headquartered in North Charleston, South Carolina. “I still remain as president and a minority shareholder and partner,” Hooper explains. “My immediate plans are to grow Carolina Orthotics & Prosthetics through acquisition and [by] opening patient care facilities in desirable locations throughout the Southeast.”

Past, Present, Future

Hooper, a fourth-generation Charlestonian, attended Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, North Carolina, from 1967 to 1969. From 1971 to 1973, he attended the College of Charleston and took classes at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina’s civilian Graduate College and Evening Undergraduate Studies Program. In 1976, he earned his graduate certificate in orthotics from New York University Medical School, New York, and his orthotics certification from ABC. He earned his graduate certificate in prosthetics from Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, and received his ABC prosthetics certification in 1978.

Enjoying Family Time and Outdoor Recreation

Hooper and his wife, Jackie, love the outdoors and spend a week each year riding horses at a working cattle ranch in northern Montana. They also have a horse in Charleston, as well as four cats and two dogs. “We snow ski each year and love to sail. I enjoy fishing and hunting as well,” Hooper adds. Hooper has two daughters, Jessica and Michelle, who both work with him in the administrative side of the business, and two grandsons.

His Advice: Find What You Love

Hooper’s advice to those thinking about a career in the O&P profession is advice he has followed himself: “There are many challenging jobs related to the delivery of orthotic and prosthetic services; find what you love and best suits you.” Following this course has provided a richly rewarding career for Hooper, with more yet to come. He says, “I am not sure I will ever completely retire, and at this point, retirement is not on my radar. I can’t imagine not being involved with orthotics and prosthetics in some capacity.”

Miki Fairley is a freelance writer based in southwest Colorado. She can be contacted via e-mail at miki.fairley@gmail.com