

Three Minute Thesis Competition

First round schedule

October 28, 2026



Each heat will begin with opening remarks by the moderator. Presentations will follow and will occur approximately every 4 minutes (3 minutes per presentation followed by approx. 1 minute for judges to finalize scores and to transition between presenters.)

Schedule is subject to change.

updated: 10-27-2026

Heat 1

9:30 - 10:10am | Flint Hills Room, K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Abraham	Arbelaez	Doctoral	Statistics	Flock Around and Find Out	Trevor Hefley
Alex	Hutchinson	Doctoral	Grain Science	Harnessing Heterogeneity to Improve Grain Quality	Yonghui Li
Alireza	Monavarian	Doctoral	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	Where Will My City Flood Next?	Vaishali Sharda
Amrita	Barua	Master's	Civil Engineering	Making Green-Concrete Tougher	Parth Panchmatia
Ashlie	Ake	Doctoral	Pathobiology	Are native US mosquitoes capable of vectoring Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV)?	Dana Vanlandingham
Felicitas	Vignati	Doctoral	Animal Sciences	Growing Feed with Less Water for Kansas Dairy	William Brown
Janani Peshala	Madanayaka	Master's	Agronomy	Turning Contaminated Soil into Safer Ground	Ganga Hettiarachchi
Oluchi	Alaribe	Doctoral	Microbiology	Following the Clues: Uncovering Missing Pieces in the Lyme Disease Puzzle	Vanessa Ante
Sahar	Ghorbani	Doctoral	Computer Science	The Hidden Switch in Artificial Intelligence	Eugene Vasserman
Sandhya	Gopisetty	Doctoral	Plant Pathology	One Fungus, Many Personalities: What Makes Some Strains More Dangerous?	Chris Toomajian



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Heat 2

10:30 - 11:00am | 227 Room, K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Enock	Bulime	Doctoral	Economics	When World Prices Fall Together, Why Does Debt Rise?	William Blankenau
Mohsen	Davoudkhani	Doctoral	Psychology	Detecting Mild Cognitive Impairment Before Memory Declines	Heather Bailey
Omotayo	Onanuga	Doctoral	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Living well with multimorbidity in older adults of African descent	Gina Besenyi, Gina Besenyi
Reannan	Boisvert	Doctoral	Health and Human Sciences - Sustainable Fashion Business	Body Measurement Variation Among Motorsports Drivers and Implications for Protective Apparel Sizing	Yingying Wu
Tina	Glatz	Doctoral	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Moving Through the School Day: Physical Activity and Sedentary Behavior	Peter Stoepker
Zachary	Meyer	Doctoral	Economics	The Eldercare Penalty	Amanda Gaulke

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Heat 3

11:30am - 12:10pm | Flint Hills Room, K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Audrey	Matheny	Doctoral	Pathobiology	Teaching old vaccines new tricks	Dana Vanlandingham
Portia	Osei Obeng	Doctoral	Agronomy	The Other Side of Striga Resistance	Terry Felderhoff
Cayden	Bowe	Doctoral	Grain Science	Soybeans to Soy-lutions: Unlocking the Power of the Magic Bean for Health	Sajid Alavi
David	Hayes	Doctoral	Microbiology	Using fungal pathogens to control mosquitoes	Kristin Michel
Forough	Torabi	Doctoral	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	Where does the mud go?	Trisha Moore
Kazi Hassan	Shakib	Doctoral	Computer Science	Locking the Power Grid Before Quantum Hackers Get the Key	Dr. Arslan Munir
Meghan	Rice	Doctoral	Chemistry	Molecular LEGO: Assembling Balgacyclamide C to Fight Cancer	Ryan Rafferty
Mir Tuhin	Billah	Doctoral	Grain Science	From Terra Bytes to Tasty Bites: Using Machine Learning to Map Food Structure and Quality	Sajid Alavi
Nomenatiana	Bakoalijaona	Master's	Food Science	It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's a Super-Grain! Kernza, the Environmental and Nutritional Superhero.	Sajid Alavi
Syed Ahsan Masud	Zaidi	Doctoral	Computer Science	A Second Set of Eyes: AI for Sports Safety	Lior Shamir

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Heat 4

1:30 - 2:15pm | 227 Room, K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Claire	Utzman	Doctoral	Biology	Protecting Water Quality in a Changing World	Lydia Zeglin
Indira Priyadarshini	Lakkakula	Doctoral	Plant Pathology	When Sorghum Is in Danger, Can Hormones Come to Its Rescue?	Chris Little
Kelechi	Igwe	Doctoral	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	Making Every Drop Count: A New Approach to Sustaining Crop Production with Limited Water	Vaishali Sharda
Nhung	Nguyen	Doctoral	Mathematics	Seeing the invisible by math and machine learning	Liem Nguyen
Nishadi	Dodampe Mudiyansele	Doctoral	Agronomy	Same Lead. Different Risk.	Ganga Hettiarachchi
Nuwan Rangana	Amarasinghe Mudiyansele	Master's	Agronomy	What if plants had a bank?	Ganga Hettiarachchi
Ryan	Atkins	Master's	Horticulture and Natural Resources	New School Techniques for an Old School Problem: Tracking Greater Prairie-Chickens on Fort Riley using Upland Bird Dogs	Drew Ricketts
Sadia Afrin	Priya	Master's	Civil Engineering	Would You Walk On Plastic?	Parth Panchmatia, Kimberly Kramer
Saurav	Pantha	Doctoral	Pathobiology	Same Shot, Different Shield: Why the Same Flu Shot Works Better in Females than Males	Saurav Pantha
Stephen	Bardowell	Doctoral	Physics	Gravity and Elastic Spacetime	Matthew Berg
Sumaira	Ghazal	Doctoral	Computer Science	Reading the Signs of Crop Stress: AI to Help Farmers	Arslan Munir

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Heat 5

2:30 - 3:15pm | Flint Hills Room, K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Adwaita	Pradeep	Doctoral	Electrical and Computer Engineering	From Anomaly to Action : Smarter Eyes on the Power Grid	Bala Natarajan
Asmita	Mahara	Doctoral	Biological and Agricultural Engineering	Closing the Loop: Turning Toxic Biofuel Wastewater into Green Energy	Mark r wilkins
Ishika	Thakur	Doctoral	Chemical Engineering	Beneath the Layers: Unlocking Graphite's Potential	James Edgar
Jannat Ara	Jabin	Master's	Civil Engineering	What You Don't See Keeps Bridges Safe	Parth Panchmatia
Mahamudul	Hasan	Doctoral	Pathobiology	Canine Respiratory Disease: The Missing Clues	Laura Miller
Rebecca	Johnson	Master's	Agronomy	Lead Remediation of Residential Soils with Phosphorus Fertilizers	Ganga Hettiarachchi
Rehan	Khan	Doctoral	Biology	When Negative Isn't Good News: Triple-Negative Breast Cancer	Jocelyn McDonald
Sabreena Ayoub	Parray	Doctoral	Agronomy	Better Sorghum, Better Feed: Integrating Field Traits, DNA Markers, and Gene Editing	Terry Felderhoff, Ramasamy Perumal
Shumaila	Ambreen	Doctoral	Mathematics	Turning Scattered Waves into an Image	Dinh-Liem Nguyen
Sumit	Chowdhury	Doctoral	Plant Pathology	Can a fungus remember its host?	Christopher Toomajian
Meghan	Shave	Doctoral	Curriculum and Instruction	When Teachers Become Learners	Michael Lawson



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Heat 6

3:30 - 4:00pm | 227 Room, K-State Student Union

First Name	Last Name	Degree	Program	Tentative Title	Faculty Mentor(s)
Bhavana	Sivayokan	Doctoral	Psychology	Rewiring the Aging Brain: Using TMS to Slow Cognitive Decline	Bethany Plakke
Kylie	Bedel	Master's	Agricultural Economics	River or Rail? Getting Grain to the Gulf	Logan Britton
Lee J	Hinkle	Doctoral	Health and Human Sciences - Kinesiology	Stronger Lasts Longer: Senior Athletes, With and Without Cancer, Hold It Together	Joshua Carr
Marzuq Yakub	Ahmed	Doctoral	Economics	When Talent leaves, Can money sent home replace the Gap?	Steven Cassou
Ricardo	Castañeda Olayo	Doctoral	Psychology	Listening without hearing: can the brain learn to hear through touch?	Matthew Wisniewski
Sara	Ayubian	Doctoral	Curriculum and Instruction	Voicing the Self: International Students in Higher Education	J. Spencer Clark