

NUPOC NEWS

*The official newsletter of the
Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center*



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Student Success

At NUPOC, we are continually inspired by our students' dedication, resilience, and passion for advancing the field of prosthetics and orthotics.

Congratulations to our 2024 Tamarack Award winners: **Jacob Frehlich, Abby Citterman,** and **Kelbi Magnuson.**

We also celebrate **Victoria McFarland** (MPO26) for earning the Hanger Foundation Diversity Scholarship, a testament to her commitment to fostering inclusivity in our field.

During the annual Dean's Reception, several students were recognized for their outstanding achievements:

- **Kelsey Macaddino & Jaden Schovanec:** Emerging Young Professional Award
- **Lily Centra:** Distinguished NUPOC Student Award
- **Anapaula Avila & Eli Jones:** Peer Advocate Award

Congratulations to **Kelsey Macaddino, Yasmin Al Nadi, Anapaula Avila, Lily Centra,** and **Sara Khan** for receiving the 2024–2025 ABC Scholarships.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and their remarkable achievements. Their dedication, innovation, and drive continue to inspire us and shape the future of prosthetics and orthotics. Congratulations to each of you for your hard work and well-deserved success!

Recent NUPOC Publications

NUPOC's research team has had several recent publications that have contributed significantly to prosthetics and rehabilitation. These studies explore various critical topics, from the dynamic mechanics of unimpaired walking across different surfaces and speeds to the effects of innovative prosthetic technologies on user mobility and quality of life. Recent publications include:

Dynamic Mean Ankle Moment Arm in Unimpaired Walking (J Biomech Eng, Sep 2024): This study investigates the ankle moment arm in unimpaired walking across speeds, ramps, and stairs, providing valuable insights into gait mechanics.

Exploring the Effects of Increased Socket-Residual Limb Coupling Integrity via Vacuum Assisted Suspension (Disabil Rehabil, Aug 2024): This preliminary study examines how enhanced socket-residual limb coupling impacts prosthetic control in transtibial prosthesis users.

The Effects of Slope-Adaptive Prosthetic Feet on Sloped Gait Performance (J Prosthet Orthot, Jul 2024): This scoping review looks at the performance of slope-adaptive prosthetic feet and their potential to improve the gait of unilateral transtibial prosthesis users on sloped surfaces.

Validating a Fear-of-Falling-Related Activity Avoidance Scale in Lower Limb Prosthesis Users (PM R, May 2024): This research validates a scale designed to assess fear of falling and activity avoidance in individuals with lower limb prostheses, offering new insights into the psychological impact of prosthetic use.

Development and Reliability Testing of the Functional Lower-Limb Amputee Gait Assessment (Clin Rehabil, Dec 2023): This article presents the development and testing of a new tool for assessing the functional gait of lower-limb amputees, a crucial step toward improving clinical evaluations.



Meet Rachel Lyons, Our New Communications Coordinator



We are delighted to introduce Rachel Lyons as our new Communications Coordinator! Rachel comes to us with a background in communications, marketing, and digital media. She earned her Master of Science in Digital Media Management from the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Rachel has worked in higher education and social media management, most recently at Indiana University Northwest, where she supported event logistics, communications operations, and social media outreach for the School of the Arts. She enjoys working on creative projects that connect with audiences, whether through crafting digital campaigns, writing newsletters, or supporting events.

Passionate about community-building and storytelling, Rachel is excited to contribute her skills to this role and continue learning along the way. We are thrilled to have her on board and look forward to the positive impact she will make!



DEI Initiatives

The NUPOC Prosthetics and Orthotics Explorations Program was recently launched, and several hands-on tours were hosted for high school students from the Chicago area. Over the past few months, more than 100 students have participated in these educational visits, gaining firsthand exposure to prosthetics and orthotics. Among the visited schools are Richard T. Crane Medical Prep High School, Lyons Township High School, and Daniel Hale Williams Preparatory School of Medicine.

NUPOC aims to inspire and educate the next generation of medical professionals by fostering an early interest in the innovative and impactful field of prosthetics and orthotics. The program introduces students to this specialty's transformative role in improving the quality of life for individuals with limb loss or mobility challenges through engaging demonstrations and interactive learning opportunities. By connecting with these young learners, NUPOC not only showcases career pathways in healthcare but also emphasizes the importance of compassion, creativity, and dedication in shaping the future of medicine.

NUPOC has also decided to launch a bi-annual DEI newsletter starting this year, so stay tuned to hear more about our DEI initiatives!

In Memory of John Michael, MEd, CPO, LPO, FAAOP, FISPO



John Michael, a trailblazer in the field of prosthetics and orthotics, passed away on July 25th, 2024. Over decades of service, John made profound contributions to the profession as a clinician, educator, and researcher. At our very own Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center, he served as Director of Education, where he played a pivotal role in merging NUPOC with the Prosthetics-Orthotics Research Laboratory, creating a unified space for education and research. He was instrumental in establishing NUPOC's Master of Prosthetics and Orthotics (MPO) program, a groundbreaking initiative that continues to benefit students and advance the field.

John's dedication earned him numerous accolades, including the Titus-Ferguson Lifetime Achievement Award, and recognition as an outstanding researcher, clinician, and practitioner. Beyond NUPOC, he served as president of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists and was a Fellow of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, leaving an indelible mark on the global community.

John's family has requested that donations in his memory be made to The O&P Foundation for Education and Research. To honor his legacy, please consider contributing at <https://form.jotform.com/242315083615148>.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family and celebrate his remarkable legacy that continues to shape the future of prosthetics and orthotics.

Sponsoring our White Coat Ceremony

Receiving a white coat is a significant milestone in the medical field, symbolizing dedication and the transition into clinical practice. NUPOC is thrilled to announce our second annual white coat fundraiser, celebrating this momentous occasion for our students. The ceremony will take place on January 31st, 2025. We invite you to be part of this special event by sponsoring a white coat and connecting with our students as they embark on their professional journeys. To learn more about this meaningful giving opportunity and how to contribute, click [here](#).



Class photo of the MPO 2025 cohort, taken in December 2024 before transitioning to the final online portion of their program. The MPO program includes six months online, one year in person, and a concluding three months online. The cohort will return for graduation in the spring.



Class photo of the MPO 2026 cohort, taken during their orientation in summer 2024.



Photo of MPO 2026 students on their first day of class, January 6th, 2025.



Giving Opportunities

Donor support is essential to our continued success. Your gift can help support emerging researchers, P&O clinicians, and programs that will improve the lives of people who live with amputation or other physical impairments.

Contribute [online](#). Or contact FSM Development (T: 312-503-2706)

NUPOC appreciates your generosity

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