



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
**COLLEGE OF HEALTH  
& HUMAN SERVICES**

# 2023 Outstanding Students



## **Israa Berro ~ Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program**

As a nurse practitioner and second-year DNP student, Israa Berro is deeply committed to reducing health disparities and increasing access to care among minority populations. This passion has led her to develop a project study titled "An Evidence-Based Approach to Weight Reduction in Prediabetic Arab American Women through a Culturally Tailored Yoga Program," which she will be implementing this summer. Through this study, she aims to address the unique challenges faced by Arab American women in managing prediabetes and reducing weight, using a culturally tailored approach that incorporates yoga practices. By integrating evidence-based research with cultural competency, she aims to improve health outcomes and enhance the quality of life for these women. Her experience as a nurse practitioner, combined with her dedication to research and advocacy, will enable her to make a meaningful impact on the health of marginalized communities. She is committed to continuing her work in this field and is honored to have been recognized as an outstanding student.



## **Laura Borchers ~ Bachelors of Science in Exercise Science Program**

Laura Borchers has excelled in and out of the classroom during her time at Eastern. She currently holds a 4.0 GPA through most of the exercise science major and the pre-admission courses for physical therapy school. Laura contributed to research in Dr. Catherine Gammon's lab on factors affecting the physical activity levels of university students and presented the research findings at the 2022 Mid-Michigan Symposium for Undergraduate Research Experiences (Mid-SURE). In addition to these academic pursuits, Laura has managed to find time for a long list of professional development and extracurricular activities, which includes being a member of the EMU rowing team, accumulating over 120 observation hours at inpatient and outpatient physical therapy clinics, attending the MAC Transformative Leadership Program, participating in the Student-Athlete Medical Conference, teaching children to row at sports camps, and scorekeeping at EMU sporting events. We wish Laura the very best of luck as she works towards her career goal of becoming a physical therapist.



### **Jess Callaghan ~ Bachelors of Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program**

Jess Callaghan is a senior Medical Laboratory Science student that will graduate this spring after she has finished her internship at Michigan Medicine. Jess has stood out as a leader in the CLS program from the beginning. In addition to completing her CLS degree, she is working towards graduating with Department Honors with several honors projects and undergraduate research. Jess has also taken on a leadership role at the COVID testing center on our campus where she was trained to perform the test analysis and subsequent test result input. She became one of the Covid test “go to” sources helping to train new employees in the Covid Test Center on campus. Within this role, she wanted to improve the “flow” through the center by applying newly acquired knowledge from Lab Management and applying a LEAN analysis of workflow. To do this, Jess analyzed current workflow and redesigned the flow to improve efficiency and safety of patients coming to the center. She developed a diagram for an updated flow with these concerns in mind and proposed the new diagram to Covid Center management for implementation; it was well received. She has also applied for and received several awards for her undergraduate research.



### **Alexandra Cameron, RDN ~ Masters of Science in Human Nutrition Program**

Alex Cameron is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist who works in the public health field while she pursues her M.S. in Human Nutrition. Alex enjoys working directly with the community and finds joy in the continual follow-up and close relationships that she forms with her clients. Upon graduation, Alex hopes to continue to grow and evolve as an RDN while exploring new roles within her profession. Alex's passions include maternal and infant health, intuitive eating practices, educating, and working with the public to reduce barriers to healthcare. On a personal note, Alex recently got married and lives with her husband, two dogs, and two cats in their recently renovated “fixer-upper,” an old farmhouse, circa 1887. Alex enjoys working on her home and making it a relaxing and cozy space to unwind. Alex is very grateful to her husband and her family who have supported her throughout the journey of earning a master's degree. She is also very thankful for her dogs, Archie and Benny, who are a great source of stress relief!



### **Marla Cobetto ~ Masters of Occupational Therapy Program**

Marla Cobetto is a graduate student pursuing her Master of Occupational Therapy degree in EMU's OT Program. Marla earned her Bachelor's in Exercise Science at EMU, where she was also a three-time Academic All-MAC student athlete in soccer. The Occupational Therapy faculty are pleased to recognize Marla as the 2023 outstanding student for her achievements in the classroom as well as her leadership in the EMU occupational therapy community. Marla is an active and engaged student in the classroom and has emerged as a leader among her peers. She is the Student Occupational Therapy Association President, a role she has used to create opportunities for future occupational therapy students through her outreach to the community to enhance awareness of the profession. Marla is also dedicated to developing into an evidence-based clinician through her work as a student researcher on a contemporary dance program for community-dwelling older adults project. In all of her roles in EMU OT, Marla has shown creativity, initiative, leadership, and a mindset for lifelong learning. As a future occupational therapist, Marla aspires to stay up to date with new and emerging technology and methodology in order to be the best therapist for her clients.



### **Emily Crouson ~ Masters of Health Administration Program**

Emily Crouson graduated from EMU in 2019 with a double major in Psychology and Communication with a minor in Health Education. She joined the Master of Health Administration program in Fall of 2021 and will be graduating this April! Academically, Emily is a high achiever who has maintained a 4.0 throughout her graduate studies. She never fails to bring thoughtful reflection and good humor to class discussions. Beyond the classroom, Emily works at Michigan Medicine as a Medical Assistant Lead in an Adult Multispecialty Clinic where she provides direct oversight to our Urology, Urogynecology, Dermatology and Plastic Surgery Clinics. She is involved with several committees, including the Safety Committee, Patient Experience Committee and Employee Engagement Committee for her facility. She is passionate about providing excellent care and service to patients as well as recognizing and rewarding staff for their incredible efforts, the latter being the focus of her graduate capstone project. After graduation she will be getting married and moving to the west side of the state for a position at the new University of Michigan Health-West Hospital in Wyoming, MI.



### **Sydney Edwards ~ Bachelors of Science in Nursing Program**

Sydney Edwards is an outstanding BSN student at Eastern Michigan University, nominated for her impressive academic performance, clinical skills, and dedication to the nursing profession. Her passion for working with children has been evident throughout her time at EMU, as she has pursued relevant coursework and clinical experiences in pediatric nursing. Sydney's outstanding performance in clinical rotations and coursework has earned her recognition from faculty and staff alike, who describe her as a compassionate, empathetic, and detail-oriented student who is always willing to go the extra mile to provide excellent patient care. As Sydney prepares to graduate within the year, she looks forward to starting her nursing career and working with children in a clinical setting. Her dedication to nursing and her commitment to serving others make her a valuable addition to any healthcare team. Outside of her studies, Sydney is an active member of the EMU community, playing club softball and participating in various extracurricular activities. Her dedication and leadership both on and off the field are a testament to her drive and determination, and we are proud to recognize her as an outstanding BSN student at Eastern Michigan University.



### **Kaylyn Fales ~ Masters of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics Program**

Kaylyn Fales is a second-year student in the Orthotics and Prosthetics graduate program. She has been a tremendous asset to the students in her class as well as the program, as a whole, by combining her patient care skills and knowledge as a certified athletic trainer with her new experiences in orthotics and prosthetics. She has been supportive of her fellow students, both in and out of the classroom. She was elected by her peers as the Treasurer for the Organization of Orthotic and Prosthetic Students. In this role, Kaylyn has helped organize several fundraisers to provide travel assistance for students to attend the O&P National Meeting as well as additional social events to give students a mental break and chance to connect. Kaylyn has been an outstanding student and will be an exceptional healthcare professional. She plans to complete her orthotics residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospitals.



### **Jose Eduardo Marroquin Galvez ~ Combined Bachelors of Science + Masters of Athletic Training Program**

Jose Eduardo Marroquin Galvez is an international student from Guatemala. He is the proud son of Edwin and Flor Marroquin and older brother of Brenda and Jorge Marroquin. Jose was born in Guatemala City where he grew up playing baseball and pursuing the dream of achieving a baseball scholarship. With hard work in the classroom and the field, as well as the support of his parents, Jose came to the US in the summer of 2019 to join the Schoolcraft College team. His goal was to achieve in the classroom and on the field so that he could earn a baseball scholarship to help with his studies. However, in his time at Schoolcraft, Jose suffered an injury that made him think that he may not be able to keep playing the sport that he had loved since he was a child. Fortunately, he was exposed to athletic training, via a mentor and now friend, Megan Hampton. Megan, with her knowledge and kindness, helped Jose return to baseball, but that experience changed his goals. He now began to dream of becoming a great athletic trainer to help athletes, just like himself. Jose is pursuing his degree in the Combined Athletic Training Program to support future athletes with their injuries. He is currently completing his first year in the Master's part of the Combined Athletic Training Program and completing his clinical rotation at Saline High School.



### **Katherine Faunce ~ Masters of Athletic Training Program**

Katherine Faunce is a first-year graduate student at Eastern Michigan University studying athletic training. She has wanted to become an athletic trainer since I was in high school. Katherine got her first experience with the profession when she suffered an injury while running cross country and did not get the proper care she needed from her athletic trainer. That experience taught Katherine that patients are not only athletes but also human beings who face challenges outside of their sport. Katherine's passion is to work with professional baseball players because she loves to learn about the biomechanics of pitchers. She has completed a clinical rotation with the EMU baseball team where she was able to assist in the rehabilitation of athletes who were recovering from Tommy John surgery. During that rotation, Katherine was also able to assist in arm care with the pitchers after they threw in the bullpen or on the field. Those experiences helped to further her desire to work with baseball athletes and pursue a career as an athletic trainer.



### **Lauren Fournier ~ RN-BSN Completion Program**

While in high school, Lauren Fournier took two years of Health Occupations, which is a class with hands-on clinical experience that teaches basic skills and medical knowledge. Upon graduation in 2018, she enrolled in nursing at Lansing Community College and obtained her Associate's degree. She graduated summa cum laude and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Since then, she has been working at a hospital full-time on midnights as a psychiatric nurse while attending Eastern Michigan University, enrolled in the RN-BSN program. Balancing family life, work, and education has not been easy, but it has been worth it. Nursing has been her dream career for as long as Lauren can remember; her mom, who also has a nursing degree, inspired her to follow that dream. Lauren has known since a young age that nursing is meant for her to do. Nursing means being able to spend the rest of her time on earth, impacting the lives of others, and making a positive change. Waking up knowing she can turn one of the worst days in someone's life into a better one makes everything worth it. Nursing, to Lauren, means being there for her patients and advocating for them. There are many things she hopes to get out of her career as a nurse, but the number one is being confident that she did her absolute best to show all of her patients the compassion, caring, and empathic care that all humans deserve. Her education is something that she has always prioritized, and she is excited to see where the rest of the journey leads her.



### **Roberto Frausto Jr. ~ Bachelors of Social Work Program**

Roberto Frausto is a first generation university student, working on their Bachelor's of Social Work. Coming from a working class family still reeling from the economic turmoil of 2008, Roberto enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from Belleville High School in 2011. Roberto's passion for social work grew from their time in the United States Army where they often saw many ways in which marginalized communities could not get connected with the resources that would directly improve their living conditions. Having started with the School of Social Work in the Summer of 2021, Roberto quickly found their calling within the program and has a particular interest for Macro level social work and community development. They have recently become the first person in their family to be accepted into a graduate program, where they intend to start working towards their Master's of Social Work here at EMU in Fall 2023, with their concentration being in Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery.



### **Maddie Heaps ~ Masters of Science in Sport Management Program**

Maddie came to EMU in the fall of 2018 to pursue her graduate degree in Sport Management. She excelled in her first year at EMU in both her courses and with her graduate assistantship, and accepted a job in Media Relations at San Diego State University. While at SDSU she assisted in the oversight of all San Diego State Athletics social media and creative content while acting as one of the primary social media strategists for the department, which included being the primary media contact for the SDSU Women's tennis, swimming and diving, and lacrosse programs. In 2021, Maddie was recruited to Stanford University. Since she has been at Stanford, her social media posts for women's gymnastics was top 4 of social media growth out of all teams at Stanford. Maddie returned to EMU in August of 2022 to complete her degree with on-line courses. And in December 2022, she was named to the College Sports Communicators inaugural 30 under 30 class.



### **Abigail Kissinger ~ Bachelors of Science in Sport Management Program**

Abigail Kissinger is a senior from Indiana who majored in Sport Management with minors in Communications and General Business. During her four years at Eastern, she had the opportunity to intern with Eastern's Athletics Compliance office, and was an Assistant Camp Director at the Saline Recreation Center. She also served as President of the Gymnastics Club. Abigail would like to thank her professors for always showing support and facilitating an engaging learning environment. Abigail plans on continuing her education next year at law school.



### **Jalissa Long-Jolley ~ Masters of Social Work Program**

Throughout Jalissa's undergraduate and graduate education at EMU, she has maintained standing on the Dean's list. She has been awarded multiple scholarships including the Presidential Difference Maker Scholarship, the Donald M. Loppnow Scholarship, the Maxine and Donald Barr Scholarship, and the 2020 Women of Excellence Scholarship. Jalissa has strived to make education her priority in spite of personal adversities throughout her six years at EMU. In addition to academic achievements, Jalissa has been involved with the community through work with various populations in the social work field including individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the aging population, survivors of domestic violence, communities experiencing food insecurity, families experiencing homelessness, students demonstrating various academic, behavioral, and emotional needs, and families experiencing significant grief. Jalissa has learned that despite presenting needs, every individual has a unique set of strengths and experiences that deserve to be acknowledged, empathized with, valued, listened to, and given patience. Jalissa plans to utilize what she has learned throughout her future social work career as she engages in self-reflective practice. She feels appreciative and honored to be recognized as the CHHS MSW student of the year.



### **Kelly McLaughlin ~ Masters of Science in Nursing Program**

Kelly McLaughlin is an adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioner student who exemplifies excellence in all aspects of her clinical and academic studies. Kelly has consistently held high honors in the academic setting in both her undergraduate and graduate studies. Kelly has contributed over 9 years of service in nursing, providing holistic, compassionate care to those in need. Her patients value the care that she provides as evidenced by the numerous 'Making a Difference' Awards she has received during her time in nursing. Kelly has a desire to work in Women's Health upon graduation and has a passion to continue her service in the advanced practice nursing role. Kelly is a nurse of strong character who exhibits a positive attitude, motivation, and commitment to go above and beyond the expectations of others. Kelly has a solid knowledge base and is seen as a leader in her class. Kelly has a strong interest in helping others as well as supporting her fellow classmates in meeting their full potential. Her commitment to developing other students goes beyond her classmates. Kelly currently functions in the role of President for the MiCNP student chapter here at Eastern Michigan University. She actively coordinates graduate nursing student activities, fundraisers, and mentorship events through her role as the President. Kelly is highly deserving of this award and with her enthusiasm, abilities, and dedication, I am confident that she will continue to positively influence health care and the profession of nursing.



### **Jackie Mueller ~ Bachelors of Health Administration**

Jackie Mueller is a senior who will graduate with her Bachelors of Science in Health Administration this spring. During her time at Eastern, Jackie has excelled academically – earning all As in her health administration courses! Beyond the classroom, Jackie has grown professionally and connected with her peers and professors in various ways, including serving as the Vice President of HASO, the Health Administration Student Organization. Outside of school, Jackie stays busy working out, reading, going to concerts, spending time outdoors, practicing yoga, and spending time with the people she cares about. After graduation, Jackie's goal is to work in human resources because she has a passion for helping people reach their goals and she wants to support a business with other objectives relating to workplace environment and policies. The Health Administration faculty are so impressed with Jackie's efforts to achieve her own professional goals, we have no doubt that she will have a successful career in HR helping others to do the same.





**Kristin Pachy ~ Masters of Public Health Education Program**

Kristin Pachy is currently a student in the Master of Public Health in Health Education program and will be graduating this spring. She is the graduate assistant for the Office of Health Promotion and is also an intern at the Office of Wellness. She completed her undergraduate degree in Public Health-Community Health Education at Eastern Michigan University during which she served as the Vice President of Eta Sigma Gamma. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist. Her interests include the health and wellness of non-traditional college students as well as health promotion and injury prevention for the aging population.



**Mallory Russo ~ Bachelors of Science in Therapeutic Recreation Program**

Mallory Russo is a student in the Therapeutic Recreation Program. Mallory is an exemplary role model in and outside the classroom. In the classroom, Mallory is engaged and is someone that peers often turn to for assistance. Mallory's instructor describes her as "kind, has a wonderful sense of humor, patient, creative, and has the ability to bring people together." Mallory is the first one to offer assistance and can be found helping others with various assignments, giving advice or being a listening ear. Outside of class, she is an active member of the Student Therapeutic Recreation Organization (STRO) and, this year, stepped into the role of President and hit the ground running. She also is a board member for the Adapted Sports Club. As president for the STRO, she has planned Lunch-n-Learns, board exam study groups, and other social get togethers; and has been working tirelessly to raise funds for as many TR students as possible to attend a professional development conference in April of this year. In addition to coursework and extracurricular activities, her practicum supervisor indicated that she is a huge asset to the Therapeutic Recreation department at Canton Leisure Services where her heart is put into all the programs and events she helps implement. Her ability to connect with participants and staff so they have the best experience possible does not go unnoticed and will serve her well in her career in recreational therapy.



**Nour Selmane ~ Bachelors of Science in Public Health Program**

Nour Selmane is currently a student in the Public Health Program with a concentration in Health Education. She is an active member of the Muslim Student Association at EMU currently serving as secretary for the organization. Nour actively pursues opportunities to engage in public health at EMU with other students and faculty. In the community, Nour is a volunteer at Michigan Medicine serving as a liaison between patients and nurses in the hospital and assists Occupational Therapists in preparing activities for patients. She is also on the Youth Committee within the Muslim American Society of Detroit providing perspective to the organization for service to the community. Her interests are vast with a focus on global health.



### **Kaitlyn StBernard ~ Masters in Exercise Physiology Program**

Kaitlyn StBernard is a graduate student in the Combined Exercise Science [BS] + Exercise Physiology [MS] program. Kaitlyn has demonstrated exceptional academic skills throughout her degree and has a graduate-level GPA of 4.0. Kaitlyn has conducted research on the important topic of physical activity and mental health among college students, and she delivered an insightful presentation on this project at the Mid-Michigan Symposium for Undergraduate Research Experiences. Alongside her educational activities, Kaitlyn works as a full-time medical assistant and fulfills her role as a student-athlete at EMU. Kaitlyn's experiences will support her as she pursues a career as a physician assistant with a focus on cardiology.



### **Nicole Young ~ Masters of Science in Dietetics Program**

Nicole Young is a Coordinated Program in Dietetics M.S. student with anticipated graduation in August, 2023. She has a background in the culinary field and has worked as a chef and cook in Ann Arbor for twenty years. She decided to change careers to focus on the science and health aspect of food through dietetics. Previously, she earned an associate degree in Culinary Management from Washtenaw Community College in 2008 and completed a bachelor degree at Eastern Michigan University in 2021. She expects to stay in Southeast or Mid-Michigan and work as a long term care or clinical dietitian. Her areas of interest include nutrition support, food allergies, plant-based diets, and LGBTQ health. She looks forward to giving back to the profession by serving as a preceptor for future dietetics students. Her hobbies include cooking, running with her dog, knitting, and traveling.



### **CeNique Wilson ~ Bachelors of Science in Dietetics Program**

CeNique Wilson was born and raised in Michigan. She completed her first bachelor's in Communications with an emphasis in Journalism at Grand Valley State University. During her junior year she studied abroad for a semester at Veritas university in San Jose, Costa Rica. CeNique looks forward to working as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist in an outpatient setting, and eventually gaining experience in private practice. She is a group leader at MOPs, an organization that encourages, equips and provides communal support for moms of young children. CeNique currently lives in Southfield with her husband, 3-year old daughter, 4 month old son, and blue pit Mamba.