

Busy Mom and Student Finds Solace in Symes Prosthesis

With an active schedule of waitressing at a local diner, attending classes at Onondaga Community College, and raising her young daughter, Maggy Coonradt requires her prosthesis to work as hard as she does.

Maggy, 20, became an amputee at age 6 following a horrific car accident that broke both of her legs and her pelvic bone, and severed her toes. Because her anklebone was stable, surgeons performed a Symes amputation – an amputation through the ankle joint that retains the heel pad portion and provides a weight-bearing residual limb.

Since childhood, Maggy wore a standard Solid Ankle Cushioned Heel (SACH) foot, which served her well during her high school years when she was a varsity volleyball player and member of the homecoming and prom courts. But now that she is preparing for job interviews in her field of environmental technology/geosciences, she wants to present a chic, professional image.

“I want to look nice and wearing clunky shoes doesn’t

do it for me,” Maggy said.

Understanding her concerns is Mike Hall, CPO. Maggy became a patient of Mike’s less than a year ago after moving to the area from Virginia.

“I was talking to one of my regular customers at the diner who also is an amputee. He told me about Rehab Tech,” she said.

Mike was sympathetic to her desire for a prosthesis that would better suit her needs and lifestyle.

“Maggy wants to look like any other normal 20-year-old,” Mike

said. “She not only needed a prosthesis that would meet her demanding schedule as a student, waitress and mom to a 15-month-old, but she also wanted to present a more fashionable look when she goes out on social or professional occasions.”

Mike provided a solution that gave Maggy two different feet, which she easily can change by simply loosening a screw.

For everyday use, including the gym workouts Maggy hopes to work into her schedule, she wears Ossur’s Flex-Foot® Axia™ Foot. The Axia



provides proportional energy response and exceptional stability. It also has the option of a natural-looking foot cover with sandal toe.

More importantly for Maggy, Mike was able to fit her with the Kingsley high-heel fashion foot, which he customized to accommodate her Symes amputation. The foot has natural toes, and allows Maggy to wear high heels, wedges and fashion boots.

“I feel like a lady now,” Maggy said happily. “My old foot was ratty with the cosmesis deteriorating and

Continued on next page



the toes falling off. With this new foot, I'm grown up, looking nice and feeling sophisticated. I don't feel like a dork anymore."

To keep her new prosthesis secure, Mike fitted her with an ICEROSS® Stabilo® seal-in liner, which stops any unwanted movement and makes a firm connection.

"The liner suspends as if it was glued on, so Maggy can do any kind of activity she wants to do," Mike said.

Maggy said she is fortunate to find a prosthetist that finally understands her needs as a young patient.

"A lot of prosthetists don't really pay attention to young people and instead are more interested in telling you what you should do," Maggy said. "Mike's a pretty cool guy and he listens to me.

"Between raising my daughter and going to school, I'm a very busy person," Maggy said. "I'm lucky to have a prosthesis that can keep up with my busy lifestyle, and I'm very happy with my experience at Rehab Tech."

International Paper John Dillon Park a Haven for Nature Buffs

International Paper John Dillon Park, a 15,800-acre conservation easement, is the first wilderness area with facilities specially designed to accommodate people with disabilities, thanks to a partnership between International Paper (IP), Paul Smith's College and the state of New York.

The park is located in the central Adirondack Mountains. The adaptive facilities are on 200 forested acres within the park next to Grampus Lake, near the town of Long Lake.

The park was dedicated just two years ago and began operating in spring of 2006.

While many parks offer accessible restrooms and walkways, rarely are remote wilderness areas available to those with disabilities. The park was designed to meet that need, providing disabled access and facilities for camping, fishing, and enjoying nature in the Adirondack wilderness.

Amenities include a welcome center, nine Adirondack lean-tos

for camping, and an amphitheater, plus more than three miles of trails, built to the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Scenic points along the trails highlight nesting ospreys, a waterfall, a wetland boardwalk, and hardwood and pine forest areas. Lakeside docks are also available for observation, fishing and launching kayaks or canoes.

A partnership was formed with Paul Smith College, in which students of the college will manage and maintain it so they may receive hands-on training about forest management and conservation and managing outdoor recreation for people with disabilities.



For more information on International Paper John Dillon Park, visit <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/environmentdec/2005b/dillonpark1105.html>

Television's 'CSI' Star Champions the Disabled

Viewers of the hit TV series, "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," may be aware that its coroner, Albert Robbins, uses a crutch as a mobility aid on the series, and sometimes uses it humorously as his air guitar. But the crutch, or adaptive assistance device as he refers to it, is not a prop. Actor Robert David Hall, who plays Dr. Robbins, is a double amputee and even though he is now a very successful actor, he has shared the occupational struggles many people of disabilities encounter.



"It's hard to succeed as a person with disabilities," he said, citing a 2004

National Organization on Disability (NOD)/Harris survey, which finds that only 35 percent of disabled Americans hold full or part-time jobs, compared to 78 percent of Americans without disabilities.

Hall would like to see that number improve and he is not bashful about using his success and celebrity status to promote awareness of Americans with disabilities, including to the entertainment industry. According to a Screen Actors Guild study, 20 percent of all Americans have a physical or mental disability, but less than 2 percent of TV show characters display a disability and only one-half percent have speaking roles.

Performers with disabilities are 50 percent more likely to experience workplace discrimination than performers without disabilities.

"We have far to go to achieve true equality of opportunity," Hall said. "The images we see and the stories we

tell say a lot about our society. We are part of the story."

Hall frequently speaks to business and professional organizations on the need to overcome bias to the disabled.

"People need to be informed that persons with disabilities are like everyone else. I ask potential employers, 'are you looking at the disability or at the person? People with disabilities have the same right to succeed or fail as anyone else.'"

Hall became a double amputee after a fiery car crash in 1978. "It was a special day because I was selling my Volkswagen," he said.

"I had washed and waxed it, and the buyer was going to give me \$1,200 – the most money I had ever had at one time. I was heading north on the San Diego Freeway and coming the other way was a truck driver hauling a doublewide load of dirt or gravel. The guy had just stopped off at a bar for a six-pack lunch, and he went right through the chain link fence dividing the highway and ran me over."

Besides being trapped under tons of metal, Hall's gas tank exploded. Bystanders extinguished the fire, and he was extricated from his car. Hall spent seven months in a hospital recovering from burns over 65 percent of his body, several surgeries and the amputations.

Hall eventually was able to resume his career as a radio disc jockey in Los Angeles at KNX-FM where he remained for four years until a friend told him about an audition for a movie. Hall had taken acting

classes at UCLA and admits he was bitten by the acting bug. He landed a role as a burn survivor in Michael Apted's "Class Action," starring Gene Hackman and Laurence Fishburne. His appearance in "Class Action" led to roles in "West Wing," "Brooklyn South," "Touched By An Angel," "Promised Land," "Love and War," "Highway to Heaven," "L.A. Law," and "The Practice," to name a few.

But Hall said that he frequently was typecast. "A disabled person in a TV show was somebody who had a problem that the hero of the show had to help solve," Hall said. "I don't say this with any bitterness, but within our group, we refer to them as bitter cripple roles. But I learned something from every job, and eventually I was asked to audition for a one-day job on 'CSI.'"

"I am proud to give face to the issue that too few disabled are on television," he said. "It's important that people with disabilities are represented in movies and television, because it's not a complete picture without them. "No one mentions my disability on CSI – the message is Dr. Robbins does his job and he does it well.

Hall received the 2006 Ivy Bethune Diversity Trailblazers Award from Screen Actors Guild and the 1998 Harold Russell Award from the Media Access Office. This award is presented to actors who serve as role models for other disabled actors.

In demand as a public speaker, Hall spends time addressing a variety of organizations including The Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, The Amputee Coalition of America, and the World Burn Congress.

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HELPING OUR PATIENTS REACH THEIR GOALS



Otto Bock's Trias+ Foot Delivers Unique Design

Now moderate walkers can enjoy the high functionality of carbon fiber feet with the Otto Bock Trias+ foot. The new Trias+ was modeled from the natural human foot, so it provides exceptional walking function with easy rollover to reduce effort and conserve energy, improve gait symmetry, and reduce excessive forces on the contralateral limb.

The performance of the Trias+ has been verified through gait analysis. Biomechanical tests identify a similar rollover characteristic when comparing the Trias+ to the contralateral foot. As a result, the foot offers a secure, controlled action while improving amputee confidence and the ability to vary cadence. The superior gait characteristics of the Trias+ are a direct result of the unique

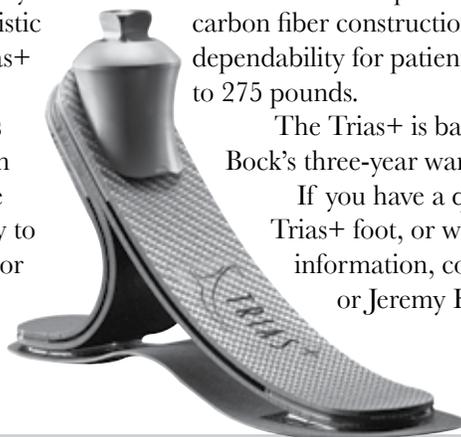
dual spring elements incorporated into its design.

In addition to the outstanding function of the Trias+, the combination of footshell and cosmesis connection cap creates several advantages. It stabilizes the ankle region and eases the application of a cosmetic cover for the practitioner.

The Trias+ foot is ideal for patients who meet K3 activity criteria and is suitable for transtibial, knee disarticulation, transfemoral, and hip disarticulation amputees. The durable carbon fiber construction ensures solid dependability for patients who weigh up to 275 pounds.

The Trias+ is backed by Otto Bock's three-year warranty.

If you have a question about the Trias+ foot, or would like more information, contact Mike Hall or Jeremy Hall.



Mike and Terry Hall are back from what has become an annual trek to Alaska to visit their son Aaron and his girlfriend, Kelly. It was a great opportunity to see beautiful scenery and wildlife. Next time you are in the office, ask Terry and Mike about their trip!