

# “Treating the World Well”®

## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

SOUTHWEST TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

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## STAYING ON THE CUTTING EDGE WITH EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE

Southwest Technologies partnered with The Ohio State University and Ohio Willow Wood to conduct a randomized pilot study using Stimulen Gel® on amputees.

There are nearly 2 million people living with limb loss in the United States. Among those living with limb loss, the main causes are vascular disease (54%) – including diabetes and peripheral arterial disease – trauma (45%) and cancer (less than 2%). Approximately 185,000 amputations occur in the United States each year. For these amputees, achieving a comfortable and functional connection between their prosthetic limb and residual limb is critical to the overall

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*(Continued on page 2)*

success of the prosthesis and rehabilitation process. Lower-limb prosthetics, however, are designed to fit tightly and are typically fitted with a 5-7% reduction in volume as compared to the residual limb in order to maintain an effective, intimate fit. Over time, shear stress, compression and moisture exposure associated with prosthesis causes soft tissue injury, skin breakdown and in some cases ulceration. Indeed, the prevalence of skin health problems in lower limb amputees is reported to be as high as 63%.

The objective of our study was to determine the effects of a modified collagen gel (Stimulen Gel® ) on the residual limb skin health in lower limb amputees.

The study subjects were placed in two groups. Group 1 received Stimulen Gel® and Group 2 received standard of care. The subjects returned for a total of 3 study visits for a total of 4 weeks. Subjects were a Below the Knee Amputee (BKA) or an Above the Knee Amputee (AKA).

Early analysis show moderate improvement in skin hydration. Final results are pending.

Cameron Rink, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Surgery  
College of Medicine  
The Ohio State University



# ASK THE EXPERT



## BRINGING BACK AN AMPUTEE'S QUALITY OF LIFE

People undergo amputation or are in need of Orthopedic devices for many reasons. Health care workers who specialize in orthotics and prosthetics (O & P) assist these patients to regain their mobility and quality of life by fitting them with artificial limbs (prosthesis) and orthopedic braces (orthosis).

The person who chooses this career contributes to the designing, making, fitting, modifying, repairing and maintaining O & P devices that make an invaluable impact on an individual's quality of life.

Southwest Technologies is proud to introduce, Jeffrey A. Denune, CP/LP, Prosthetist Practitioner and Clinical Director for WillowWood.

Jeff began in the O & P profession in 1986. His early practice focused on lower extremity prosthetics and CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design / Computer Aided Manufacturing). He began using active vacuum style prosthetic sockets on patients in 1999 and continues his work with incorporating vacuum technology on Trans-Tibial and Trans-Femoral amputees. Jeff joined the WillowWood family in 2004 as an Educational Prosthetist and is currently the Clinical Director of Prosthetics. He is involved in Research & Development of traditional products, while assisting engineering with new product and service development.



***Jeffrey A. Denune CP/LP***

Southwest Technologies has had the privilege of working with Jeff for many years. His dedication to helping amputees regain their mobility and quality of life is an inspiration to us all.



# COMPANIES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The Ohio Willow Wood Company, Inc. was founded in 1907 by William E. Arbogast, a bilateral amputee, on his family farm in Pickaway County. What started as one man carving and curing willow wood for prosthetic use has evolved into an international company which remains located in rural Mt. Sterling, Ohio. The company has a close network of 20 distributors worldwide. Today, the third and fourth generations of Arbogasts are leading the company in its expanded product markets and continued product innovation.

The Arbogast family and Ohio Willow Wood have been active forces in the O&P industry since its inception. The company was founded with the mission to provide quality prosthetic products that allow amputees to lead functionally normal lifestyles and to be comfortable when wearing their prosthesis.

The Arbogast family has dealt with several business challenges over the past 100 years and survived thanks to some unique solutions. During the Great Depression Ohio Willow Wood diversified its product line beyond prosthetic products, manufacturing and selling wooden polo mallets and balls. The diversification succeeded in allowing the company to survive. In the midst of the depression, a factory fire destroyed the entire plant. However the Arbogast family and employees rebuilt the company in one month and retained their customer base. During World War II, Ohio Willow Wood augmented its manufacturing with government defense contracts to make parts for the Navy's PT Boats and the Army's B-17 Bombers.

During its 100-year history, Ohio Willow Wood has remained steadfast in its mission and has been committed to a spirit of innovation in its product design and development.





# AROUND THE WORLD WITH SWT



On August 16th 2016, Jim Ford, International Sales Director, and John Phillips, President, traveled to Magellan Sutera Harbour in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia to attend the North Borneo Wound Conference. Southwest Technologies has been represented by our Southeast Asian distributor for many years. The booth was very well attended with many participants from the conference interested in learning more about our products. We were able to attend many of the lectures throughout the conference. While the majority of our time in Malaysia was spent at the trade show we did have the opportunity to take a river boat ride through the jungle. I thought I was in one of the opening scenes of “Apocalypse Now”. The river ride gave us a chance to see the long nose monkey, monitor lizards and other wildlife that live along the river. For an avid photographer and those with lots of equipment it was an unique chance to capture a very strange looking monkey that is seldom seen outside the island of Borneo. As for me, it was a chance to point my camera in the general direction of the monkey or lizard and snap a photo and hope they were in it! The cuisine was wonderful! There was every form of seafood available if you preferred offerings from sea.

Though the travel time was long it was definitely a trip worth taking.



# PAYING IT FORWARD

By Trish Carcopa  
Corporate Health Strategist  
Allied Health Occupations Educator

Dear Healthcare Professionals:

Together we have been paying it forward in 2016 and “Treating the World Well”.

Every day, as health care professionals, we know the human value of paying it forward. Southwest Technologies, an International company specializing in the wound marketplace, was able to do more because of your professional support and community requests. Here is how we have been paying it forward across the world:

Donations of wound care products ELASTOGEL™ – STIMULEN® – GOLD DUST® have gone to medical charities small and large in the United States and to countries around the world. Because of your company’s culture of caring, together we have impacted the lives of individuals who have been victims of hurricanes, floods, poverty and result in unmet health needs.

Wound care impacts the individual healing and recovery from illness and or injury. Our focus and collaborated efforts upon chronic disease such as diabetes, cancer, stroke, arthritis and obesity has enabled persons to get wound health care.

Take a look at just some of what we have accomplished together...



John and Cathy Phillips attended



Visitors to the SWT Booth



Members at CMSA showing support to punch out cancer



*The simple definition of service...is to do work that is needed to keep in good condition.*





**Thank you from  
St Matthew's  
2016 World  
Hunger Drive**





## What you helped us provide:

Meal Packing Event provided 336,312 meals.



New computers for adult education.



Mosquito netting for beds



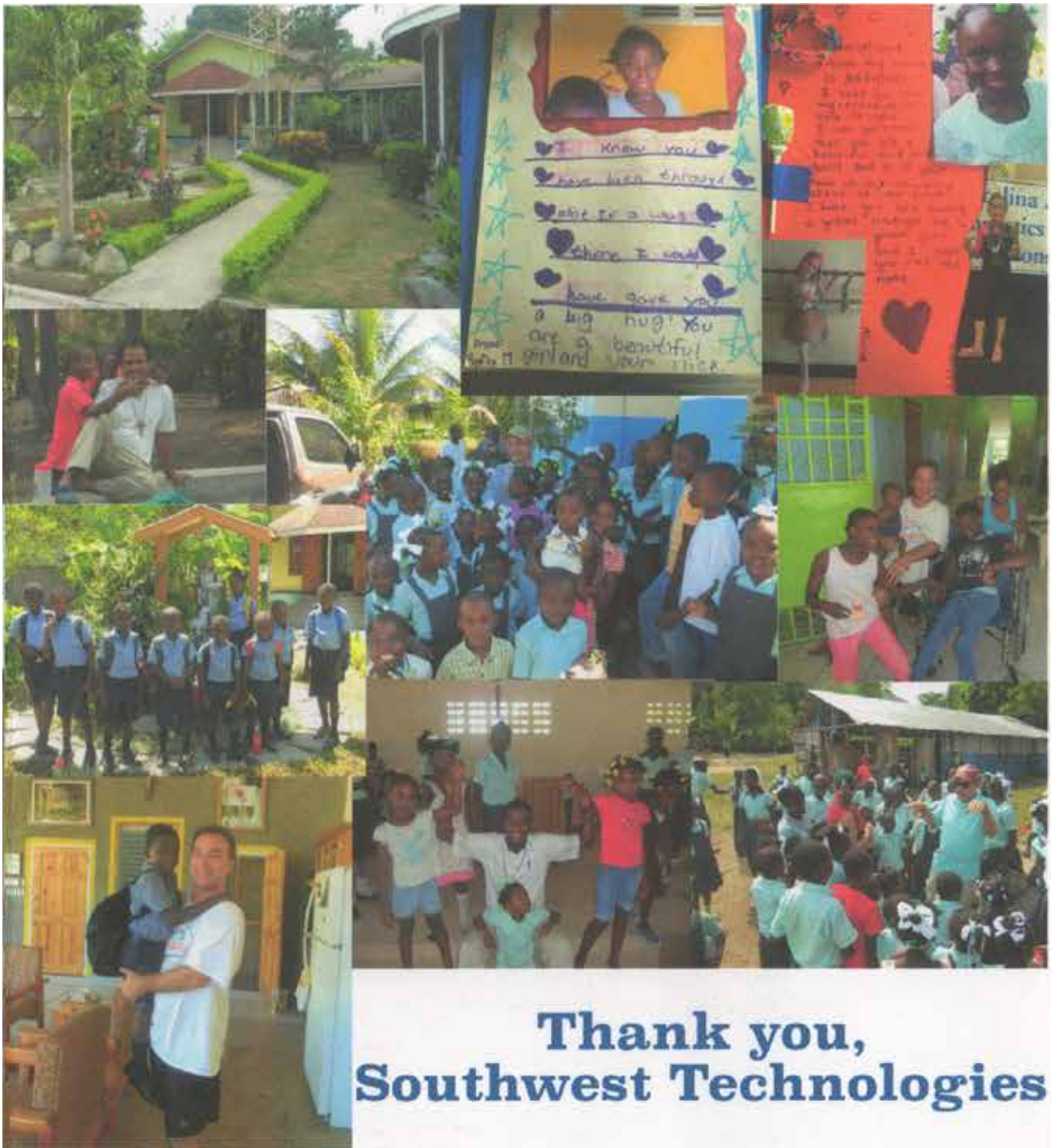
Tilapia pond for self-sustaining food source.



School supplies and much more . . .







**Thank you,  
Southwest Technologies**



For your generous donation of  
medical supplies to help the  
poorest of the poor in Haiti and  
Jamaica.



## Upcoming Events

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Hawaii Nurses Conference  
January 13-14, 2017  
Honolulu, HI

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Eliminating Heel Pressure Ulcers  
February 3, 2017  
London, UK

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John A Boswick, Burn and Wound  
Care Symposium  
February 12-16, 2017  
Maui, HI

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American Venous Forum Meeting  
February 14-17, 2017  
New Orleans, LA

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Ohio Union  
The Ohio State University  
March 9-11th 2017  
T2C (Translational to Clinical  
Regenerative Medicine  
Conference)

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NPUAP Conference  
March 10-11, 2017  
New Orleans, LA

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Wound Healing Institute  
March 12-14, 2017  
Branson, MO

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Transatlantic Wound Conference  
March 31 - April 1, 2017  
Galway, Ireland

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Diabetic Limb Salvage  
March 31-April 2, 2017  
Washington, DC

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SAWC - Spring  
April 5-9, 2017  
San Diego CA

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EWMA 2017  
May 3-5, 2017  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

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WOCN Annual Conference  
May 19-23, 2017  
Salt Lake City, UT

# TESTIMONIALS & TRIBUTES

*In early December, 2015 after an annual skin screening and a couple of biopsies taken by my dermatologist, I received a call the next week that the biopsy on my right forearm was Melanoma. It was tiny, not black, but a small white circle with two small dots in the middle...smaller than a pencil eraser. My doctor was surprised, as was I.*

*We scheduled removal on December 30, 2015. I ended up with a 2 1/2 inch incision and 17 stitches with a 6mm removal of skin circling the cancer. Needless to say, it was a little disconcerting. Thankfully the doctor obtained clean margins. Melanoma can be life threatening.*

*I obtained a bottle of Stimulen Enhanced Collagen Moisturizing Gel and starting using it while I still had the stitches. No infection, just normal soreness because of the surgery. After the stitches were removed, I continued to use Stimulen for about 3 months afterward. I have scar, but it is minimal. I have a fair complexion with a tendency for redness. The scar is white, with a slight pinkness. I am totally amazed by this product and have recommended it to my family and friends.*

**Barbara Bartmann**



**09/27/2016**

*I had surgery on my left knee nine years ago and that is when I first found out about your product. So when I learned that I needed to have surgery on my right knee, I ordered two TW6010, 9" X 24" therapy wraps. The hospital I had my surgery done at does not use your product, so I wanted to have them ready to use when I got home. Since getting back home, I have used the TW6010's to help with the inflammation and aches and pains that comes with the surgery and recovery.*

*It has been ten weeks since I have had my surgery and I am already able to walk 1.5 miles a day! I attribute that to what a great product you produce. It is comfortable to wear and the cooling affect is therapeutic just days after having surgery. The size was perfect and fit around my knee so that the whole area was surrounded with coolness and kept down the inflammation. The two elastic straps with velcro for holding the wrap in place are convenient and helpful.*

*Again, I just want to tell you what a great product you have!! I feel that it has helped my healing tremendously from my knee surgery 10 weeks ago. To the point that I am already able to walk 1.5 miles a day!!!!*

**Matt Trymucha - Minnesota**

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*My name is Jennifer Juergens and I have been an RN for 10 years. A few years ago, I suffered a back injury working in the Emergency Department requiring 4 months of physical therapy and light duty. Of course, I continue to struggle with back pain. I have purchased many back braces, heating pads, over the counter topical medications and patches, a Sleep Number Bed, all with no relief. The only product that has given me relief is the Elasto-Gel™ Lumbar Wrap. It actually contours to my lower back and "moves" with me. Giving me the perfect amount of lumbar support. I actually take it to work and place it in the microwave for 45 seconds(1) on each side and wear it while I work. When I get home, I put it in the freezer for a couple of hours and wear it for 30 minutes to an hour before bed. This is the regimen that works for me. I can also do my back exercises while wearing it. I absolutely love this product. I am also pretty sure it is indestructible, I left it on the table and my German Shepherd and Blue Tick Coon Hound decided to use it as a chew toy! tug a war. I have found 2 small puncture holes and that has made no difference what so ever! I highly recommend this product for any person suffering from lumbar pain.*

**Jennifer Juergens - RN, BSN, CWOCN, CFCN**



Together we can "Treat the World Well"

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**southwest technologies inc.**

*"Treating the world well"®*

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