

# EASTERN MICHIGAN ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS

January 2022

## Ring in the New Year!

As 2022 kicks off, our students and staff are eager to get back to all things O&P! After 2 weeks of precautionary online classes, the program is 100% back in person. While the semester has just begun, our students are already hard at work. 2nd year students are looking forward to capping off their last semester before graduation and showcasing their skills in residency. 1st year students are beginning their first clinical classes where they will get their first full patient model experience from casting to fitting. We are all looking forward to what this year will bring!



## Check this out!

Congratulations to Alumni **Sam Byrne** and **Jaime Purdie** who recently had their capstone projects accepted for publication in major O&P journals!

Read Sam's article "A novel slip torque closure system to enable pressure regulation in pectus carinatum orthoses" in the 2022 Winter Issue of *Academy Today*!

Find Jaime's article "Expert Opinions on Thermal Discomfort Related to Idiopathic Scoliosis Orthoses" in *Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics* soon!



Tune in to the *Road to Her Future* podcast, featuring our very own, Autumn Young! Autumn shares her journey into O&P with the hopes of building a positive culture around women in STEM careers.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Shannon Everly



### **What is your education background?**

Shannon received her Bachelor's degree in Allied Health Sciences with a minor in Psychology from Grand Valley State University in 2017. She is currently a first year student in our program!

### **What led you to want a career as an O&P practitioner?**

Following her undergraduate schooling, Shannon took a chance on a job opportunity she knew nothing about and became a helmet tech. She immediately fell in love with the field and has been working since 2018. From her work experiences, she decided she wants to continue her O&P career as a practitioner!

### **What is your favorite memory from your first semester?**

Spending time on campus and getting to know the cohort got her so excited for the next 2 years! In classes, Shannon loved making her first AFO and the triumph she felt when she got her robot project to sit and stand on its own.

## Marissa Shaver



### **What is your education background?**

Marissa attended Trine University in Angola, IN to study biomedical engineering. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree in May of 2021. She is currently a first year student in our program!

### **What parts of O&P have interested you the most so far?**

Overall, Marissa loves how O&P is able to combine engineering, hand skills, and patient interaction to improve the quality of life for so many people. She also loves that it is a quickly growing/advancing field with a lot of room to grow.

### **What is your favorite thing about the program at EMU?**

Marissa loves that the program is hands on and the unique experience of "learning by doing" that we get. She also loves how involved the professors are and that they are willing to do whatever they have to do to help us learn/understand the material.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT


## Maria Lesniak, CPO

CLASS OF 2017

### **What was your background prior to O&P school?**

Prior to O&P school, Maria attended Hope College to study exercise science. She didn't know much about O&P but discovered it when her biomechanics professor mentioned it in a lecture. She did some shadowing and was intrigued by the ability to use her hands to make things while helping people regain their mobility.

### **Highlight some of the best learning experiences you have had in the field since graduating.**

A photograph of Maria Lesniak, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey t-shirt with the word 'HOPE' in orange letters and black shorts. She is standing next to a man with dark curly hair, glasses, and a light blue face mask. The man is wearing a white V-neck shirt, black shorts, and a white prosthetic leg. They are both smiling and standing in front of a wooden wall with a metal railing.

Maria has been fortunate to have had good residency experiences, where she was able to learn from a wide variety of clinicians. She was able to pick up different tips and knowledge from spending time with many experienced clinicians. More recently, she was able to go on a volunteer trip to Guatemala with the Range of Motion Project to make prostheses for a week at their clinic. Through this experience, Maria was able to work with and learn from clinicians from across the U.S, Guatemala, and Ecuador. "This experience also exposed me to a different patient population than I typically see in Michigan and I was able to pick up many new skills to bring back with me to my everyday practices."

### **What are some things EMU's program did to better prepare you for the field?**

"EMU provided me with the base knowledge to be ready to apply concepts to real world situations. The facilities allowed us to learn in a simulated clinical setting with patient models and a lab space to work on hand skills. I am thankful for the preparation at EMU that helped set me up to apply the knowledge to the clinical setting in residency and after."

## Scholarships

### Hanger Foundation Diversity Scholarship

EMU has partnered with Hanger Clinic to encourage diversification within the program and build a more inclusive profession!

### SPS Student Scholarship

For students pursuing a Master's degree in O&P!

Deadline: February 11, 2022

## Social Media



**Eastern Michigan University  
Orthotics & Prosthetics**



**@emichmsop**



**@emuoops**