



► The QL+ (Quality of Life Plus) Lab has opened a new field for Max Maloney. Along with his multidisciplinary team, Max has spent countless hours developing a prosthetic hand that he hopes will give a wounded veteran the quality of life he or she deserves. Max is shown with client Cameron Clapp, whose prosthesis is muscle-based, while Max's provides electronic control.

Scholarship Recipient

Max Maloney

Mechanical engineering senior

National Merit Scholarship

ChevronTexaco Mechanical Engineering Scholarship

Jon LaPorte Memorial Scholarship

Konrad Meissner Scholarship

Donald Chivens Memorial Scholarship

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship

As a self-described “Lego kid” and “car nut,” Max Maloney seemed destined to become an engineer. He was attracted to Cal Poly over other colleges because it was affordable and offered an education that would prepare him for the real world.

“Cal Poly clicked,” Max says. “The education seemed very useful and I was impressed with the lab space and especially the ME machine shop.”

Now a senior, **Max feels that Cal Poly delivered all he anticipated and more.** He couldn’t have guessed, for instance, that a class in orthopedic biomechanics would take him far beyond his Lego dreams.

“I saw how the human body is amazingly engineered and it opened up a whole new field for me,” he says.

For his senior project—the highlight of Max’s undergraduate experience—he engineered a prosthetic hand in Cal Poly’s Quality of Life Plus laboratory. Founded in 2009 by alumnus Jon Monett (IE ’64), the facility sponsors projects that address the challenges of disabled veterans and those who were injured in the line of service.

“When my team members—Nick Butler and Matt Griebel—started showing the hand to faculty and others, they couldn’t believe that we had designed and built the prototype in only nine months,” notes Max. **“Their reaction made me realize the high standards Cal Poly had instilled in us.** The hand is a testament to what we do here.”

Having received scholarships and grants since his freshman year, Max also recognizes the importance of giving back. “Unlike many others, scholarships didn’t make or break my ability to attend Cal Poly, but the funds did give me a chance to work less and get more out of my time here,” he explains.

“I’ve seen that even a small gift to a student can make a big difference.”