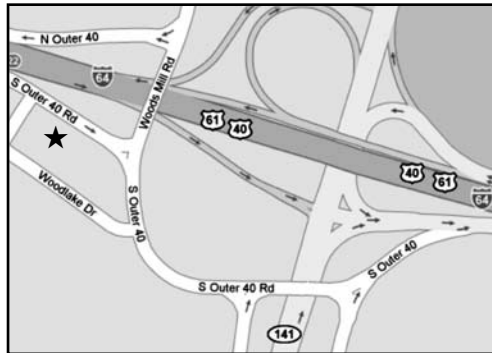


*A newsletter keeping you informed and in touch with the orthotic and prosthetic community in St. Louis*

## West County Office Coming Soon!!!

Orthotic & Prosthetic Design is opening a new patient care facility located at highway 141 and 40 in west St. Louis County. Our new office is located in Woodsmill Center; our new address is 14384 S. Outer 40 Rd. Town & Country, Mo 63017. The new location will enable O&P Design to better serve it's current patients in West and South St. Louis counties. As well as extending care to patients currently utilizing doctors in the west county health corridor.



ABC certified professionals will be available Monday through Friday 8:00 am until 4:30 pm to serve your orthotic and prosthetic needs. The new facility plans to open around mid October. Until then, our St. Louis patient care center and our St. Peters patient care center are available to service all your orthotic and prosthetic needs. We are happy to offer this new location in addition to our current locations and we hope it will be a further convenience for all patients.

## O&P Design, Accredited Provider of the Marlo Anatomical Socket (M.A.S):

A new concept in Above-Knee Socket Design



Mark Wilson of O & P Design has become an accredited provider of the M.A.S. socket design. Like many innovations in prosthetics, this new development began with an amputee requesting something better. It started in 1999 with prosthetist Marlo Ortiz of Ortiz Internacional, S.A. de C.V., Mexico trimming down the posterior wall of an ischial containment socket. What evolved is a socket configuration now called the M.A.S. design and what may be the most important improvement on the ischial containment concept in the past 60 years.

This socket design allows for greater range of motion, is less visible and provides more comfort for above-knee patients. Senor Ortiz found that lowering the height of the posterior wall enabled easier encapsulation of the ischial tuberosity. This design results in a more natural appearance, improving proprioception and comfort when sitting. Patients are even able to sit cross legged! The low trim lines allow the patient to sit on the gluteus maximus and not the plastic socket (See Picture).

Clinical experience has proven this socket design can provide the amputee with an unprecedented range of activity and passive motion required for daily living. For more information contact our offices.

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**Check out our  
new website  
Coming Soon!**

## MCPLL Summer BBQ And Washer Toss: A Hit!



On August 9th, the Missouri Coalition for People with Limb Loss (MCPLL) hosted a BBQ and Washer toss to raise funds for Prosthetic Parity. The event was a hit, raising \$3,000! Attendees enjoyed a delicious BBQ dinner, washers, and good company as well as some outstanding attendance prizes such as Rams tickets, Cardinals tickets, Raging River passes and Olive Garden Gift cards. Event sponsors included O&P Design, Knit-Rite, P&O Care, Otto Bock and Hanger.

The MCPLL was formed in 2007 to address insurance disparity for prosthetics. Members of the coalition as well as amputees across Missouri are fighting for equal coverage of prosthetic devices from insurance companies. Nearly 2 million people in the United States currently live with limb loss and approximately 29,000 in Missouri. Unfortunately, insurance companies have deceived employers, working Missourians, and amputees into believing these devices are covered when in truth they

are capped at less than one-fourth to one half the cost of a prosthetic. The cost of prosthetic parity to private health insurance is approximately \$3.00 per year per member. Legislation in regard to this issue will be re-introduced to the Missouri legislative body in 2009. It is the fervent hope of everyone involved that the bill will pass. Please see below for how you can get involved!



### How You Can Help

1. Write or call your state legislators and ask them to support parity in Missouri.
2. Submit a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
3. Attend an MCPLL meeting or check out the website to learn more: [www.molimbloss.blogspot.com](http://www.molimbloss.blogspot.com)
4. Get your community involved by informing those in your life of the issues facing amputees. Tell a friend, a pastor, co-workers etc.

Jeff Damerall, Colaition Chairman as well as Jean Freeman, Secretary of the coalition in addition to members Suzy Schumacher, Bill Brannan and Brent Stafford (among others) would welcome your help. To volunteer or just to find out more, contact Jeff Damerall at (314) 853-1910 or through the coalition website listed above.

*MCPLL hosts BBQ to raise funds for prosthetic parity. The event raised \$3,000!*

## Meet Jean Freeman: Fighting for Missourians with Limb Loss

Jean was born with Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency otherwise known as PFFD. This congenital birth defect caused both her left femur (thigh bone) and left hip to be underdeveloped. This birth defect meant her left leg was significantly shorter than her right. Shortly after her birth, Jean's mother sought the advice of orthopedic surgeons at Shriners Hospital of St. Louis. They recommended performing a Symes Amputation where they would amputate her left foot, so she could walk with the aid of a prosthesis. Jean's mother traveled to Toronto, Canada to gather more information on another option, the Van Ness procedure. After meeting with Canadian physicians, Jean's mother felt the Symes Amputation would be better suited for her daughter.



Jean had her left foot amputated in 1982 and began walking shortly thereafter with the aid of her first prosthesis from Shriners Hospital. She had seven other surgeries and received all of her prosthetic care from the wonderful prosthetists at Shriners until she aged out of their system.

She graduated from Lindbergh High School in the top ten percent of her class! Jean participated in the spirit of St. Louis Marching Band, which required physical strength and endurance; as well as many other school activities.

After graduating from high school, she attended Truman State University, where during her freshman year she participated in the marching band. Jean was very involved in many community activities. She graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology/Anthropology. She began her Master in Social Work program at St. Louis University in January 2006 and the Master of Public Health program a few months later. Jean graduated from Saint Louis University in 2006 and now works for a local health department.

Jean's experiences growing up as an individual with a disability had profound impact on her. She knows what it is like to experience challenges due to her disability, but she meets those challenges head on. The payment caps placed on her prosthesis by health insurance companies is an example of a challenge that Jean faces along with many other amputees. Jean first became aware of these caps as a graduate student when she had a \$5,000 annual limit on her prosthesis. Unfortunately, her above-the-knee prosthesis costs between \$15,000 - \$20,000! Jean became very



frustrated with the limits that health insurance companies placed on a device that she depends on everyday. Her prosthetist, Mark Wilson, told her about an upcoming meeting of individuals wanting to fight for better coverage of prosthetic devices. Jean attended that first meeting and became immediately involved in the fight for prosthetic parity. She was amongst several amputees and prosthetic company employees to begin the Missouri Coalition for People with Limb Loss (MCPLL) in 2007. She first became secretary of the MCPLL and then Vice Chairwoman as well. Rep. Cooper helped sponsor the first prosthetic parity bill in 2008. Jean was one of the group members who testified at the Missouri State Capital on April 1, 2008 concerning that bill. They testified during a Senate Hearing on a relate prosthetic sponsored by Senator Griesheimer and at a House Hearing concerning their prosthetic parity bill. The MCPLL has much support from other amputees and prosthetists at both hearings, but especially at the House Hearing. The support that was received made a profound impact on the attending legislatures. Jean felt empowered sharing her testimony in front of the health insurance lobbyists who represented three insurance companies; whose health care plans contained prosthetic coverage caps! Jean had been an ember of each of the three insurance companies represented at the hearing and she had suffered under their current policy caps. The MCPLL is focusing on raising money in order to further their legislative efforts and recruit more members throughout the state. As always, Jean became involved in fighting for equality for disabled individuals throughout Missouri.

# Natalie Du Toit: Olympic Hero

Natie Du Toit was an up and coming swimmer who just missed qualifying for the Sydney games when her life took a tragic turn in 2001. Sadly she was involved in a motorcycle accident that took her left leg, despite the many efforts of her doctors to save it. Yet instead of giving up, Natalie, was back in the water a brief six months later. Swimming made her feel whole again, though she wasn't competitive with able bodied athletes, where legs are vital for starts and turns. Along came open water, which was added to the program for Beijing. There are no flip turns to negotiate in a marathon swim. In this open water competition the upper body is far more important. The 24 year old swimmer found her new calling and qualified for the Beijing summer games. With a time of 2 hours and 49.9 seconds Natalie finished 16th at the summer games ahead of 9 others including an American.



The South African resident, Natalie, is not the first disabled athlete to compete at the Olympics or even in Beijing. In 1904, George Eyser won three gold medals in gymnastics competing on a wooden leg! It's quite unusual for someone with a major disability to compete at this level, especially in a sport such as swimming in which the legs provide so much power. Natalie did remain in Beijing to compete in the Paralympic Games, but she did not receive a medal.

Natalie did not want any special treatment during her Olympic competitions. Her message isn't just to disabled people, but to everyone: you have to work hard for what you want. Natalie did not get a free ride, in the end she was an Olympian.

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