**What progress has he made?** So far, he has created an elevated vacuum suspension system, a rough draft of his survey, and a rubric and test to compare first and second year students' perceptions of their knowledge of the function of elevated vacuum system for a transtibial amputee.

**Why/how did he choose this?** Zach was in a summer clinical rotation when he learned about the positives of elevated vacuum. He became especially interested in the healing effects that are possible with this suspension. His faculty advisor, Frank, helped him come up with the idea, as he had observed that students in the past didn't have a great understanding of elevated vacuum.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: FRANK FEDEL

**What makes the O&P field most interesting to you?** The unique nature of the idea of integrating machines and humans to allow function to approach (or exceed) normal. In my previous experience working with professional athletes (triathletes, cyclists and sprinters) my goal was to assist someone with achieving the best possible outcome, such as a world record performance or winning a race. I see O&P as being very similar but on a different level on the spectrum of performance.

**What is your favorite part about working with the O&P students?** Just as most teachers who are passionate about their profession, I enjoy it when I "see the light bulb go on" in a student, and they realize that they have expanded their capabilities significantly. Considering that I might have played some small part in assisting them as they work toward their goal of becoming a professional who helps others is very intrinsically rewarding.



**Favorite Thanksgiving Dish:** That's a tough question, as I try to savor just about everything at Thanksgiving (just not the biggest fan of most cranberry sauces). My answer has to be, the biggest dish they will let me use at the table, so I can fill it with at least a bit of everything! Truly, I can't think of any single dish that stands out above the others - at least not to the level that it would achieve statistical significance. : )

**Why did you start wearing a fanny pack?** Convenience, comfort, style. OK, nix that last one... Also, it is helping me build up my hip abductor muscles as it increases the external hip adduction moment experienced on the contralateral limb to where it is hanging during stance phase of gait (you second year students, graduates and clinicians know what I'm talking about).