



Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]) is a research communication competition originally developed by The University of Queensland in 2008, and now has been widely adopted at universities around the world. The exercise challenges master's and doctoral students to present a compelling talk on their thesis/dissertation topic and its significance. Many theses and dissertations can be over 80,000 words and take hours to present, but students in this competition have just three minutes and one slide to convey their often highly-technical research to a lay audience. Judging criteria is centered on three core competencies:

1. **Communication Style:** was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
2. **Comprehension:** did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
3. **Engagement:** did the oration make the audience want to know more?

The Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) is an organization of over 200 graduate schools in the following fifteen states of the southern region of the United States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The CSGS Regional 3MT[®] Competition was held on February 20 and 21, 2016 in Charlotte, NC. Thirty-eight graduate students across the conference competed in four semifinal heats. Two winners from each semifinal heat advanced to the finals – one selected by the judges and one selected by audience members. Therefore, eight finalists competed in the finals for more than \$3,000 in prizes – \$1000 for first place, \$500 for second place, \$250 for third place and \$150 for finalist placement. The awardees and students participants were as follows:

Finals

1. **Aniket Ingrole – First Place Award (\$1,000)**

Florida State University

Doctoral Student in Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering

Safer Football with Bio-Inspired Helmets

2. **Kemper Gibson – Second Place Award (Tie – \$500)**

Virginia Commonwealth University

Master's Student in Forensic Science

Rape, Sperm & Antibodies: Solving a Growing Crisis

3. **Haritha Malladi – Second Place Award (Tie – \$500)**

North Carolina State University

Doctoral Student in Civil Engineering
Reduce & Recycle: How to Turn Black Roads Green

4. Allison Tharp – Second Place Award (Tie – \$500)

The University of Southern Mississippi
Doctoral Student in English
Physical Containment in Protest Literature

5. Garima Bajwa – Finalist (\$150)

University of North Texas
Doctoral Student in Computer Science & Engineering
Neuro-Sign: NOT Just Another Vital Sign

6. Angela Larsen – Finalist (\$150)

University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Doctoral Student in Environmental Health Science
Does Growing Biofuel Feedstocks Impact Wildlife?

7. Samuel Nkrumah-Agyeefi – Finalist (\$150)

University of Alabama in Huntsville
Doctoral Student in Biotechnology Science Engineering
Biopolymers: The Game Changer?

8. Anthony Sperber – Finalist (\$150)

Texas A&M University
Doctoral Student in Biochemistry & Biophysics
Identification of Protein Affecting Cell Wall Synthesis

Semifinal Competitors

9. Douglas Bell

Doctoral Student in Marine Science
University of South Carolina
The Molecular Diet of Single-Celled Algae

10. Minmin Luo

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
Doctoral Student in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Tug-of-War Between a Fast and a Slow Nanomotor

11. Sydney Crawley

University of Kentucky
Doctoral Student in Entomology
Think Like a Bed Bug

12. Pamela Grothe

Georgia Institute of Technology
Doctoral Student in Earth & Atmospheric Science

Coral-thermometers and Monster El Ninos

13. Alex Harkness
University of Georgia
Doctoral Student in Plant Biology
I Think...
14. Annalise vonderEmbse
East Carolina University
Doctoral Student in Pharmacology and Toxicology
Early Vulnerabilities for Alzheimer's Disease
15. Ian Pasquini
University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Master's Student in History
Tate Street, That Great Street
16. Olalekan Ogunsakin
Tulane University
Doctoral Student in Global Environmental Health Sciences
Excessive Alcohol and Police Officers of the Lung
17. Candice Kunze
Radford University
Doctoral Student in Physical Therapy
Multimedia Home Exercises for Parkinson's Disease
18. Hamed Majidzadeh
Auburn University
Doctoral Student in Forestry & Wildlife Sciences
Soil Carbon Beneath Impervious Services
19. Kristin Cooke
Western Carolina University
Master's Student in Chemistry
Making a Method: DNA Quality in Bone via SERS
20. Sydney Granger Saumby
Texas State University
Doctoral Student in Developmental Education
Influence and Preparation of TAs and Tutors
21. Katie McCauley
Oklahoma State University
Master's Student in Plant & Soil Science
Improving the Overwinter Capability of Canola
22. Willie Williams
Florida A&M University
Doctoral Student in Public Health

Launch a Legacy of Minority Male Youth Excellence

23. Bianca Santos
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Master's Student in Marine Science
Sea Turtle CSI
24. Joanna Adadevoh
University of Virginia
Doctoral Student in Chemical Engineering
Can Bacteria with a Sense of Smell Purify Water?
25. Jordan Taylor
College of Charleston
Master's Student Marine Biology
Shark Diversity from the Late Eocene
26. Priyanka Sharma
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
Doctoral Student in Cell & Molecular Biology
LHCP-An Endeavor in Search of Light
27. Piyush Porwal
Mississippi State University
Master's Student in Mechanical Engineering
Thermal & Fluidic Characterization of Tesla Valve
28. Sheila Bustillos
Texas Women's University
Doctoral Student in Multi-Cultural & Gender Studies
Foster Care Parents and Intergenerational Removal
29. Amanda Malloy
University of Mississippi
Master's Student in Southern Studies
William Eggleston's Guide to the South
30. Arianna Soldati
University of Missouri
Doctoral Student in Geologic Sciences
How to Stop a Lava Flow
31. Avery Scherer
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Doctoral Student in Marine Biology
Scared Strong
32. Jerald Pinson
University of Florida
Doctoral Student in Biology

How Do Ferns Make Sporophytes?

33. Nzinga Mack
Florida A&M University
Doctoral Student in Pharmacology
Acid Production in Cancer Cells
34. Reed Gurchiek
Appalachian State University
Master's Student in Exercise Science
Smartphone Technology for Movement Analysis
35. Nicholas Wagner
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Doctoral Student in Psychology & Neuroscience
Early Origins of Externalizing Psychopathology
36. Anjana Venkatesan
University of Alabama
Master's Student in Environmental Science
Everglades & Beyond: Wetland Carbon Dynamics
37. Tasia Smith
Alabama State University
Master's Student in Forensic Science
The Missing Piece of the Microbial Puzzle
38. Anthony Prosser
Emory University
Doctoral Student in Chemistry
Single Drug Cocktails, the Future of HIV Treatment

Competition judges were as follows:

- Dr. Leslie Zenk
Assistant Provost, UNC Charlotte
- Dr. Jay Raja
Senior Associate Provost, UNC Charlotte
- Dr. Patrick Madsen
Director, University Career Center, UNC Charlotte
- Ms. Erica Bryant
Reporter & Anchor WSOC-TV
- Ms. Karla Stanchina
Communications Director for the Graduate School, UNC Charlotte
- Mr. George Ladner
President, Altum Inc.
- Dr. Anne Moore
Dean, University Library, UNC Charlotte

- Dr. David Vacchi
Director, Veterans Student Services, UNC Charlotte
- Dr. James Hathaway
Research Communication Specialist, UNC Charlotte
- Ms. Krista Newkirk
Chief of Staff, Chancellor's Office, UNC Charlotte
- Ms. Angela Broome
CEO Greater Carolina Chapter, American Red Cross
- Mr. Jeff Petry
SVP, Chief Marketing Officer, Premier Inc.
- Mr. Joshua Hertel
Director of the Graduate Center, UNC Charlotte
- Ms. Mary Ellen Shuntich
Graduate School Director of External Relations, UNC Charlotte