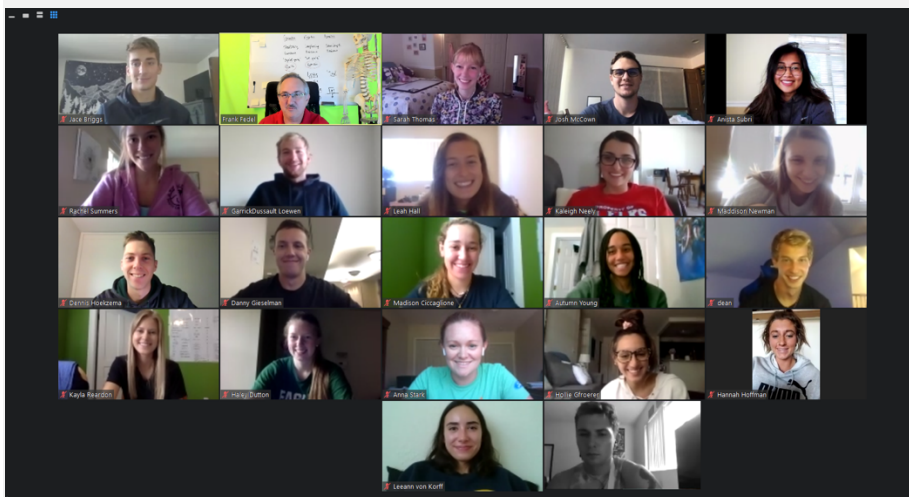


# OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



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

## Welcome Class of 2022!



This season our class picture looks a little different, but we are still excited to welcome our incoming class of 2022! This class is made up of 21 students from diverse areas. Students come from all over the nation, ranging from Texas to New York with one international student making the trek down from Canada! This class is made up of 5 men and 16 women from the age of 21 to 25. Everyone is coming in with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences in the O&P field, but all are excited to learn.



## RECENT EVENTS

### COMING SOON!

Virtual Visit Days

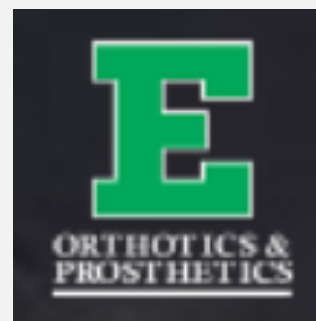
### OCTOBER 4

Homecoming

### NOVEMBER 14

Graduate Open House

## 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 click [here](#) and use the code EMUOP2021 to see colors, styles, and pricing.

## UPDATES FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the weather changes, and the leaves on the trees change, the EMU MSOP program changes too! This summer we bid a sad farewell to Wendy Beattie who led our program as the director since 2013. We wish her all the best in her new role as faculty at Northwestern University.

We admitted a new class of 21 students this year who come to us from nine states plus one international student, and we welcomed back 21 returning students.

In addition, as we are all acutely aware, the current pandemic has brought many changes to the EMU MSOP program. While most of our lectures have moved to online formats, we are still providing many in-person learning opportunities for the students, including patient simulations and fabrication projects. Our faculty and students continue to work hard– even in face masks, face shields, and gloves. The way the program looks may have changed, but the heart and soul remains steadfast.

I hope you are all staying healthy and happy amongst all the changes in your lives!

Rebecca Spragg  
Program Coordinator



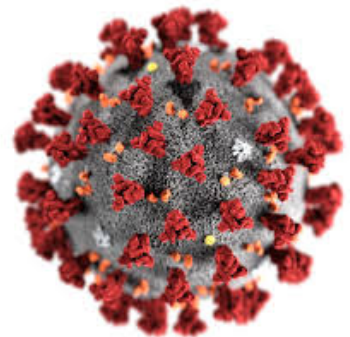
## A WORD ABOUT COVID

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Rebecca Spragg, Chris Herman, and our other faculty members, Eastern Michigan University's Orthotics and Prosthetics program has started the Fall semester with both in-person and online sessions. Despite postponed campus opening and the transition to all-online that impacted many of the other graduate and undergraduate programs at Eastern Michigan, our O&P program started up on time with both first-year and second-year students having time in the lab each week.

To protect our students, our faculty worked closely with school officials to rearrange lab stations and to obtain enough PPE to keep our program members socially distanced and safe. Lab times have now been adjusted to control the flow of students and reduce contact between students, limiting contact between different groups in each cohort.

With our lectures completely online, our students enjoy the time that they get to spend with their peers and instructors in-person. Our first-year students are working hard in their introductory courses and will soon have the opportunity to complete the traditional rite of passage- Frank's robot project! Our second-year students are making the most of their time in lab by finishing up clinical courses that were put on pause in the spring, and diving into their projects for this semester.

With a lot of hard work and a bit of flexibility, our students' education continues to be our top priority. We are proud to see how the students and faculty alike have adapted to these unprecedented circumstances.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

### FIRST YEAR: HOLLIE GFROERER

**Background:** Hollie was born and raised in Buffalo, New York and received dual Bachelor's degrees in Biomedical Engineering and Missions from Geneva College. She moved recently moved to Ypsilanti with her husband, and has been enjoying the search for the best ice cream in the city.

**First exposure to O and P:** She was first exposed to the field during a summer internship in Haiti. While there, Hollie had the opportunity to explore the O&P clinic run by a Haitian prosthetist, NoNo, and immediately fell in love with the people in the clinic and the work NoNo was completing.

**Why EMU?:** Hollie chose the EMU program because of how personal the program felt after her visit. She felt all the professors wanted to be there for you and were willing to work with you so you could succeed. She also loved the extent of clinical and hands on experience Hollie felt EMU offered.



### SECOND YEAR: ABIGAIL IACANGELO

**Background:** Abigail was born and raised in Maryland, and graduated with a bachelors in Bioengineering from the University of Maryland. She worked as a satellite engineer at NASA for several years before coming to EMU, and now enjoys joint study sessions with her faithful pup, Rosa.

**How did the summer prepare you for the second year?** In her opinion, interacting with patients daily and working on positive casts for more than 2 hour blocks once a week does wonders for raising your aptitude!

**Summer clinical takeaways:** Abigail felt interacting with patients was not as intimidating as it felt in class, and says fixing the oven on your first day gives you big brownie points.

**What other summer adventures did you find?** She spent her summer in a low income neighborhood in Washington, DC. Not only were there protests and a 7PM curfew for a while, but Abigail was almost run over from a car chase, her roommate broke up a street fight, and their neighbors gave police testimonies about teenagers trying to steal bricks for dubious purposes. At the same time, it was the friendliest neighborhood she have ever lived in, multiple neighbors talked to her as Abigail walked her dog and made comments on her roommates' slowly growing garden.

