

# Evans Scholarship Built a Bridge to Success for Dr. Sam Marzo

Sitting in an examining room on the third floor of Loyola University Medical Center's new \$70 million Outpatient Center, Dr. Sam Marzo is taking a short break from his afternoon duties to share how caddying and earning an Evans Scholarship changed his life.

He outlines the story of a 12-year-old boy from Chicago Heights, Illinois, who follows in his father's footsteps as a caddie at Idlewild Country Club in nearby Flossmoor. But his father, an auto mechanic, dreams that his son's footsteps will take him further, on to college and to a better life beyond. Caddying and an Evans Scholarship to the University of Illinois built the bridge that Dr. Marzo stepped across to live that dream.

"My parents instilled the hard work ethic in me. They were a huge influence in my life," he said. "But if you would have told me I would be here today when I was a caddie, at age 12, I would never have believed it. The scholarship gave me the chance to continue my education and become what I am today."

Today, 28 years after he first carried a golf bag, Dr. Marzo is associate professor of otolaryngology at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois. He also serves as medical director of The Hearing and Balance Center at Loyola's Oakbrook Terrace Medical Center.

Dr. Marzo is a leader in his field, a medical pioneer and educator who decided to become a doctor the summer after his freshman year in college when he worked as a technician in a dialysis unit assisting doctors treating patients with kidney disease.

"Working in the dialysis unit was my first real exposure to medicine," Dr. Marzo explained. "I had thought about a career in engineering, designing mechanical limbs ... bio-engineering, but I loved the patient aspect of what the doctors

were doing – the interactions with patients, getting them through an illness. That was much more rewarding than the research I had done."

Now, Dr. Marzo not only interacts with patients, he also trains 15 residents on staff at the hospital and students from the university's medical school. "The residents we're in charge of are already doctors. We're training them to become otolaryngologists – ear, nose and throat physicians," he said. "We want to make sure they

learn to treat people ethically, develop their interpersonal skills and to become lifelong learners. I teach residents and students daily in the clinic and in surgery."

Dr. Marzo practices leading edge care, including treating patients with sudden hearing loss through steroid therapy in the eardrum, treating patients with deafness in one ear or both ears with a bone-anchored cochlear stimulator and using implantable hearing devices for sensorineural hearing loss. The advanced technology may take a textbook to describe, but the end result is simple:

people who suffer severe hearing loss are able to hear again.

For Dr. Marzo – whose life was changed through an Evans Scholarship – his medical career has allowed him to return the favor by changing other people's lives for the better, both as a doctor and as an educator. More medical breakthroughs are on the way, Dr. Marzo promises.

"In the future we will be growing, regenerating, restoring hearing in patients who are going deaf, and there will be advancement in implantable hearing aids," he predicted.

Dr. Marzo wants to be in the forefront of that movement. "You're put on this earth to maximize your talents," he said. "When I die, I want to say, 'I'm all used up. They squeezed every drop out of me. Life did, the world did, God did, my family did.' You don't want to hold anything back."



Dr. Sam Marzo

## Thank you

*To Par Club members, who made his Evans Scholarship possible, Dr. Sam Marzo gives his thanks. "You are providing needy caddies the skills and network to succeed in life. The reward on your investment is phenomenal and endless. I am a living example."*

*Dr. Marzo graduated from the University of Illinois in 1987 with a degree in biochemistry. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine in 1991 and completed his residency at Loyola University Medical Center in 1996.*

## LUHS

*Loyola University Health System, a wholly owned subsidiary of Loyola University Chicago (LUC), includes the private teaching hospital at Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC), 15 specialty and primary care centers in the western and southwestern suburbs, the Loyola Ambulatory Surgery Center at Oakbrook and the Loyola Oakbrook Terrace Imaging Center; and serves as co-owner-operator of RML Specialty Hospital, a long-term-care facility for ventilator-dependent patients in suburban Hinsdale, Ill.*