

## NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



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

### Fall Arrives at EMU



As we move closer to holidays, all of us here are feeling thankful for Eastern's gorgeous campus! With fall in full swing, the trees are changing, the squirrels are growing round, and we've even had our first snowfall. As most of the undergraduate students off campus, it is an especially tranquil scene this year.



### RECENT EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER 14

Graduate Open House

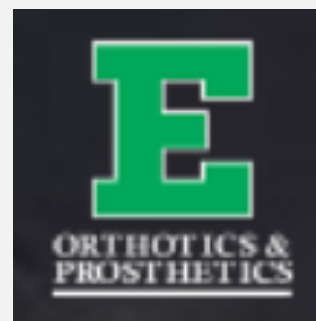
#### NOVEMBER 18

Virtual Visit Day

#### NOVEMBER 26

Thanksgiving Break

### O&P Apparel Now Available



This year we have the opportunity to purchase custom EMU O&P apparel. The clothing will be sent in batches, with the next batch being ready in November (just in time for it to find its way under your favorite alumni's trees!). If interested, please contact Neely Heckman at [Nheckma@emich.edu](mailto:Nheckma@emich.edu) for info on colors, styles, and pricing.

## NEW TIMES, NEW TOOLS

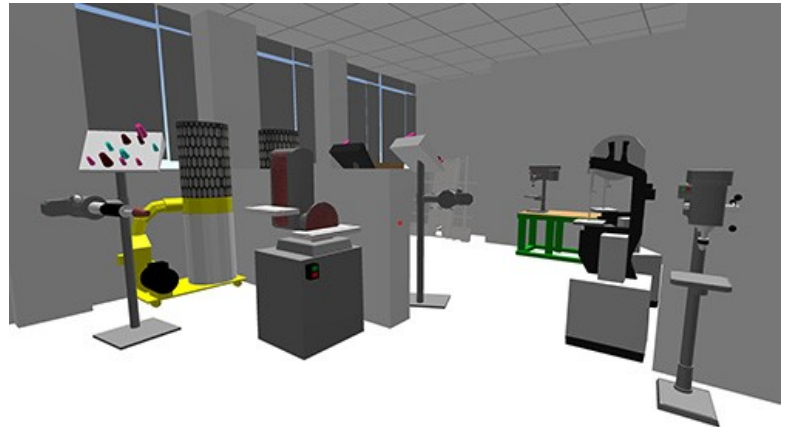
While all the professors and faculty here at Eastern have worked hard to overcome the unique challenges that teaching online during a global pandemic presents, few have worked as hard as our very own Professor Frank Fedel.

After realizing that the incoming class would not receive the opportunity for an in person orientation, Frank set to work. He created a virtual reality platform designed around the Rackham building, complete with professor's offices, clinical suites, and lab and fabrication rooms. Within each lab, Frank carefully placed virtual copies of the machinery and equipment available, and enabled it so that interactions between the students and the equipment would lead to a demonstration over how to safely and effectively use each machine. Frank even went as far as to place avatars for each of the first years' professors within each room, so that the students may begin to familiarize themselves not only with the layout of the labs but also with the people whom they would be learning from.



In addition to all his virtual reality work, Frank has also been developing online teaching tools to replace in person lab work. Currently, Frank has his first year biomechanics students utilizing an online joint measurement tool he developed to aid in their understanding of joint angles and how they are altered during gait. He is also working on several other projects, including but not limited to moment visualizers and frame by frame analysis of gait.

Thank you, Frank, for all your hard work!



## IT'S A BOY!

We are happy to report that baby boy George Balogh made his appearance this month. He and his mother, Program Coordinator Rebecca Spragg, are both happy, healthy, and settling into their new roles at home. While we will miss seeing Becca on campus during this time, faculty and students are all excited to meet little George over Zoom meetings in the coming months.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

### FIRST YEAR: AUTUMN YOUNG

**Background:** Autumn was born and raised in Valley City, Ohio. She attended the University of Akron to obtain a bachelors in biomedical engineering on the biomechanics track. She and her cat are adjusting to life in Ypsilanti, and enjoy taking long hikes together in some of the local parks.

**First exposure to O and P:** She was first exposed to the field while shadowing a clinician at Shriner's Hospital in Philadelphia. Autumn loved the fast pace, the work itself, and being able to serve people who needed help.

**Why EMU?:** Autumn liked the feel of the EMU campus, and it's close proximity to her home. She says it was absolutely the right choice for her.

**Favorite experience this semester:** Autumn has enjoyed bonding with her cohort and getting to know the other students. She also admits to greatly enjoying the cadaver lab.



### SECOND YEAR: AUDREY LARSON

**Background:** Audrey is originally from Colorado, but attended Montana State for her undergraduate degree in Mechanical engineering. Audrey has been coping with the stress of her second year by finding crazy socks, and reports her current favorite pair depicts a fox in socks.

**Capstone Project:** For her Capstone Project, Audrey is developing a tele-health app to help with O and P care in remote areas where a orthotist or prosthetist may not be readily available. She admits that she is currently feeling a time crunch, as the second year students have an extra heavy workload this semester due to last semester's interruption.

**Favorite EMU memory:** Audrey's favorite project to date was fabricating and wearing an upper extremity prosthesis. She says that she found it interesting how using a hook rather than her hand changed her daily activities, and specifically how it affected her while playing a range of sports. Audrey says the project helped build a healthy appreciation for a good fitting device and a properly rigged harness!

