

University of Missouri

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# MIZZOU

## Guiding Future Doctors

Missouri Scholars Academy alumnus pays it forward.



Aneesh Tosh, MU assistant professor of clinical child health, left, leads a Missouri Scholars Academy panel discussion alongside medical student Chase Ellingsworth. Photo by Rob Hill.

*Story by Marcus Wilkins*

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“**W**hen were you all born?” asks Aneesh Tosh, MU assistant professor of clinical child health.

A cacophony of blurted years — 1995, 1996 — erupts from an audience of 30-plus Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA) students. Tosh, BS '97, MD '01, shakes his head and laughs.

The MSA is an annual three-week academic program hosted by Mizzou for 330 of Missouri's gifted students about to enter their junior year in high school. The youngsters spend time in lectures, seminars and groups with MU faculty.

Founded in 1985, more than 9,000 students have come through the academy. MSA students have gone on to become presidential cabinet members, Rhodes Scholars and *Jeopardy!* contestants.

Tosh, a Missouri scholar in 1991, leads a session to answer questions from aspiring medical students. Along with a panel of current MU medical students, Tosh ensures that the high schoolers “know what they're getting into.”

“It was an impactful moment for me at that age,” says Tosh, a St. Peters, Mo., native. “I owe it to MSA to give back.”

**Topics:** Alumni, Medicine, Nursing, Health Professions and Veterinary Medicine, Web Exclusives

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