



## **NEWS RELEASE:**

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### **Walden works with young Paralympians**

by: Kelsey Finn

CHAPEL HILL — Pushing barriers is in Stampley Walden's constitution, and even after his left foot was amputated, longdistancerunning sparked his interest.

Walden got an Ossur C-Leg, the most expensive prosthesis he owns, which is used especially by runners in the Paralympics.

"By the time you do all the fitting and everything on top of that, it's probably \$19,000," Walden said.

"Originally, I was going to run some marathons, but I ran one half-marathon and decided, 'God, that sucked so bad. I'm not doing it again,'" he said.

But the UNC junior finds plenty of other rigorous sports in which to compete, and each spring he works with disabled children twice a week for a month, then follows them through the regional and statewide Junior Paralympics.

"I work with the below- and above-knee amputees in running," Walden said. "And then I help with the wheelchair basketball teams."

Walden had the opportunity to coach with Kelly Bruno, a 25-year-old Duke University graduate who lost her leg to a congenital defect when she was 6 months old.

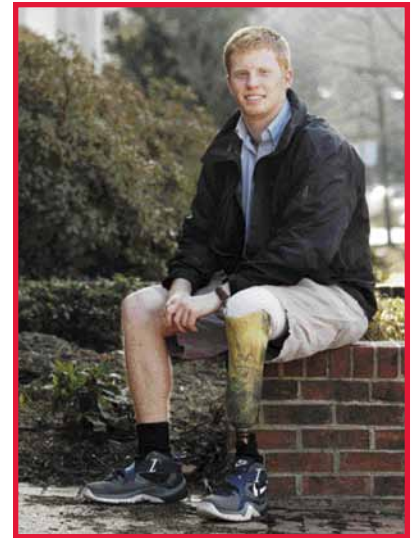
Bruno holds two world records in track, took first place in her disability classification in the ITU World Triathlon Championships, has finished three Ironman races, was the first disabled ball person at the U.S. Open and was invited to join the Elite Triangle Triathlon Team, which consists of the best triathletes in the Triangle.

"It was pretty cool to be able to teach with her," Walden said.

Walden has also spent time with younger patients at the Center for Prosthetic and Orthotic Care.

"Stamp has come in on more than one occasion to talk to them and demonstrate the things that he can do," clinical prosthetist Michael Wilkerson said. "He's a great role model for young people period. But he has spent a lot of time working with the younger kids who are amputees, encouraging them to try the best they can and compete and participate in sports."

As a result of his experiences, Walden has expressed interest in designing prosthetics.



THE HERALD-SUN | C HRISTINE T. NGUYEN  
UNC junior and Morehead-Cain Scholar Franklin Stampley Walden, 21, is the fastest-healing below-knee amputee on the East Coast.



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“I’m considering it seriously enough to keep standing by the biomedical engineering major,” Walden said.

In the meantime, Walden is working toward a summer internship at either Duke University Hospital or UNC Hospitals.

“We’re very proud of him,” Wilkerson said. “He’s a fine young man. I can’t say it enough.”