

# Sharing Research Broadly: Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) at Texas A&M University

Laura Hammons

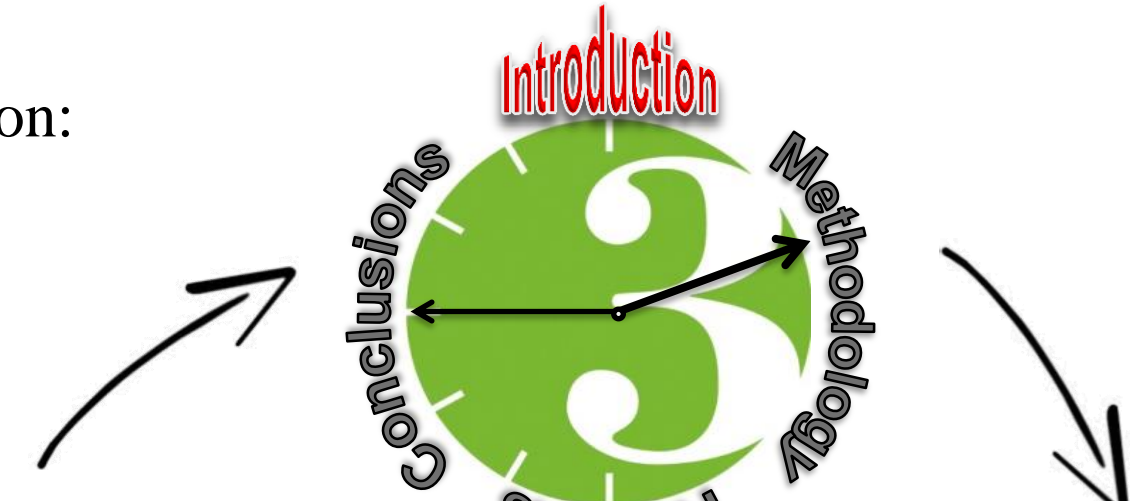
Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

## Introduction

### Problem:

While electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) are more readily accessible than ever before, the format, length, and general communication style of the ETD continue to pose barriers to large-scale diffusion of the research contained therein. But, what if there were a way to change that?

### Solution:



## The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®)



Dr. Kelly Lemmons  
Winner of the Texas  
A&M 3MT® Competition

## Eligibility & Rules

Eligibility: Doctoral and Master's Thesis students nearing the end of their graduate work

### Competition Rules:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files).
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment).
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum; competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts his or her presentation through either movement or speech.

An 80,000 word thesis would take hours to present. Their time limit.... 3 MINUTES

Developing academic, presentation and research communications skills

Communicating research in layman terms

## Planning & Marketing

- Register at 3minutethesis.org
- Access logos, materials, and guidelines
- Learn from other competitions
- Advertise, advertise, advertise

## Student Preparation

October 10 & 16

- 2 seminars
- Small group activities
- Focus on research communication skills

## Prelims

November 11-13

- 24 competitors
- 10 minute time slots
- Judging panel critiques
- Top 6 advance to finals

## Finals

November 21

- Open to general public
- Winner receives \$400 and advances to Conference of Southern Graduate Schools' 3MT® competition
- People's Choice and runner-up receive \$200

## Judging Criteria

30 points

### Communication Style

- Was the topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience?

### Comprehension

- Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?

### Engagement

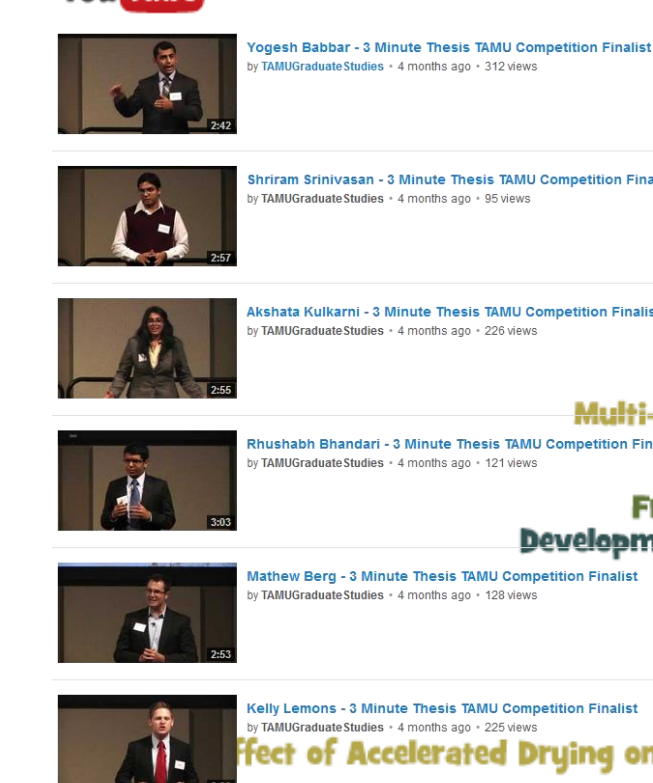
- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?

## Connecting 3MT® to Digital Libraries

As students generally engage in 3MT® efforts prior to or parallel with completing their degree programs, the program holds the potential – through *collaborations* among the *Graduate School*, *Library*, and others – to demonstrate to participants the *value* of *scholarly communications and ETD collections*, as well as enrich the ETD with video that is succinct and more broadly appealing.

- Highlight ETD collection at competitions
- Build OA and Scholarly Communications into professional development
- Record videos and upload or link with ETD record

YouTube



A New Organic Tool to Combat Antibiotic Resistant Microbes

A Wearable Tactile Navigation System for Motorcyclists

Study Abroad and Cultural Competence

Runaway Ecology and the Future of Water

HaptiMoto and Rap Music

Quantification of Salt Marsh Carbon Stocks Using Remote Sensing

TreeHouse: Algorithms for Analyzing Large Sets of Phylogenetic Trees

Shocking Turbulence at Hypersonic Speeds

Disaster Mitigation through Modeling of Carbon Sequestration

Carbon Nano Tube Thin Films: Empowering the future of bendable electronics

Multi-temporal Terrestrial LiDAR for Estimating Individual Tree Dimensions and Biomass Change

Facets and Extended Formulations of Continuous n-Mixing Set

From Novices to Experts: The Development of Shanghai Early Childhood Teachers

Development of Bi-enzymatic Triglyceride Biosensor based on Multi-molecular Wiring System

Simulating Historic Patterns of Fire in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park

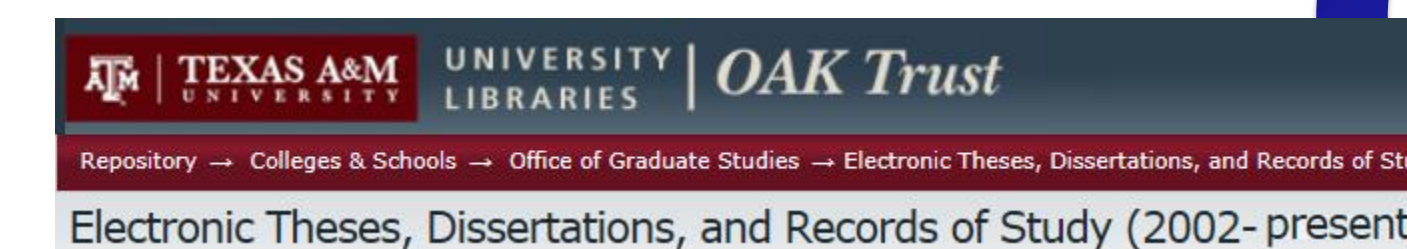
Aligned PEDOT Expertise

High Throughput Screening of Onions Using Microplate Method

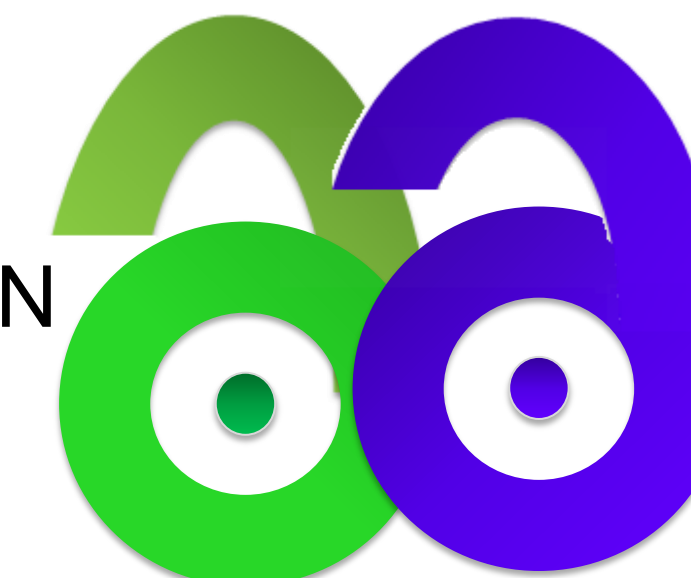
Reception

Effect of Accelerated Drying on the Reduction of Salmonella on Almonds by Thermal and Electron Beam Irradiation Pasteurization Treatments

Microscale Chaotic Convection Enables Thermally Actuated Biochemical Reactions



OPEN



ACCESS



February 23

## 3 Minute Thesis Finals Competition

5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Memorial Student Center 2300C  
Texas A&M University  
Program

5:30-6:00 p.m. Poster Session with Preliminary Contestants

6:00-7:00 p.m. Competition Finals

Welcome from  
Dr. Karan L. Watson  
Provost and Executive Vice  
President for Academic Affairs

Remarks from  
Dr. Karen Butler-Purpy  
Associate Provost for Graduate  
and Professional Studies

Finals Overview  
Introductions from  
Dr. Sue Bloomfield  
Assistant Provost for Graduate  
and Professional Studies

Presentations from  
the Finalists and Voting  
Coordinated by  
Dr. Bloomfield

Recognition and  
Award Presentations  
Dr. Bloomfield

Closing Comments  
Dr. Butler-Purpy

7:00-7:30 p.m. Social

Hosted by



## For Further Information

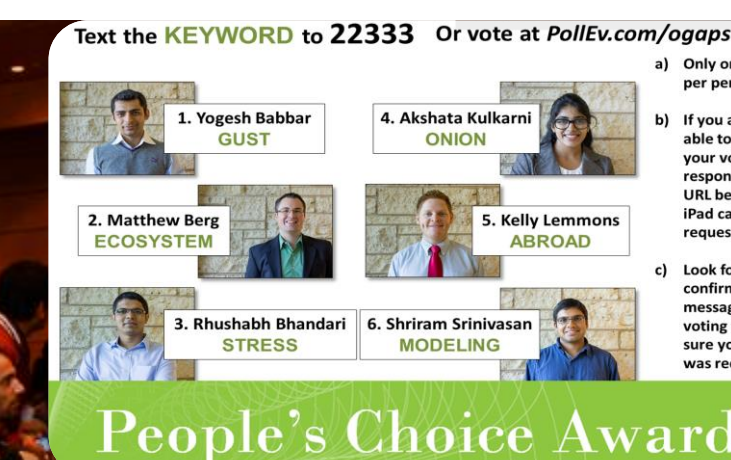
You can contact Laura Hammons at [lahammons@tamu.edu](mailto:lahammons@tamu.edu).  
You can visit the Texas A&M University Office of Graduate and Professional Studies website at <http://ogaps.tamu.edu>.



Poster Session with Preliminary Contestants  
at Competition Finals

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at Competition Finals

Texas A&M 3MT® Finalists  
Nagah Bhatia, Shrinivas Reddy, Bhaskar Bhattacharya, Ashoka Kulkarni, Kelly  
Lemmons, and Shrinivas Reddy



Texas A&M 3MT® Finalist Competition Judges  
Dr. James Lupton, Dr. Christina Ellis, Economics Dr. Joe Feghli, Dr. Jane  
Compton, Dr. Deborah Bell-Parker, Brittany Woods

I would like to acknowledge Joelle Muenich, Dr. Kelly Lemmons, Huan Wang, and Shanice Jones for their input and assistance with this poster.

See additional photos at <http://bit.ly/RJC019>

