

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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## **OPAF Selects Jennifer Murphy as 2016 Dale Yasukawa Scholarship Winner**

July 10, 2016 – Charlotte, NC – OPAF, the Orthotic & Prosthetic Activities Foundation is pleased to announce that Jennifer L. Murphy has been selected as the 2016 Dale Yasukawa Scholarship Winner. Murphy, a native of Clifton Park, New York, has been working towards her Masters degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics at Northwestern University, following career choices and educational pursuits within the O & P field since 2013. The OPAF Scholarship committee felt that Jennifer demonstrates a real commitment to the care of people that our profession serves.



“I’ve always wanted to glue and frame a completed puzzle, which requires having a plan from the beginning. I’ve been meticulously gluing my puzzle pieces down simply because I’ve known for years that this was the puzzle I was going to finish and frame....Putting my puzzle together has been one of my greatest joys, but it cant stop here, I have to keep finding more pieces to make it even more colorful and full then it already is” said Murphy.

In November 2001, a memorial fund was established at OPAF in the name of Dale Yasukawa CP. Yasukawa, who died on November 22, 2001 at the age of 43, served as director of prosthetics at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) in the department of prosthetic-orthotic clinical services. He began his work with RIC in 1988 as a physical therapy aid. In 1990, he joined the O&P clinical services department, and in 1991 Yasukawa attended the Northwestern University prosthetics certificate program. He became an ABC-certified prosthetist in 1993 and throughout his career worked with patients of all ages - children, young adults, and geriatrics. Yasukawa was involved in the Midwest Chapter of the American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists for over seven years, completing his service as immediate past president in 2001. In cooperation with Linda Yasukawa, PT, MS, OPAF has created a scholarship program connected to Dale's memorial fund. This scholarship program is currently open to all full-time Master's candidates enrolled in Northwestern University's Prosthetic Program at Northwestern University Prosthetic Orthotic Center (NUPOC). The chief purpose of the scholarship is to encourage student participation in their local annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP). It is expected that the award will be used specifically to defray meeting registration fees of their local AAOP meeting and assist in the purchasing of books, supplies, and equipment needed for ongoing studies at NUPOC.

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**About OPAF:** Serving as the philanthropic arm of the US orthotic and prosthetic community, the Orthotic & Prosthetic Activities Foundation (OPAF), develops, implements, partners and hosts adaptive recreational clinics for those with physical challenges. The First Clinics are recognized as leaders in adaptive recreation. Whether this is the first time a participant is trying an activity after illness, injury or episode or the first time they are ever trying, First Clinics offer top notch adaptive instruction specifically for them. Founded in 1995 to support the Paralympic Games in Atlanta, OPAF & The First Clinics have moved forward to offer introductory level adaptive recreation opportunities to everyone, not just the elite athlete. For more information on OPAF and The First Clinics, visit [www.opafonline.org](http://www.opafonline.org).