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
*Nero-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
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