



November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

3:00 p.m.

Tulane University

Kendall Cram Lecture Hall, LBC

*An 80,000-word thesis would take 9 hours to present.*

*Their time limit?*

*3 minutes.*

## Special Thanks

Michael Cunningham, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research and Professor of Psychology; Jennifer O'Brien-Brown, Assistant Director of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies; Lauren Lukkarila, Academic Support Specialist of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies; GSSA Executive Board: Alyssa Walker, Kaillee Coleman, Elizabeth MacDougal, Garrett Bartoletti, and the GSSA Departmental Representatives; 3MT Judges: Michael Farley, Pamela Franco, Ava L'Herisse, Ashley Robison, and Eric Roque; Professor Ashley Keller Nelson, Department of Management Communication; Office of Academic Affairs and Provost; University of Queensland; and the Lavin Bernick Center.

# History of 3MT

Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) celebrates the exciting research conducted by PhD students. Developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), the exercise cultivates students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

The first 3MT was held at UQ in 2008 with 160 RHD students competing. In 2009 and 2010, the 3MT competition was promoted to other Australian and New Zealand universities and enthusiasm for the concept grew. Due to its adoption in numerous universities, a multi-national event was developed, and the Inaugural Trans-Tasman 3MT competition was held at UQ in 2010.

Since 2011 the popularity of the competition has increased and 3MT competitions are now held in over 200 universities across more than 18 countries worldwide.

## Judges

**MICHAEL FARLEY** is the CEO of HBI Construction Group, Inc of New Orleans. When he is not out on construction sites he's volunteering his time as the Assistant Director of New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council. One of his duties at NOMGIC includes managing partnership with Tulane's Service Learning Department.

**PAMELA FRANCO** graduated from San Francisco State University with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Art History. She earned a Ph.D in Art History from Emory University in Atlanta. Her area of specialty was Arts of the African Diaspora and her research centered on Women's Performances in Trinidad Carnival. She is retired and currently works parttime as a Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council.

**AVA L'HERISSE** has worked at Tulane for fourteen years and moved from the Accounts Payable office to her current position as Senior Executive Secretary in the Department of Communication in January 2017, and promoted to Training Coordinator for the School of Liberal Arts. Ava is also a part-time mortgage loan officer with a background in finance. In 2003, and after more than 21 years of service, she retired from the Orleans Parish School Board as Assistant Cash Manager. A mother of five children, she has been married for 28 years and was a foster and adoptive parent for 25 years.

**ASHLEY ROBISON** is a seasoned non-profit manager with fifteen years of experience in programming, project management, communications, and audience engagement. She

graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a Bachelor's in English (Writing) and Film Studies. Ashley earned her Master's in Arts Administration at Indiana University. She currently works at Tulane University as the Associate Director, Global Programs in Alumni Relations.

**ERIC ROQUE** manages all budgeting activities and programmatic and administrative operations at Tulane's Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching. He is also the Program Coordinator for the Louis Stokes - Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation program at Tulane where he has worked for the past eleven years to substantially increase the number and quality of underrepresented minority students earning baccalaureate degrees in STEM at Tulane. Eric received his MBA from Tulane University in 2009.

## 3MT Contestants

### **VICTOR BANKSTON**

*"Paradoxes in Quantum Information"*

Victor Bankston is a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science. His current work draws inspiration from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll and The Dispossessed by Ursula K. Le Guin. He hopes that old ideas can re-emerge in new and surprising ways, this time bolstered by calculation.

### **TERRENCE HUNTER**

*"Endomorphins: Natural Pain Killers with Reduced Tolerance"*

Terrence "TJ" Hunter is a native of College Park, Maryland where his proximity to the Chesapeake Bay watershed first sparked his love of biology. This appreciation of nature coupled with early life family tragedy led to aspirations of studying neuroscience with the desire to provide superior treatment options for those suffering from debilitating insults, like traumatic brain injuries. After receiving his BS in both Psychology and Physiology & Neurobiology, he chose Tulane University and the lab of Dr. James Zadina to pursue his Ph.D. in Neuroscience to continue these lifelong dedications. At Tulane, TJ has focused on tackling the national opioid epidemic through the research of alternative medicines with reduced tolerance and lack addictive properties. In his spare time, he loves to garden, cook, and most of all eat while embracing all that New Orleans has to offer with his two dogs and loving partner. He is proud to call New Orleans home.

### **ANEEKA RATNAYAKE**

*"COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness, Hesitancy, Incentives, and Mandates in the Deep South"*

Aneeka Ratnayake grew up in Toronto, Canada. She completed her undergraduate and master's degrees at Johns Hopkins, before coming to Tulane. She has been interested in infectious diseases throughout her academic career and is currently a PhD candidate in the department of Epidemiology.

### **RAYHANUS SALAM**

*"Increasing Membrane Permeability of Carboxylic Acid Containing Drugs Using Synthesis Transmembrane Anion Transporters"*

Rayhanus Salam is PhD candidate in chemistry department, who was born in Bangladesh. He received his bachelor and masters degrees from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He joined Tulane University as a doctoral student in 2018. His current research area focuses on development of anion transporter and sensor, and their application.

### **ALYSSA WALKER**

*“Imagination as the Skill of Translation”*

Alyssa Walker is a PhD Candidate in the department of philosophy. Before moving to New Orleans, she taught English in Paris, France, and completed her BA in Philosophy & English at DePaul University in Chicago. Alyssa’s research focuses on bringing genealogical and experimental approaches to thinking about the mind. In her free time, she likes to take walks with her partner, hang out with their three cats (Pluto, Mephisto, and Lillith), dig around in the garden, and learn new skills! Right now, she’s learning how to paint with acrylics.

### **MARIE AIMEE KAYITESI**

*“Ultrasound can help in delivering drugs across the brain blood vessels and break breast cancer drug resistance”*

I am a native of Rwanda, a country in Africa. I earned my bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Engineering from California Baptist University and received my master’s degree in Biomedical Engineering from Tulane University. I am currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Biomedical Engineering at Tulane University and my research project focus on the therapeutic applications of ultrasound to deliver drugs through the Blood-Brain Barrier and to treat breast cancer chemoresistance.

### **MELIKA FARZAM**

*“Nature-inspired Bandages!”*

Melika Farzam is a Ph.D. student in chemical and biomolecular engineering at Tulane University. She got her M.Sc. in chemical engineering from the University of Tehran. Her work in Dr. Noshir Pesika’s lab focuses on designing “smart” materials, including bio-inspired adhesives. Melika is interested in developing new materials that can make people’s lives better.

### **HANS DESALE**

*“Pathogenesis of Chagas Disease”*

Hans Desale is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Tropical Medicine. He is interested in the control and elimination of vector-borne and neglected tropical diseases, as well as improving quality of life through a one-health mindset.

### **ANIKA TABASSUM**

*“Hydrogen: Next Generation Fuel Produced by 2D Materials”*

Anika Tabassum is a PhD candidate who is currently working in novel energy materials under the supervision of Dr. Michael Naguib. She has received master's degrees in Material Science and Engineering from Tulane University. She is originally from Bangladesh. Apart from her research, she likes to lead organizations and work for advancement of women in STEM.

**DANICA KULIBERT**

*"How Do Our Beliefs About Our Political Party's Attitudes Impact Our Own Attitudes?"*

Danica Kulibert is a 6th year PhD student in Social Psychology. Her research focuses on factors that impact intergroup relations. Specifically, she is conducting research on perceptions of political groups and using perspective-taking as a method to change attitudes.

**ANGELLE BRADFORD**

*"Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease"*

Angelle Bradford is a doctoral candidate at Tulane School of Medicine in the Departments of Physiology and Medicine. When she needs to think through a stuck point or challenge in her lab, she watches Housewives of any franchise or cooks and bakes Louisiana classics that have been passed down from her generations of family. She spends never-enough time with her twin sister, Kaitlyn, her niece, and her community of friends and family here in New Orleans and across Louisiana- many of whom she volunteers with on climate movement actions or gun violence prevention work. Angelle plans to stay in academic medicine and go on to a medical post-doctoral position after graduation in 2023.

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THREE MINUTE THESIS IS BROUGHT TO  
YOU BY TULANE UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF  
GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES.