Mississippi State University
Three Minute Thesis Competition

Preliminary Rounds
November 18th, 2025

Morning Session
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join us in-person or virtually via this WebEx Link:
https://msstate.webex.com/msstate/j.php?MTID=ma915b01b205df3c39e7efabffdd98471

Welcome and Master of Ceremony
Dr. W. Brien Henry
Associate Dean of the Graduate School

SESSION 1
10:00 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

Amara Mason, PhD student
Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
When grandparents take the stand, who wins: Love or Law?

Ap Anshuman Behera, Master's student
Aerospace Engineering, College of Engineering
Probing Shape Memory Polymer Composites for Deployable Space Structures

Arpita Deb, PhD student
Comparative Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine
From Broccoli to Brain: Decoding Nature's Neuro-Immune Protector

Bala Subramanyam Sivarathri, PhD student
Plant and Soil Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Seed priming: Sustainable Agronomic Solutions

Brooklyn Laubinger, Master's student
Animal and Dairy Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Seasonal Nutrition: Mimicking Nature to Develop Efficient Beef Heifers

John Cooper Little, Master's student
Agricultural and Biological Engineering, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Site Specific Management of Iron Deficiency Chlorosis

Dalila Belaidi, PhD student
Sustainable Bioproducts, College of Forest Resources
Optimizing Veneer Properties to Predict LVL Strength and Stiffness Using Non-Destructive Testing

Daniel Joyce, Master's student
Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Health Promotion, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Cancer Cell Resistance: Transcriptional Adaptation to Promote Recovery from Cellular Stress

Jesus Rafael Ortiz Garcia, Master's student
Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering
Regional exponential λ–CN conversion equations, the OF_KGE composite metric, and precision λ mapping: An integrated calibration framework for SCS Curve Number method across U.S. watersheds.

Maria Haider, PhD student
Kinesiology, College of Education
Feasibility and Effectiveness of Physical Activity Program in People with Intellectual Disabilities Using Theories of Behavior: A Mixed Methods Approach

BREAK
10:55 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

3MT® THREE MINUTE THESIS
FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

SESSION 2
11:05 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Moeen Ul Islam, PhD student
Agricultural and Biological Engineering, College of Engineering
Soft Robotic Systems for Delicate Fruit Harvesting

Muhammad Hamza, PhD student
Sustainable Bioproducts, College of Forest Resources
Removing the Unremovable: Cellulose Changed Water's Story

Pengyu Wu, PhD student
Finance and Economics, College of Business
Managerial Incentives and Tax Aggressiveness

Pouria Rahgosha, PhD student
Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Why You Forget and How to Fix It.

Prattay Dey, PhD student
Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences
Fishing for a Better Vaccine: Leveraging Natural Colonization to Prevent Disease

Ridwan Ayinla, PhD student
Sustainable Bioproducts, College of Forest Resources
Waste to Watt: Transforming Waste into Battery

Ruchita Bhattarai, Master's student
Plant and Soil Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Modeling maize productivity in Mississippi using DSSAT

Saida Zinnurine, PhD student
Comparative Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine
Stopping a Catfish Killer: From Pathogen to Vaccine

Uditha Weerasinghe, PhD student
Physics and Astronomy, College of Arts and Sciences
Understanding the Strong Force

Yican Yang, PhD student
Agricultural and Biological Engineering, College of Engineering
Seeing Beneath the Surface: AI and Computer Vision for "Smarter" Sweetpotatoes