

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



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Welcome Class of 2021!



This fall we welcome our incoming class of 2021. This class is made up of 23 students from diverse areas. Students come from a variety of states including Arizona and Alabama, and we have one international student from Canada. This class is made up of 10 men and 13 women from the age of 22 to 28. Everyone is coming in with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences in the O&P field.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 26

6:00pm Informational Session

OCTOBER 6

8:45am I TRI for MAC Triathlon

OCTOBER 12

Homecoming: Free O&P CEU's, Alumni and Friends Tailgate, and EMU Football game against Ball State

OCTOBER 19

10:30am Informational Session

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to recent EMU MSOP graduate, Cassie Depaulis! Last month, Cassie was featured in the Tri-County Times Newspaper. You can read the article [here](#).



WENDY AND SUNNY

Congratulations are in order for two of our faculty members who graduated this past spring!

Program Director, Wendy Beattie, received a master's degree in Educational Leadership. When she became the Director, there were no master's programs in O&P. Rather than pursue a degree in her own program, she decided to study education. As she says, "The Master's in Educational Leadership program has given me a set of tools to be more prepared, and hopefully more successful, in my position as the Director here."



Associate Professor, Sun Hae Jang (Sunny), received a doctorate degree in Biomedical Engineering. While this degree wasn't necessary for teaching in the program, Sunny wanted to challenge herself. She loves research and wanted to continue learning. She focused on concepts such as determining the patho-mechanism of sagittal plane misalignments of idiopathic scoliosis, how the deformities progressed, and creating a non-invasive spinal assessment tool. She hopes her education and research will help her as she continues to teach the Spinal Orthotics class. She wants to give students a higher concept overview and create challenges for them outside of what the textbook offers as she continues with her research.

SUMMER CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The second year students spent the past summer completing their clinical rotations. Students spent time at various clinical practices around the country (and Internationally!) learning how different clinicians and companies handle patient care.

Megan had rotations at Hanger Clinics in San Diego, Denver, and Great Falls, Montana. In between her second and third rotations, she met up with Jess in Moab, Utah for a backpacking trip through Arches National Park! (picture to the left) Jess had just finished her rotations with Hanger in Denver and was on her way to Orthopro in Twin Falls, Indiana.



Jessica was able to travel to Hanger Clinics in NYC and Colorado, as well as Northwest Clinic in Novi. Her favorite part of the summer was seeing the Ellis Island Museum!

Gloria got out of the country for a bit to have a rotation with the Foot Foundation in Guatemala. This clinic provided a very unique experience as it works entirely off of donations. She got to see 23 orthotic and prosthetic donations delivered here. After this, she spent time with Schriners in Tampa, Scheck and Siress in Chicago, and Hanger Clinic in Dayton.



Amanda was able to travel to a Hanger Clinic in Charlette, North Carolina. While she was there, she was able to see a patient fit with an Iron Man Hero Arm! (bottom picture.

I TRI FOR MAC

On Sunday, October 6th, the Orthotics and Prosthetics Department will be hosting the 2nd annual I TRI for MAC Sprint and Super Sprint Triathlon. This event serves as the main fundraiser for the Mckayla Hanson Scholarship for students in the MSOP program at Eastern Michigan University. The scholarship serves in honor of Mckayla, who after having her leg amputated, went on to be an incredible athlete. She recently graduated from EMU's MSOP program herself and shortly after, passed away from cancer. To learn more about the event, the scholarship, and Mckayla's story, you can look [here](#).

FIRST YEAR: BRANDY CRAWFORD

Background: Brandy majored in Public Health at University of Alabama Birmingham after graduating from Wallace State Community College. With the help of her hometown fire department, she used her degree to create the Ambassador Program. This program provides low income students with scholarship money when they join the volunteer fire department. It gives students an opportunity to attend college that they might not have otherwise had.

Decision to Pursue O&P: Brandy decided to pursue O&P after seeing a patient walk for their very first-time post-op on a leg that she helped to create. She enjoyed seeing them gain confidence and have hope for a better quality of life.

Favorite part of EMU (thus far): Brandy loves the diverse atmosphere that EMU embraces. She is looking forward to building strong relationships with everyone in our program. She can't wait to see everyone become knowledgeable and successful clinicians.

Ellie Mae (featured pup): According to Brandy, Ellie Mae is adjusting wonderfully to Michigan. She enjoys the cooler weather and appreciates all the extra attention from Brandy's classmates.



SECOND YEAR: NICK BROMLEY

Background: Nick graduated with a bachelor's in Psychology and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies from Oklahoma University. Shortly after, he graduated from technical school at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

Decision to Pursue O&P: After graduation from college, Nick wasn't sure what he wanted to do. So he took two years off of school to work. During this time, he realized he wanted to get a Master's degree. He remembered a writing class on bioethics and the politics of life he took his freshman year of college. For an assignment, he wrote about Oscar Pistorious and whether his prosthesis gave him an unfair advantage in the Olympics. This peaked his interest and after looking more into it, he decided to pursue a career in O&P.

Topic for Capstone: Nick will be researching the clinical definition of "fit". So far, there has not been a conversation in the research community of what it means for an orthosis to fit well. Nick would like to place a quantitative, measurable value on this.

Favorite Part of Clinicals: Nick got to spend a month at Scheck and Siress in Chicago and live with his two best friends. While he was there, he got to see a bilateral transfemoral patient in early gait training.

Favorite Project in the Program: Nick loved getting to know everyone and learn about moments in the first semester robot project.

