

**Three Minute Thesis Competition
First-Round Heat #1
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, 9:00AM**

Judges:

Carrie Johnston, Director of Research and Scholarly Initiatives, SMU Libraries

Brandon Miller, Assistant Dean, University Honors Program and Fellowships

Rob Pearson, Director of Career Development and Postdoctoral Affairs, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

Competitors:

Nicole Pinzon Hoyos, Molecular and Cellular Biology PhD: “Linking Immunity to Seizures: The Potential Impact of Immune Complement Proteins on Epilepsy”

Rawda Ahmed, Civil and Environmental Engineering PhD: “Digital Framework for Estimating Regional Truck Movement Using Integrated Computer Vision and Filtering Techniques”

Zheyuan Xu, Sustainability and Development M.S.: “Urban Agriculture in Dallas: A Potential Way to Improve the Lives of People Living in Poverty”

Jason Yoon, Master of Science in Data Science: “The Prevalence and Impact of Bots in Social Media Networks: The 2024 Presidential Election”

Umanga Weerasingha, Geology PhD: “Using Multiple Satellite Remote Sensing Sources to Determine the Intermittent Ice Cover of Lakes in The Northern Hemisphere”

Wen Fan, Biostatistics PhD: “Deep Learning for Antibiotics Resistance Prediction”



**Three Minute Thesis Competition
First-Round Heat #2
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, 10:00AM**

Judges:

Rachel Ball-Phillips, Director of Graduate Fellowships and Awards, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

David Doyle, Dean, Honors and Scholars Programs; Director, University Honors Program

Eric Godat, Director, OIT Research Technology

Competitors:

Zahra Sadri, Molecular and Cellular Biology PhD: “Exploring the Role of Trem2 Signaling in Epilepsy Neuropathology”

Nirmal Sunilkumar Parmar, Computer Science M.S.: “Block Enabled E-Voting”

Zichang Xiang, Statistical Science PhD: “High-dimensional Locally Stationary Models for Identifying Neuroimaging Biomarkers in Autism Spectrum Disorder”

Kuo Wang, Education PhD: “Use of Natural Language Processing in Automated Scoring of Prosodic Reading Ability”

Alvin Leluc, Physics PhD: “Detecting Ripples in Space with Light from the Early Universe”

**Three Minute Thesis Competition
First-Round Heat #3
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, 11:00AM**

Judges:

Thandeka Dlamini-Simelane, SMU-George W. Bush Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, Clements
Department of History

Adam Neal, Program Manager, Office of Engaged Learning

Charles Wuest, Director for Programming and Research Associate Professor, Department of
English

Competitors:

Art Taychameekiatchai, Biostatistics PhD: “GNN-EGG: Graph Neural Network Explanation via
Graph Generation”

Elizabeth Bell, Psychology PhD: “Dependability of Cognitive Vulnerability Measures”

Joshua Plank, Chemistry PhD: “Cell-Scale Chemiluminescent Imaging via Novel Chemical and
Microscopic Systems”

Charity Lewallen, Education PhD: “Accreditation: A Policy Lever for Addressing the Transfer
Problem”

Hyung Seo (Caroline) Lee, Psychology PhD: “Examining the Hierarchical Taxonomy of
Psychopathology in a Nationally Representative Epidemiological Sample with a
Quantitative Intersectional Approach”