

# Angelo Szychowski

- Disability: Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)
  - A recessive genetic disorder causing degeneration of motor neurons, thus leading to muscular weakness and atrophy.
  - I began to show symptoms of weakness at nine months of age and I was officially diagnosed with SMA at 18 months of age (based on symptoms, muscle biopsy, spinal tap, and electromyography). Years later my diagnosis was reaffirmed by a genetic test.
  - Currently no treatment, but many potential treatments are being studied.

# Stanford Stuff

- Transferred to Stanford in 2005 and received my BS in Biomechanical Engineering in 2009.
- I cotermed in Mechanical Engineering and will receive my MSME at the end of this quarter.
- While at Stanford I have lived in EV, even as an undergrad, due to the larger floor plan of the dorms.
- In 2009 myself and three other students received a first-place award in the graduate division of the JF Lincoln design competition.
- For the same project we were also honored, and surprised, by being listed in Time magazines [50 best inventions of 2009](#).

# Best Stanford Moment



# My Assistive Technology

- Permobil power wheelchair
  - Fantastic power seating system
  
- CoughAssist, by Philips
  - Has kept me out of the hospital the past 12 years.



# My Assistive Technology

- Apex patient transfer lift
  - Much safer way of transferring
  - A power lift is much easier for caregivers and feels safer.
- Dragon NaturallySpeaking
  - I use a touchpad and my voice to control all aspects of my computer.
  - Getting pretty good for standard dictation but still painfully slow with mathematical dictation.



# My Assistive Technology

- Accessible Toyota Sienna



- Residential automatic door openers
  - I have three at my dorm



# My Assistive Technology

- Wheelchair-mounted power table/compartment
  - Stores wallet, cell phone, power door remote, etc.
  - Folds under armrest
- Foot guards
  - (a.k.a. Shin Busters)
  - Protects my feet from injury
  - Very shiny!

