



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE of ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS

Spring Newsletter 2024

April 25, 2024



The Zen 10 observed Mac Hanger fitting his patient with an Ossur Power knee.

Zen 10 Semester Recap

Class of Spring 2025

Our first semester focused on the foundational knowledge needed for becoming practitioners through our classes in pathology, neuroanatomy, and human anatomy and physiology. We also learned the fundamentals of gait analysis through our clinical gait analysis class, where it was emphasized that the key to recognizing pathological gait is by understanding the principles of normal gait. The concepts in our classes were reinforced by in-class assignments, presentations, exams, and lots of studying.

We also had some amazing guest presentations and the privilege of several alumni zooming in to talk to our class about their experience and opportunities as students and currently as residents, giving us helpful advice on looking for clinical rotations and residencies soon.



Helix 3d Running Gait Analysis w/ Doug Adams, Run DNA



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Core 34 Semester Recap

Class of Fall 2024

We began this semester by focusing on Laboratory Skills and ended with the completion of our first Total Surface Bearing socket and were able to fit our sockets on our patient models, performing both static and dynamic assessments. Throughout the semester, we had many insightful guest speakers from leaders in the field who shared their knowledge and expertise, giving us valuable insights into new technologies and industry trends.

We worked with patient models for two projects allowing us to apply our skills in evaluations, fittings, and assessments. Having patient models allowed us to get feedback and insight into the patient's experience. Our coursework covered a range of topics including Laboratory Skills, Orthotic Management, Prosthetic Management, Orthotic Management of the Spine, and Clinical Evaluation Tools, providing us with a well-rounded understanding of our field.

In addition to our academic pursuits, we took part in advocacy efforts in Tallahassee to promote growth and opportunities in our field. We also enjoyed some fun activities like Gasparilla, the Valspar Championship, and hanging out with Grace Prosthetics for our Back to School BBQ. Overall, this semester has been a blend of learning, practical application, and enjoyable experiences that have enriched our understanding and prepared us for the future.





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Student Spotlight: Meet Leah Elsea

Leah is a native from Piney Flats, TN. She completed her undergraduate degree at Tennessee Tech University, where she majored in Exercise Science. Her journey into the world of orthotics/prosthetics began at a young age when she relied on AFO's for mobility and how they allowed her to keep up with her peers. The profound impact these devices had on her life fueled her passion for helping others facing similar challenges. Driven by her personal experiences, Leah aspires to pursue a career as a CPO, where she can make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Her desire to personalize treatment plans stems from her belief in the importance of understanding everyone's unique needs and circumstances. During her time in college, Leah had the opportunity to shadow professionals in the orthotics/prosthetics field, further deepening her interest and commitment to the profession. These experiences solidified her passion and fueled her determination to pursue her dreams. She is excited about the opportunity to empower others to overcome physical challenges and live life to the fullest.



Alumni Interview with Michael Maschiontonio

What drew you to the field of O&P?

I always had a passion to be involved in the medical field. I wanted to find a field that mixed being hands-on with patients and being creative in what solution we find. O&P was the solution to that passion.

Where did you start your journey in the field?

IIOP was the true start to my journey in this field. Prosthetic care was always in the back of my mind as I was working as an engineer working with orthopaedic trauma implants. IIOP gave me my first taste of O&P and I have loved every second of being in this field.

Tell us a bit about your residency experience thus far?

My residency has been incredible so far. I have a great group of clinicians supporting me and helping me learn at Hanger in Nashville, TN. This is a very fast-paced clinic with unique cases to learn from. I'm always challenged to improve my skills while learning from the years of experience the clinicians and techs have around me.

What advice would you give our current students?

Never be afraid to ask for help or clarity on something. Every patient is unique. The book answers are a great starting point but there will be situations where you may

need another person's experience to help you grow.

Please add anything else you feel would be relevant or should be noted.

The professors at IIOP gave me the tools to get started in my residency. They are great lifelong resources and friends that are always happy to talk on the phone about anything interesting going on.



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Highlights of IIOF Spring Semester Events

Core 34 White Coat Ceremony



Gasparilla 2024



Back to School BBQ

The BBQ was kindly provided by Grace Prosthetic Fabrication, Inc!



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Tallahassee Legislative Day

Great day spent in Tallahassee! Our students had the opportunity to tour the Florida Capitol, meet Florida Representatives, and discuss the importance of the orthotics and prosthetics field.



2024 AOPA Policy Forum in Washington, D.C.

Lightning Hockey Game

The Zen 10 cheered the Tampa Bay Lightning on at an end-of-season game!





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Upcoming Events

- White Coat Ceremony May 10
- Special Olympics Florida State Summer Games May 17-18
- Warrior Games June 21-30

Volunteer Opportunities with IIOOP

Summer Semester

- IIOOP Mock CPM: Monday, August 12
Would you like to be an examiner or a patient model for our senior class?
 - Email Olivia@iiofoandp.org for more information

Fall Semester

- Mock CMP: Friday, August 30th
 - Open to the public register here
<https://iioop.catalog.instructure.com/courses/8302024-mock-clinical-patient-management-cpm-examination>
- IIOOP Mock CPM: Tuesday, December 3rd

Ongoing Opportunities

- Need to fulfill your Quarterly Residency Activities? Present a Case to our students. Virtual and Live presentation options are available.
 - Email kali@iiofoandp.org for more information
- Research Assistance: Are you interested in mentoring current students with research?
 - Email ryan@iiofoandp.org for more information
- Assist with Class Projects: Would you like to get back into the classroom and share your knowledge with current students?
 - Email drorbea@iiofoandp.org for more information



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What's New at IIOP

- **Orthotic Fitter's CE Course and Pedorthics CE Course are now offered during the spring and fall semesters.** For more information, visit <https://iiop.catalog.instructure.com/>
- **What is POP Ambassadors**
Being a POP ambassador helps promote the Prosthetic, Orthotic and Pedorthic (POP) profession. POP Ambassadors share their personal experiences with students through career fairs, high school career days, speaking opportunities, mentorship programs and more. For more information about becoming an ambassador, please visit <https://www.abcop.org/career-awareness>.
- **Alumni Association**
IIOP is starting an association to help connect alumni and current students! If you are interested in participating, please email the IIOP Student Government Association at studentgovernment@iiifoandp.org for more information.