Hanger attends Hollywood Premiere of Dolphin Tale

September 19, 2011

Hollywood, Calif., September 19, 2011 – On Saturday, Hanger leadership, practitioners, and patients attended the Hollywood premiere of “Dolphin Tale”. A 3D family movie scheduled for release September 23, 2011, “Dolphin Tale” is inspired by the true story of a young dolphin named Winter, who was rescued off the east coast of Florida and was not expected to survive after losing her tail in a crab trap. Thanks to the rescue and rehabilitative care of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium combined with the innovative prosthetic work of Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics, Winter’s story of survival has become an inspiration to people all over the world.

The cast of “Dolphin Tale” includes Ashley Judd, Harry Connick, Jr., Kris Kristofferson, and Morgan Freeman. Playing a prosthetist, Freeman will portray the prosthetic work completed by Hanger’s Vice President of Prosthetics Kevin Carroll and Sarasota, Florida Practice Manager Dan Strzempka.

Both Carroll and Strzempka were in attendance at the Hollywood premiere, along with their families. Also representing Hanger was Accelerated Care Plus President and COO John Beach, and Hanger patients Cameron Clapp, John Siciliano, and Katy Sullivan, among others. Additionally, Hanger patients including 11-year-old Megan McKeon and 5-year-old Ezra Frech were honored to be a part of the group representing the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF). CAF was named the beneficiary of the Hollywood premiere event with all proceeds from ticket sales going to CAF to help challenged athletes.

About Winter – A young Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, Winter was stranded and caught in a crab trap near Cape Canaveral in December 2005, when she was just three-months-old. Her tail fluke eventually came off, as it was severely damaged by the trap’s rope entanglement. Winter received round-the-clock medical attention in an effort to save her life. Thanks to the rescue and rehabilitative care of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Winter survived. However, she then adapted to a less efficient and damaging side-to-side swimming style, as there was no tail fluke to give her thrust. Thanks to Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics Vice President of Prosthetics Kevin Carroll and his colleague Dan Strzempka’s ingenuity, Winter became the first dolphin to have her entire tail fluke replaced with a prosthetic device.

About Winter’s prosthetic tail – Hanger’s Vice President of Prosthetics Kevin Carroll and Sarasota, Florida Practice Manager Dan Strzempka have volunteered their nights and weekends to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium and provided Winter’s prosthetic tails since 2006. The unique levels of R&D necessary to fit a prosthetic tail on a dolphin have resulted in the development of WintersGel™, a new gel material that is benefiting human patients, available exclusively at Hanger. For more information on Winter and her tail click here. For more information on Winter and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, visit: www.seewinter.com.

About Cameron Clapp – At the age of 15, after an evening of underage drinking with his twin brother, Clapp was struck by a train and lost both legs and his right arm in the accident. He was told by members of the medical community that he would never walk again, but Clapp proved them wrong just five months after the accident by walking independently with two prosthetic legs. Clapp is now thriving with prosthetic technology, competes in a variety of running and swimming events, snow skies, and travels the country on two microprocessor-controlled prosthetic legs sharing his incredible survival story with fellow amputees, teenagers, and members of the



Hanger patients John Siciliano, Cameron Clapp, Katy Sullivan Megan McKeon, and Ezra Frech with his mom Bahar at the Hollywood premiere of Dolphin Tale.



Hanger patients Cameron Clapp, Katy Sullivan and John Siciliano watching the premiere of Dolphin Tale.

medical community. Clapp's message is simple – give your patients hope; life is about overcoming obstacles, setting goals, never giving up, making the right decisions, and not using drugs and alcohol. More information on Clapp can be found here.

About John Siciliano – In 1993, while a college student in Pittsburgh studying theater/journalism and playing soccer on an athletic scholarship, Siciliano's life took a sudden and dramatic turn. While riding in a friend's Jeep, a drunk driver ran a red light and slammed into the vehicle, resulting in the loss of Siciliano's right leg four inches above-the-knee when he was just 22-years-old. After a long and arduous rehabilitation following his amputation, Siciliano went on to break the National Record for the 200-meter race at the 1996 Paralympic Trials in Atlanta, Georgia. During the 200 meter Paralympic Finals – a race he was slated to win – Siciliano's prosthetic leg dislodged and fell off mid-stride. Siciliano came crashing down on the track, heartbroken and frustrated, in the biggest race of his life. With unrelenting spirit and fight, he proceeded to hop on one leg, with his prosthetic leg in his hand, across the finish line to thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Siciliano is also an actor who has played roles in NBC's hit drama *ER*, *Scrubs* with Zach Braff, NBC's *Days of our Lives*, Showtime's *Sleeper Cell*, Stephen Bochco's wartime drama TV series *Over There*, and the CBS police drama *NCIS*.

About Katy Sullivan – Sullivan was born a bilateral amputee, missing both legs through her femur bones, but that has never kept her from excelling at everything she has tried. As a young girl, Sullivan was on the local swim team and also loved gymnastics. When she first arrived in Los Angeles as an adult, her Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics practitioner suggested she try running. Having always been an athletic and active person, Sullivan jumped at the chance. She had a difficult time adjusting to the running prostheses at first, but she was determined. Six months later at a running clinic, everything seemed to come together and Sullivan has been setting running records ever since.

Sullivan competed in the 2007 Para Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the 2006 and 2007 Paralympic National Championships where she broke the World Record for the 200m in 2007. She also competed in the 2006 and 2007 Endeavor Games in Oklahoma City where she won six gold medals in track and two silver medals in swimming. For more information on Sullivan, visit www.hanger.com/prosthetics/experience/patientprofiles/Pages/KatySullivan.aspx.

About Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics – With 670+ patient care centers nationwide, the certified clinicians of Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics provide patients with the latest in orthotic and prosthetic solutions, including microprocessor devices for those with limb loss and neuromuscular technologies for those with paralysis due to stroke, MS and other debilitating conditions. For more information, visit www.hanger.com.

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Hanger prosthetists Dan Strzempka, CPO and Kevin Carroll, MS, CP, FAAOP, the developers of Winter's prosthetic tail.



Hanger patients John Siciliano, Katy Sullivan and Cameron Clapp with Hanger clinicians Kevin Carroll and Michael Carroll.

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