



# Eastern Michigan University

## Orthotics & Prosthetics

---

The leaves are falling and the air is chilling in Ypsilanti and Fall is in full swing here at EMU! MSOP students had a spooky season full of Halloween, multiple “Jakes” in the building, and midterms! First year students are settled in and becoming increasingly comfortable working in our facilities as they are neck deep in robot building, AFO fabrication, and socket laminations. Second year students have finished up fabricating their spinal orthoses and WHFOs, moving on to making trans-humeral devices, all while working hard on their capstone projects.

2<sup>nd</sup> Year B Group: Jake



1<sup>st</sup> Year B Group: Muppets



1<sup>st</sup> Year A Group:  
Phineas & Ferb



WINNERS



Faculty: Peanuts

2<sup>nd</sup> Year A Group: Dora





### 2021-22 OOPS OFFICERS

**Left to right:** Jace Briggs, Historian; Rachel Summers, Secretary; Hollie Gfroerer, President; Kaleigh Neely, Vice President; Dean Karkut, Treasurer

Casual wear is available now through the OOPS store on Bonfire! It features the new, rebranded OOPS logo. A small amount of total sales gets donated back to OOPS to help with funding. Spread the EMU love by sharing the link with family and friends!



## INTRODUCING OOPS!

The Organization of Orthotics and Prosthetics Students (OOPS) is an official campus club. OOPS was started in 2008 by two of our current professors, Jake & Nate! The 2021-22 officers are working hard to bring life back to OOPS after 2 years of limited activity due to Covid. Last month, they were officially reinstated as an EMU club. They take care of everything from hosting the welcome picnic, organizing clothing sales, fundraising, and so much more!

Our wonderful students and faculty gathered up holiday meal items to donate to Swoop's Annual Thanksgiving baskets! They donated enough food to provide two full meals! Swoop's Pantry is a campus organization that provides the EMU community with food assistance and additional resources to positively impact well-being and college success.



## Connect With Us!



Eastern Michigan  
University  
Orthotics and  
Prosthetics



@emuoops



@emichmsop

Join MSOP students and faculty virtually or in-person at our upcoming info sessions!

Wed, December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30pm

Sat, February 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10am

Please direct any questions to Program Coordinator Rebecca Spragg ([rspragg@emich.edu](mailto:rspragg@emich.edu))



## Alumni Spotlight: Sam Stauffer

Sam is a graduate of the class of 2018 and a native of Newark, Delaware.

She was first exposed to the field of O&P when one of her high school basketball referees removed her prosthetic leg following a game. Sam was intrigued and got her first clinical experiences soon after.

Coming to EMU for undergrad, Sam completed her Bachelor's in Exercise Science while helping out in the MSOP program. Sam's favorite part about the MSOP program was how supportive the faculty were; she felt it was easy to talk to them about anything.

Following her time at Eastern, Sam started her research-track orthotic residency at the University of California, San Francisco. While there, she conducted research on custom orthotic interventions for Pectus Carinatum. Following this, Sam returned home to Delaware, where she began her research-track prosthetic residency at the very place she shadowed in high school, Independence Prosthetics & Orthotics. To fulfill the research requirement, she worked in the Delaware Limb Loss Studies Lab under Dr. J. Megan Sions.

Following her residencies, Sam knew she wanted to pursue her PhD, and worked with her advisor in 2020 to create a dual-training degree for prosthetic-orthotic clinical practice within the Biomechanics and Movement Science PhD program at the University of Delaware, which she is now piloting. With this set up, she has been able to maintain her clinical skills through part-time work alongside conducting O&P specific research in the lab.

Sam's best advice for current students is to never forget what drew you to the field in the first place. She recommends developing relationships with clinicians and/or other residents, stressing the importance of emotional support and having someone to talk to about the hard parts of O&P (e.g., patient death). For upcoming residents, her best advice is to find a mentorship style that is a good fit for how you learn best in order to get the most out of your residency.

