



# FOURTH ANNUAL THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

Presented by the Graduate School in partnership  
with the Graduate Student Association

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WED. | FEB. 5, 2020 | 6-8PM

KISLAK CENTER AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



## ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by graduate students around the world. Developed by the University of Queensland in 2008, the competition cultivates students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. Presenting in a 3MT® Competition increases students' capacity to succinctly summarize their research in three minutes using language comprehensible to a non-specialist audience. Competitors are allowed one PowerPoint slide, but no other resources or props. The inaugural University of Miami 3MT® Competition was held in April 2017 in partnership with the Graduate Student Association.

# EVENT PROGRAM

6:00 p.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks
6:10 p.m.	Competition Commences
7:00 p.m.	People's Choice Award Voting
7:05 p.m.	Networking Reception
7:45 p.m.	Awards Ceremony
7:55 p.m.	Closing Remarks

## 2020 COMPETITORS

(in order of appearance)



### **Michael T. Connelly**

Ph.D. student in the Rosenstiel  
School of Marine & Atmospheric Science

**Dissertation:** *Interactions Between the Coral  
Innate Immune System and Coral-Associated  
Bacteria Communities*

**Advisor:** Dr. Nikki Traylor-Knowles



### **Donnie Garcia-Navarro**

Master's student in the School of Architecture

**Thesis:** *Atomized Hospital: The Patient Room  
at Home*

**Advisor:** Dr. Rodolphe el-Khoury



### **Julius R. Dewald**

Ph.D. student in the Abess Center for Ecosystem  
Science & Policy (The Graduate School)

**Dissertation:** *The Social and Ecological Impacts  
of Conservation near South Luangwa National  
Park, Zambia*

**Advisor:** Dr. Douglas O. Fuller



### **Vanessa Lara**

Ph.D. student in the School of Education & Human  
Development

**Dissertation:** *Food Quality vs. Food Quantity on  
Weight Loss and Metabolic Markers of Obesity*

**Advisor:** Dr. Wesley Smith





**Benjamin E. Borenstein**

Ph.D. student in the Miami Herbert Business School

**Dissertation:** *Computing Closeness: Differences in Online Prosocial Behavior Across Device Mobility*

**Advisors:** Dr. Claudia Townsend & Dr. Caglar Irmak

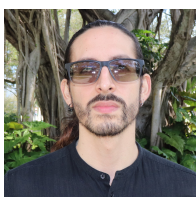


**Olivia Altamirano**

Ph.D. student in the College of Arts & Sciences

**Thesis:** *Caregiving for a Loved One with Dementia*

**Advisor:** Dr. Amy Weisman de Mamani



**Víctor Manuel Rubio Carrillo**

Ph.D. student in the Frost School of Music

**Thesis:** *A Musical Breathing Approach with Guitar Performance*

**Advisor:** Dr. Stephen Zdzinski

(Competitors continued on next page)

## 2020 COMPETITORS

**Stephano Chang**

Ph.D. student in the Miller School of Medicine

**Dissertation:** *Neuromodulation to Enhance Locomotion in a Large Animal Model of Thoracic Spinal Cord Injury*

**Advisors:** Dr. Brian Noga & Dr. James Guest

**Jeff Peterson**

Ph.D. student in the College of Engineering

**Dissertation:** *Shining a Light on Corneal Infection*

**Advisor:** Dr. Jean-Marie Parel

**Daniella Carucci Marchetti**

Ph.D. student in the College of Arts & Sciences

**Thesis:** *Are Socioenvironmental Indicators Related to Weight Status?*

**Advisor:** Dr. Patrice G. Saab

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Graduate School and Graduate Student Association thank the following individuals and contributors for their support:

### JUDGES

**Ms. Hilarie Bass**

Chair of the University of Miami Board of Trustees

**Dr. Jeffrey Duerk**

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
and Provost

**Mr. Anthony Varona**

Dean of the School of Law

**Dr. Karin Wilkins**

Dean of the School of Communication

### CONTRIBUTORS

**Creative Studio Team**

Special recognition to Chase Bartholomew, Senior Audio  
Visual Technician

**Toppel Career Center Team**

Special recognition to Carly Smith, Director of Career Services,  
and Ismaris Ocasio, Assistant Director of Graduate Programs

**Writing Center Team**

Special recognition to Joanna Johnson, Director of Writing,  
and April Mann, Director

A grayscale image of an hourglass with sand falling from the top bulb to the bottom bulb, serving as a background for the text.

Vote for the 2020 3MT<sup>®</sup>  
People's Choice Award

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