

EMU ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS

Virtual Tours Coming Soon

We will soon be updating our list of virtual visit days. These are great opportunities for prospective students across the nation to check out our program, and discover what makes EMU so special!

EMU O&P Apparel

Another round of EMU alumni apparel will soon be available for purchase. If interested, please contact Neely Heckman at nheckman@emich.edu.

Safety Protocols

As the pandemic continues, we are once again taking the safety of our students seriously. Currently we have reduced class size for in-person labs, and are hosting virtual lectures and office hours. In addition to this, the students will soon have the opportunity to receive the coronavirus vaccine, which will allow them to work safely with patient models. As always, student safety is our highest priority.



Here to Stay

Despite the tumultuous year, Eastern's Orthotics and Prosthetics program is here to stay! We have managed to keep all our students healthy and safe, and continue to utilize a hybrid learning approach. Students and faculty alike are adapting to the new normal, and are treasuring the in-person lab times and patient model sessions when they are able.

Welcome, Alicia!

We are excited to announce a new member among Eastern's faculty, and extend a warm welcome to Alicia Davis. Alicia will be teaching an applied practicum to the students, and we know they couldn't be in more qualified hands!

Alumni Updates

We asked and you answered! This month we spoke to two alumni who have recently gone through Eastern's program to see where they have gone since graduation.



Alex Schmikus

Alex is 31 years old and originally from Seattle, Washington. He obtained an undergraduate degree in Medical Anthropology & Global Health from The University of Washington before joining us at Eastern for his MSOP. Since then, Alex has traveled extensively before accepting his current position as a CPO at the University of Michigan. Now that he is back close to Eastern's campus, Alex tells us he has become Professor Frank Fedel's most feared racquetball opponent!



Jessica Siegler

Jessica is a 24 year old from Canton, Michigan. She came to Eastern for her MSOP after graduating with a Bachelors in Kinesiology from Michigan State University. Jessica loves to travel, and has hopes of one day moving overseas to provide O&P care to countries with limited access.

Alex Schmikus

When did you graduate from the O&P program?

My graduation was spring 2014.

What do you miss most about EMU? The easiest answer is my classmates and professors, but I also really miss “free burger Mondays” at a nearby burger joint.

How did EMU best prepare you for the world?

Opportunities! Either on campus or at the nearby hospital, there was always an abundance of resources to study or practice with over any given topic.

What are some things you're proud to have achieved since graduation? Since graduation in 2014, I've become a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists (FAAOP), an NCOPE Regional Resident Liaison, a NCOPE Approved Clinical Mentor (ACM), and an ABC Orthotic CPM Examiner. I've also been a presenter at the AOPA National Assembly, and still had time to get married and buy a house!

Jessica Siegler

When did you graduate from the O&P program?

I graduated this last year in the spring of 2020.

What do you miss most about EMU? I miss seeing and working with my cohort every day!

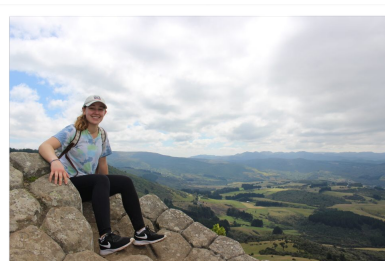
How did EMU best prepare you for your residency? All of the hands on projects and work with patient models really helped prepare me for my residency. I also think the multidisciplinary events were very insightful, especially as I am working in a hospital setting now and get to work alongside many PTs, OTs, and physicians everyday.

How has your life changed since graduation? After graduation I moved to Chicago for my residency. Moving in the middle of the pandemic was quite an adventure, but I have absolutely loved it here.



Remus Neagu

Remus was born in Romania, but moved to the states as a child with his family. After relocating to Michigan, he graduated from EMU with a bachelors in Athletic Training before enrolling in Eastern's MSOP program. When not in class, Remus passes his time eating mint chocolate chip ice cream.



Madison Ciccaglione

Madison is originally from West Caldwell, New Jersey, but attended her undergrad at the University of Delaware where she majored in Exercise Science. Madison is a great student, and her dedication to her studies can even be seen in her Spotify rankings this year, where her "White noise study fan" was her most listened to song!

Student Spotlight

Remus Neagu

What's your Capstone project about? My focus is taking a look at students' experience in taking ROM measurements (for my experiment its talocrural dorsiflexion ROM) and if that has any correlation with the variability of their measurement. I had originally hoped to use students from both O&P and the PA school for a bigger sample size, but Covid has made that difficult.

Have you had any "aha!" moments with your project? The main issue I had was a way to measure experience performing ROM. Jake (my capstone advisor) and I landed on the idea of using different groups of frequencies to differentiate experience. For my project in specific I have the groups as 0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20 and >21 times performing ankle dorsiflexion ROM. It's not perfect but it's the best we thought of.

What has doing your Capstone taught you? Mainly it has made me more comfortable reading research and making more informed decisions based on said research. I planned on making a 3D model for students to do the ROM measurement on, but due to the no open lab times it is unrealistic with the time we have. I would have liked learning how the building process of that works.

Madison Ciccaglione

How did you find O&P? I was blown away by Oscar Pistorius running in the Olympics with bilateral transtibial prosthesis. Fast-forward a few years, I was in my undergraduate where I was exposed the field of O&P through clubs, research, and shadowing. The thing that got me hooked was watching practitioners problem solve to build and deliver a device that can allow a patient to walk. I thought it was the coolest thing ever!

Why did you choose EMU? I visited EMU in the winter after I was accepted, at which time I met the faculty, toured the labs and classrooms, and sat in on lectures. The faculty were all welcoming and clearly very knowledgeable. Also, I appreciate that there is a large emphasis on the technical component of O&P in addition to the clinical component in this program. Lastly, the O&P program at EMU has lots of connections to clinics in the area, as well as to adaptive sports, which I plan to volunteer with.