**Trauma Survivors Network Peer Visitors**

**Traumatic Brain Injury-Mom Perspective**

**Pam Bryan:** On Halloween of 1995, Pam’s son John was 13 years old when he was involved in a motor vehicle crash while in a carpool coming home from school. Police officers’ greeted Pam at her door with the devastating news. John was LifeFlighted to Vanderbilt Trauma and received rehabilitative treatment at Stallworth. John suffered a traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury and abdominal injuries. Pam serves as the Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Tennessee. John is involved in the Special Olympics, Metro Parks Disability program and loves to play computer games.

**Rita Hardeman:** August 14, 2005, Rita’s son Jarrod was involved in a motor vehicle crash and thrown out of the back of a pickup truck. His friend sitting in the back with him, did not survive. Rita received a call from her son’s friend that Jarrod was in an accident and was LifeFlighted to Vanderbilt. Jarrod spent three weeks in the trauma unit and another 10 days inpatient at Stallworth. He suffered a right frontal lobe injury, numerous fractures to the bones in his face, a broken arm, fractured pelvis, surgery on the crushed bones in his right hand and nerve damage in his right eye. Jarrod is doing well and loves the outdoors and enjoys playing pool.

**Paula Denslow:** October 2, 1996, Paula’s son Troy was 14 when he was assaulted by a fellow student. He had been hit in the head several times, was knocked unconscious and displayed seizure activity. Troy was taken via ambulance to Vanderbilt Trauma and suffered severe headache and contusions. Although Troy’s injury rendered him to be home schooled, he graduated with his high school class and went on to college. ~ In early August of 2002, Paula’s second son, Andy was 17 when he was involved in a motor vehicle crash. It was a rainy day and his car hydroplaned. Andy suffered significant short term memory loss from hitting his head. After years of rehabilitation, Andy is leading a productive life.

**Shawn Coltharp:** On Labor Day weekend of 2007, Shawn’s daughter Hillary was 26 years old when she was involved in a motor vehicle crash while in route to meeting her family for dinner in Paducah, KY. Hillary was texting while driving and wasn’t wearing her seatbelt. Her car crossed the interstate median, flipped and ejected her 75ft from her car. Hillary was LifeFlighted to Vanderbilt Trauma; she suffered a traumatic brain injury. Shawn is a Corporate Director at the American Cancer Society and a Peer mentor for the TSN. Hillary is doing well with her therapies and appreciates being able to watch her little boy grow up.
**Traumatic Brain Injury-Spouse Perspective**

**Denise Garland:** On Memorial weekend of 2006, Denise and her husband Bob were on a long distance bicycle ride. Bob crashed on his bicycle leaving him unconscious and was Lifeflighted to Vanderbilt Trauma. Bob suffered 3 hematomas resulting in a traumatic brain injury. He spent 5 days in the Trauma Unit and 28 days at Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital. Denise is a Peer Mentor with the Brain Injury Association of Tennessee as well as the TSN. Bob is doing well and is still involved with performance bikes and has his own bike shop.

**Traumatic Brain Injury-Patient Perspective**

**Ray De Vries** On a rainy September 20, 2008 morning, Ray was involved in a motor vehicle crash. His car hydroplaned around a curve into a telephone pole with the impact on the driver’s side of the car. Ray suffered a traumatic brain injury, his heart was displaced out of the pericardial sac and shifted to the right side of his chest. He suffered a multitude of fractures and broken bones and severe damage to his right eye. He was in the Vanderbilt Trauma ICU for two weeks and in a coma for five. Ray received further treatment at Select Specialty Hospital, Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital and Pi Beta Phi. Ray is an ordained Minister and still preaches at a small congregation.

**Jane Miller:** On August 6, 2008, Jane fell off her porch backward and crushed the back of her skull. She had severe bleeding on her brain. Jane was given a 50-50 chance of waking up and was in a coma for a week. Jane spent two weeks in the Vanderbilt Trauma ICU and then spent two weeks at Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital. Although smell and taste have disappeared, Jane’s skills and knowledge of her advanced degrees in Recombinant Genetics and Chemistry are still intact.

**Zach Phillips:** On March 19, 2006, in the early morning hours, Zach was hit by a car in Washington DC while crossing M St. with a friend. He suffered a traumatic brain injury and was taken to George Washington Hospital and stayed in the ICU for three weeks. Zach was then flown to The Shepherd Center in Atlanta, GA where he would awaken after 5 weeks in a coma. Zach also received treatment at Pi Beta Phi. Zach is sports oriented and hopes to sign up for a marathon soon.

**Traumatic Amputation-Patient Perspective**

**Wayne Fielder:** April 20th, 2008, Wayne and his wife Donna were riding their 2005 Harley Davidson “Fatboy” south on Hwy 231 in Lebanon when a car cut in front of them. They hit the bumper and side wheel of the other vehicle and both were thrown several feet upon impact. While both Wayne and his wife were seriously injured, Wayne was losing consciousness and sustained a severe degloving to his left foot. Wayne was Lifeflighted to Vanderbilt. He suffered extensive nerve damage and had below the knee amputation. Wayne is doing well and still enjoys riding motorcycles.
Elizabeth Alley: On June 20, 2001, Elizabeth was injured in a motor vehicle crash; her friend was driving under the influence. She and her friends were driving back from the honky-tonk clubs downtown. Elizabeth suffered a broken neck at C3 and C4 of her spinal cord. She was taken via ambulance to Vanderbilt Trauma and spent a week in the ICU, 5 days in Stepdown and rehabilitated at Sheppard for 2 months with outpatient at Stallworth. Elizabeth enjoys public speaking on issues of drunk driving and was crowned Miss Wheelchair TN in 2004.

Jim Harris: On June 16, 2005, Jim was seriously injured in a plane crash while piloting a plane with a flight instructor in Grand Junction, Colorado. Jim’s plane was met with turbulence as he approached the airport landing. Jim’s plane hit wind shear and lost flight control at 200 feet above ground. Jim was pinned in the wreckage and suffered a spinal cord injury of a T-12 burst. Jim was taken to St. Mary’s Hospital and had later surgeries at Vanderbilt Hospital. He received rehabilitation at TRC and Stallworth. Jim still enjoys flying and flew a Cessna 172 one year after his injury.

Donna Boggs: On November 1, 1984 Donna was seriously injured in an automobile crash. Both of her feet were instantly severed. Donna was transported via ambulance to Vanderbilt Trauma and had her left foot reattached. It was the first successful foot reattachment for Vanderbilt at that time. Donna later decided that the reattachment gave her problems and elected to have the foot amputated. Although she is a bilateral amputee, she still enjoys water skiing and wearing high heels. Donna is a Patient Advocate for Superior Orthotics and Prosthetics.

Gretyl Baird: On September 1, 2004, Gretyl was playing in her college soccer game for Western Baptist College when she suffered a severe injury to her left knee. The goalie fell on her knee breaking the bone, partially severing the main artery. Initially, doctors at Oregon Health Sciences University succeeded saving her life and her leg. After 9 months of strenuous and unsuccessful physical therapy, Gretyl’s final surgery led to an infection. Gretyl was given the choice to lose her leg or lose her life. Gretyl says her decision was easily made; she had a loving family that supported her during her trauma. Gretyl enjoys mentoring and wants to give back as a Peer with the TSN.

Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury-Patient Perspective

Elizabeth Alley: On June 20, 2001, Elizabeth was injured in a motor vehicle crash; her friend was driving under the influence. She and her friends were driving back from the honky-tonk clubs downtown. Elizabeth suffered a broken neck at C3 and C4 of her spinal cord. She was taken via ambulance to Vanderbilt Trauma and spent a week in the ICU, 5 days in Stepdown and rehabilitated at Sheppard for 2 months with outpatient at Stallworth. Elizabeth enjoys public speaking on issues of drunk driving and was crowned Miss Wheelchair TN in 2004.

John Philip Barmer: On June 08, 2006, John Philip was seriously injured in a motorcycle crash. He spent one month at the Vanderbilt Trauma ICU, two months at Sheppard Center in Atlanta Georgia for inpatient rehabilitation, and then Stallworth for outpatient rehabilitation of a T-4 complete spinal cord injury. John Philip is sports oriented and still loves to water and snow ski as well as play golf, softball, shoot sporting clays, and lift weights on a regular basis. To John, this injury has improved his life in more ways than one.

Jim Harris: On June 16, 2005, Jim was seriously injured in a plane crash while piloting a plane with a flight instructor in Grand Junction, Colorado. Jim’s plane was met with turbulence as he approached the airport landing. Jim’s plane hit wind shear and lost flight control at 200 feet above ground. Jim was pinned in the wreckage and suffered a spinal cord injury of a T-12 burst. Jim was taken to St. Mary’s Hospital and had later surgeries at Vanderbilt Hospital. He received rehabilitation at TRC and Stallworth. Jim still enjoys flying and flew a Cessna 172 one year after his injury.