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## News Release

For Immediate Release

April 2, 2019

### University of Alberta Graduate Students Are Asking Bold Questions in Their Research

**Edmonton** – April 1-5 is Grad Impact Week and the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research is celebrating the incredible research that University of Alberta graduate students are doing.

It is not an exaggeration to say that our grad students are doing research that is changing our understanding of the universe, driving technological and medical advancements, and bringing forth social innovations to improve our society. Sometimes this work is happening so quietly that we need to shine a light on it. That is what the 3-Minute Thesis and Images of Research competitions aim to accomplish.

Consider a PhD thesis that could be 80,000 words and take 9 hours to present. How would you condense that amount of material into just a 3-minute presentation that anyone could understand? How would you represent the essence of your research in a single image?

These are the challenges grad students are taking up when they submit an entry for the [Images of Research](#) competition and enter the [Three Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition, an academic competition that assists current graduate students with developing effective presentation and communication skills. Students have just three minutes to explain the breadth and significance of their research project to a non-specialist audience.

“Competitions like the 3-Minute Thesis and Images of Research encourage our students to start conversations about the work they do and make it accessible for any audience,” says Dr. Deborah Burshtyn, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Winners in the Images of Research competition are being announced tomorrow night (April 3), at a private awards reception. The entire gallery of images by the 24 semi-finalists is available for public viewing in the University of Alberta [Coutts Library](#) from April 4 – 30, 2019. To view a digital gallery of past images, visit the [Past Collections](#) or the [Education and Research Archive \(ERA\)](#).

The 3MT Finals took place on March 26 with 15 finalists standing on stage in front of a live audience and a virtual audience tuning in over livestream. Students representing 8 different faculties and 14 different departments presented research in areas ranging from bionic limbs, connected cars, bilingualism in autistic children, social justice employment programs in waste management, black holes, and the absence of women’s leadership voices.

First place winner Annapoorna Shruthi Budnar Subramanya, graduate student in chemical and materials engineering, related her research into the partial upgrading of bitumen to the journey of a potato. She invited her audience to think of one product or industry that Canada is famous for, with an image of an oil pipeline appearing behind her on the screen. “But I happen to be a foodie,” she proclaims. “My first thought? Poutine!”

UAlberta 3MT Finals winners receive cash prizes and the first-place winner will progress to represent UAlberta at the 3MT Western Regional Competition, and from there, possibly on to the national 3MT competition. Previous University of Alberta winners has gone on to place at the Western Finals and compete in the Canadian 3MT Competition. All 15 presentations are available to view in a recording of the livestreamed event. To watch, go to [uab.ca/3MT](http://uab.ca/3MT). The research topics of the three winners are outlined in the [announcement](#) found in the News Section of the FGSR website.

For more information on Grad Research Impact Week and the 3 Minute Thesis competition, visit <https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/> or follow #gradimpact. For more details on the Images of Research competition, visit [www.uab.ca/ior](http://www.uab.ca/ior).

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**STUDIES & RESEARCH**



**3MT**<sup>®</sup> **THREE**  
**MINUTE**  
**THESIS**  
FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



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**Marnie Newell**  
*Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science*  
 Improving Breast Cancer Treatment



**Eric Wells**  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
 Bionic Limbs for Confident Coffee Consumption



**Erin Ratelle**  
*Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation*  
 I Know What You Did Last Wednesday



**Bahman Homayun**  
*Chemical and Materials Engineering*  
 Drug and Disease: Enemies Who Should Meet



**Emma-Lynn Wallace**  
*Extension*  
 Developing Solutions to End Poverty – What's Missing?



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**Mudasser Seraj**  
*Civil and Environmental Engineering*  
 The Silence of the Cars



**Anthony Goertz**  
*Women's and Gender Studies*  
 Who Sorts Your Trash?



**Shruti Budnar Subramanya**  
*Chemical and Materials Engineering*  
 Partial Upgrading of Tarry Bitumen into Free-Flowing Oil



**Chantal Labonté**  
*Educational Psychology*  
 Bilingualism and Children with Autism



**Kleinberg Fernandez**  
*Chemistry*  
 Apelin Building Blocks for Heart Disease Treatment





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**Makenzie MacKay**  
*Resource Economics and  
Environmental Sociology*

Powering the Top of the  
World



**Jens Boos**  
*Physics*

Black Holes and Einstein's  
End of Eternity



**Tanveer Hassan Mehedi**  
*Mechanical Engineering*

Electricity Lifecycles – Stay  
Dirty or Go Clean



**Vineet Rathod**  
*Biochemistry*

The Right Tool for the  
Right Job



**Lebogang Disele**  
*Drama*

Where are the Women?

