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M.S. in Physical Therapy (SWTSU) 2001

B.S. in Orthotics/Prosthetics (UT Southwestern Medical Center) 1997

Certified by the American Board of O&P 1999

Licensed by Texas Board of O&P

Kevin Kimbell, C.P.O.

B.S. in Orthotics/ Prosthetics (UT Southwestern Medical Center) 2002

BS in Kinesiology (UT Austin) 1999

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Chase Brown, C.P.O.

B.S. in Orthotics/ Prosthetics (UT Southwestern Medical Center) 2003

B.A. in Communications (Texas A&M)1998

Certified by the American Board of O&P 2005

Peer Visiting & Support

We, at OPT, have 3 certified amputee peer visitors on staff. Frieda, Louisa, and Heather are Certified Amputee Peer Visitors. We are able to offer this service at no charge to our surrounding communities. Facing amputation can be very trying, difficult, and upsetting. Often a visit from someone who has been through a similar situation and just to see someone walking, and back enjoying life, will do wonders for the amputee or someone facing amputation.

Frieda facilitates The Round Rock Amputee Support Group. Our meeting this month will be August 28th at 7:00 p.m. at Round Rock Medical Center . We are having Physical Therapist, Kerri Kallus, MSPT., speak with us about suggestions for improving our gaits and different exercises to do. Join us for a great outing to The Round Rock Express Baseball Game on August 17th. Call Frieda or email for more info. Please call our office or Frieda Borth @ 512-791-8864 for more information about Peer Visiting or The Amputee Support Group.



OPT sent Heather, Louisa, and Frieda to the Amputee Coalition of America Conference July 2008 in Atlanta , Georgia. They attended the Exhibits with all the new technologies available in the Prosthetic field and attended many educational sessions from topics as broad as pain management, support group leader workshop, Prosthetic Parity, upper extremity limb loss, gait analysis workshop, etc. The Conference offered an abundance of classes and seminars which made it difficult to commit to one thing or another. Louisa took dancing classes, Frieda played tennis, and Heather attended a bi-lateral lower extremity mobility workshop, these were just a few highlights! They took it all in.

The Conference had a record attendance this year with nearly 1,000 people. The girls had a wonderful opportunity to speak with prosthetists, PT's, amputees, and vendors from all over, where they were able to exchange lots of information. It was and always will be a memorable life experience for any and all that attend, and a wonderful gift of an opportunity.

They look forward to next year already!



Austin 512-377-2323

San Marcos 512-754-9928

Round Rock 512-255-4400

www.optaustin.com

Feature Client of this month



Tyler Briers is a senior at Drippings Springs High School. He has definitely done his fair share of learning and personal growth in his last couple of years in his high school, while also getting adjusted to being a unilateral below the knee amputee. In September 2007, Tyler had been driving his car over a low water crossing with a couple of friends, when the car slid to the bank of the road. As they were trying to get his car back on the road, the car caught the current and came down on Tyler's leg just above the ankle. His leg was badly broken, though he was lucky not to have been pinned down by the car underwater. While in the hospital, the doctors tried to do limb salvage and that is where Tyler was first introduced to OPT. Frieda did a peer visit with Tyler before he went to surgery for a transtibial amputation. Tyler came into the OPT office three weeks later, and received his first prosthesis in one short month after his surgery. He quickly became active, and was able to move into the Cheetah Flex Foot. With this foot, he is able to participate in his physical activities with a much higher level of performance.



Tyler is a varsity cheerleader at Dripping Springs High School, and also a member of the Elite Cheer Co., at levels 4&5 teams, which went undefeated this year in competition. He says "my goals with cheerleading are to get a scholarship to LSU and eventually cheer for a championship football game for the Tigers! After high school, I would like to go to LSU, and enter the Manship school for Mass Communication, and major in advertising with a minor in linguistics with Spanish".

Tyler says "although I try to make the best use of my legs, I would be between a rock and a hard spot if I didn't have someone to give me some support and guidance in obtaining them. OPT is a wonderful place as they help me by providing different prostheses, and pointing me in the direction of how to best use them, but leaving it up to me how to use them to their fullest. It is a great place full of great people. They seem so much more like a family to me than a group of practitioners. I am so grateful to have them in my life. They were essential to me getting past the hard times to where I am today."

OPT Technical Corner



Tyler Briers wears a Cheetah which is a custom foot for track and field sports. It is preferred as a transtibial sprinting foot but may be suitable for transfemoral amputees. Due to its superior functionality the Cheetah is the favorite choice of a large majority of professional athletes. There is a Cheetah Flex-Sprint that has a custom foot module for

track sprinting, it is the optimal transtibial sprinting foot, and then the Cheetah Flex-Run which is a custom foot module for distance running, it is light weight, with vertical compliance which yields efficient energy return.

Angelina

We are in the process of making a Prosthesis for a miniature horse named, Angelina. Our CPO, Chase Brown jumped at the chance and challenge to work with this little horse. We have an exclusive story with KXAN's spectacular Jim Swift. Story is to air August 11th at 10 p.m. if everything stays on schedule. Go to KXAN to view video. Our website will have a link soon.



OPT News

OPT's Physical Therapy Management of the Lower Extremity

Amputee Course

CEU Credits: 8

Friday September, 26 2008

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Location: Austin Community College

3401 Webberville Rd. Austin, TX

Presented by Orthotic Prosthetic Technologies, Inc.

This course will cover lower extremity amputee rehabilitation: Including AK/BK amputee gait training, emotional aspects of amputation, along with hands on lab activities in the afternoon. We invite new and experienced physical therapists to attend who are interested in amputee rehabilitation.

Please call 377-2323 for more info or e-mail Aaron at aaronforeman@optaustin.com

Welcome

We would like to welcome **Susan Kestner**, C.P.O. to our OPT staff. Susan has her M.S. in Orthotics/Prosthetics (Georgia Tech) 2005, B.S. in Materials Engineering (Cornell University) 1999, and Certified by the American Board of O&P 2007. We are very pleased to have her on board and know her patients will think as highly of her as we do.

Also, we would like to welcome **John Paul Snapp**, whom has started his residency in Orthotics and Prosthetics at OPT. John Paul has his Certificate in Orthotics/Prosthetics from Northwestern University (2008), B.S. from University of North Texas in Education (1994). John Paul worked in our Lab as a Technician while working on his Certificate, and we are very pleased to have him doing his residency with OPT.