An 80,000-word thesis would take 9 hours to present.
Their time limit?
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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 900 universities across more than 85 countries worldwide.
KATIE ACUFF is an Associate Vice President for Advancement at Tulane. Now in her 11th year, she oversees the strategic pursuit of principal gifts across the university, prioritizes the development work of the president and other senior university officials, and works with donors capable of making transformative gifts in support of Tulane’s comprehensive, $1.3B “Only the Audacious” campaign. She began her fundraising career at her alma mater, The Catholic University of America, where she earned both a B.A. in international economics and finance and a J.D. She is also a graduate of Tulane’s Executive MBA program.

JOY CLARK is a guitarist, singer and songwriter. Joy Clark melds bluesy bayou vibes, folksy rhythms and a dash of alternative appeal to create soulful original music that has enraptured audiences all over. Her warm rhythms and melodies reveal a sweet vulnerability that has earned her critical acclaim and coveted performances across the country. Her guitar chops earned her spots touring with living-legend Cyril Neville and Swamp Funk and soul funk outfit Waterseed. In 2017 she beat out dozens of songwriters from across New Orleans to win the Delgado Songwriting Contest, last year she was featured as a solo act at The Ogden Museum of Southern Arts and in 2019 she was selected to feature at both the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and French Quarter Festival. Listen to Joy’s latest single, “Never Change” at joyclarkmusic.com

AVA L’HERISSE has worked at Tulane for twelve years and moved from the Accounts Payable office to her current position as Executive Secretary in the Department of Communication in January 2017. Ava is also a part-time mortgage loan professional 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 Controller. A mother of five children, she has been married for 26 years and was a foster and adoptive parent for 24 years.

SIMON MOUSHABECK is a Palestinian-American accordionist, percussionist, teacher, and programmer living in New Orleans. Simon comes from a family of musicians and studied music and computer science at Bowdoin College. His musical interests include Jazz, Arabic classical and folk music, and a handful of styles from around Latin America. Before moving to New Orleans, he worked as an acoustician in New York City, consulting on the design of recording studios and concert halls. Recently Simon has been leaning more into web development, 3D modelling and printing, and teaching both music and coding-related creative arts.

SCOTT TIMS completed a MS in Applied Psychology at the University of South Alabama and a PhD in Public Health from Florida International University. He has worked in a variety of health care settings with a focus on health promotion, prevention, and integration of services. He has been at Tulane since 2008, originally as leader of the health promotion department and now as the first Assistant Vice President of Campus Health, which include the Health Center, Counseling Center, and Health Promotion Office. He is also current President-Elect for the American College Health Association.
AUSTIN T. JONES
Improving Treatment for Hepatitis C.
Austin Jones is a MD/PhD candidate in the Department of Epidemiology at Tulane University. He is an aspiring emergency physician-scientist, integrating public health interventions with emergency services. His research involves screening and linkage to care for infectious diseases, particularly hepatitis C and chlamydia. Austin has worked in public health and clinical capacities in Panama, Congo, and South Sudan and hopes to continue global health in his career.

SOPHIE DELSAUX
The Occult and Social Justice in Nineteenth-Century French Literature.
Sophie Delsaux is a PhD candidate in the French department of Tulane University. She has a M.A in education sciences from the University of Lille. Her research focuses on the implications of the occult in social justice in nineteenth-century French literature. Her scholarly interests include nineteenth and twentieth-century French literature, the link between politics and occult as it is portrayed in literature, and higher education policies and leadership.

PATRICIA SNARSKI
GF-1 and Macrophages: Fighting Atherosclerosis Two Steps at a Time.
Patricia Snarski is a first generation, fifth year PhD candidate in the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program in both the Departments of Medicine and Physiology at Tulane University School of Medicine. She received her bachelor’s degree in biology at Reed College in Portland, Oregon and then took a very long break before starting at the University of Missouri-Columbia on her PhD. She followed her mentor to Tulane at the beginning of her fourth year. Patricia is interested in vascular biology, macrophage biology, inflammation, and aging.

AIBOLAT KOISHYBAY
Conversion of Methane to Methanol Using Water.
Aibolat Koishybay is a PhD candidate from Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. He is originally from Kazakhstan which is the largest land-locked country in the world. His research focus is on the synthesis of micro and mesoporous materials for separations and catalysis applications.

JESSICA LEE LIDDELL
"Women are the Healers": Native American Resilience in the Gulf South.
Jessica Liddell is a doctoral candidate at Tulane University in the City, Culture and Community PhD program. She has a master’s degree in social work and public health. Her work focuses on pregnancy and childbirth, reproductive justice issues, community-engagement, and making healthcare systems more equitable. Her dissertation explores the sexual and reproductive health experiences among Native American women in the Gulf South. Jessica has a new son, Leo, and, when not in quarantine, loves to enjoy all the music and magic New Orleans offers.

DANIEL HANSON DZAH
"No Duty to stay": Against Restrictions on High-Skilled Immigration.
Daniel Hanson Dzah is a fourth year PhD student in Tulane University’s Department of Philosophy. His research interests are in social and political philosophy. He specifically works on normative research on immigration and immigration policy.

RON KOSHITA
Ron Koshita is a 4th-year PhD candidate in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. Raised in New York, Ron attributes his passion for science to weekly visits to the Museum of Natural History in Manhattan and his admiration of superheroes. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Physics at Iowa State University before arriving at Tulane. When not working on research under his advisor Dr. Lev Kaplan, Ron serves as the current President of the Graduate Studies Student Association (GSSA) and enjoys finding new hobbies and challenges to overcome.
LAUREN SWIENTONIEWSKI
Clay Nanoparticles as Alternatives to Chemical Dispersants in Oil Pollution.
Lauren Swientoniewski moved to New Orleans to pursue a PhD in Biomedical Sciences at Tulane School of Medicine after earning her BS at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In addition to her research, for the past 5 years she has enjoyed her time in the city as a devoted Saints fan and Mardi Gras parade-goer, including catching a Muses shoe each year!

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

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