

# INTO INNOVATIVE STARTUP



They developed The Aquilonix Prosthesis Cooling System designed to enhance the comfort of the prosthesis and promote healthy tissue. It is a unique, innovative system that thermoelectrically cools and dissipates heat from the area between the residual limb and prosthetic socket, maintaining a cool and dry environment. Becky Ariana, Leto solutions president, was asked to be the students mentor at the time. "My very first meeting was with Gary who was an engineering student and the inspiration behind the product. It is incredibly important that we have a member of our team who is an amputee because we see on a daily basis how important our product is."

Their Engineering Capstone project won first place in the \$100,000 Student Technology Venture Competition sponsored by the university's Center for Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship. Leto Solutions hopes to have the Aquilonix Prosthesis Cooling System ready for the market before the end of 2014.

Being part of this venture has been one of the most rewarding things he's ever done, says Walters. "I've been part of the founding of a company and I'm also going to provide financial support for my wife and child and at the same time I get to help other people."



Gary and Kate Walters enjoy some quality time in their backyard on a bright sunny Texas afternoon.

Walters used to stop playing outdoors with his daughter Eleanor and now he likes spending more time with her.

The first time I went to the park wearing the prototype and I got to play with my daughter. It was the most rewarding thing I've ever done with my life!