

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



www.emich.edu/hphp/orpr

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 12

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in our homecoming event.

OCTOBER 26

10:30am: Informational Session

NOVEMBER 15

IPE Event

NOVEMBER 9

10:30am: Informational Session

Thank you to the students, staff, alumni, and sponsors for making out 2nd annual I TRI for Mac Triathlon a success!



On October 6th we hosted the second annual I Tri for MAC Triathlon at Eastern Michigan University. The triathlon is held in memory of a former O&P student, Mckayla Hanson, who underwent a hemipelvectomy due to cancer at the age of 7. Mckayla participated in many triathlons among other sporting events and strived to inspire and encourage other amputees and athletes. This race supports the Mckayla Hanson Memorial Scholarship, which awarded 4 \$2,000 scholarships to current EMU Orthotics and Prosthetics students. The turnout this year was over 200 people--almost twice last year's.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, raced, cheered on, and sponsored the event!

GET TO KNOW OUR I TRI FOR MAC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to Sarah Foster:

What does winning this scholarship mean to you?

Winning this scholarship validates that I choose the right career for me. And that all of the adversity I've faced can be used to help my future patients.

Congratulations to Breana Baranek:

What was your favorite thing about volunteering for the triathlon?

Watching everyone who competed push past their comfort zone. It was freezing outside; I can't imagine how cold the athletes must have felt exiting the pool to go bike. Additionally, my volunteering spot was on the big hill by the library during the run. People were tired; however, most people were still smiling when they crossed my way. Smiles are truly contagious. Even through the biggest amounts of pain, people will find a way to smile back if someone smiles at them

What does winning this scholarship mean to you?

Winning the I Tri for mac scholarship has me feeling so humbled. There are 23 of us in my cohort, I think each of us have done enough phenomenal things to have earned the scholarship. This gift will certainly help me continue my efforts to volunteer weekly while I am in graduate school. It is hard to find a balance between financial support and personal wellness. Having this I will be able to maintain that balance, which will make me a more rounded practitioner in the future.

Congratulations to Gloria:

What was your favorite thing about volunteering for the triathlon?

My favorite thing was meeting new people and catching up with Eastern alumni who have graduated from the O&P program.

What does winning this scholarship mean to you?

I'm so grateful for this opportunity. This is a significant help both financially and emotionally. It means a lot in so many ways and gives me the chance to focus more on schoolwork.

Congratulations to Megan Beisser:

What was your favorite thing about volunteering for the triathlon?

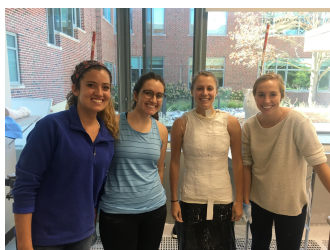
My favorite thing about volunteering was seeing all of the people who came out to participate and to cheer others on. I loved seeing how hard everyone worked to both put the event together and to challenge themselves throughout the race.

What does winning this scholarship mean to you?

I am so thankful for the scholarship funds as they will help relieve some financial stress. This will allow me to focus more on my studies and pursuit of residency. I'm excited for future opportunities to positively impact others as McKayla clearly did, and continues to do so.



STUDENT LIFE...ROBOTS AND CLIMBING FOR ROMP



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

FIRST YEAR: SARAH FOSTER

Hometown: Erving, Massachusetts a small rural town in western Massachusetts known for beautiful fall foliage on the Connecticut river

Educational Background: Sarah attended Greensfield Community College as a dual enrollment student junior and senior year of high school. She graduated with her associates in Health Science. Sarah then transferred to University of Massachusetts- Amherst for a bachelor's in Kinesiology. She took time off from school to have foot surgery and worked at a local neurology office as a clinical assistant/receptionist

Decision to Pursue O&P: Sarah always knew she wanted to go into the medical field. She had her own personal experience with the field as she was fit with bilateral AFOs and functional orthoses in high school. Sarah's foot orthoses are priceless tools in the management of her chronic pain. Despite her experience, she had never considered O&P as a career until her physical therapist suggested it.

Most excited about this semester: Sarah is most excited about the lamination project in Intro lab. She has laminated prosthetic sockets before and loves when she can customize them.

What areas of O&P interest you?: Sarah is interested in pediatric orthotics and prosthetics.



SECOND YEAR: JACOB PRAGA

Hometown: Westbury, NY

Educational Background: Jacob graduated with a B.S. and M.S. in biomedical engineering from SUNY Binghamton.

Decision to Pursue O&P: When Jacob was younger, he had two friends with CP but did not understand what it was. His parents, both nurses, explained the pathology and that many people are impacted. A few years later, he saw a news story about a man who lost his arm in an alligator attack and obtained a prosthesis. As the patient fired his muscles, the arm moved. Jacob realized immediately that he wanted to help his friends and others by becoming an orthotist/prosthetist.

Topic for Capstone: Jacob will be electroplating 3D printed prosthetic hand components to increase their mechanical properties.

Favorite Part of Clinicals: "Encouraging dramatic change within our patients." Jacob said, for example, "delivering a prosthetic leg and seeing them walk for the first time since their amputation and seeing the look on their face in that moment."

