

**Georgia State University**  
**Three Minute Thesis Competition Finals**  
**Monday, 25, March 2019**  
**Centennial Hall, Auditorium**

**Doctoral Winners:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$500 & People's Choice**

**Mary Fernandes** – Program: Clinical Neuropsychology

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** Associations Between Pupillary Response Patterns to Emotional Faces and Self-Reported Social Anxiety

**Advisor:** Erin Tone, Ph.D.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$250**

**Ramesh Manyam** – Program: Computer Science

**Title:** Deep Learning Model for Predicting Readmissions Following Cardiac Surgery

**Advisor:** Yanqing Zhang, Ph.D.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$150**

**Thaddeus Johnson** – Program: Criminal Justice & Criminology

**College/School:** Andrew Young School of Public Policy

**Title:** Making Sense of the School-to-Prison-Pipeline: Connecting Exclusionary School Discipline, Susceptibility, and Race

**Advisor:** Eric Sevigny, Ph.D.

**Master's Winners:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$500**

**Michelle D'Amico** – Program: Public Health-Biostatistics

**College/School:** School of Public Health

**Title:** Examining Associations between Availability of Paid Sick Leave and Preventive Health Behaviors in a National Sample of Older Adults

**Advisor:** Matthew Hayat, Ph.D.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$250**

**Sara Gardner** – Program: Anthropology

**Title:** An Experimental Study of Bone Tools from Swartkrans Cave, South Africa

**Advisor:** Frank Williams, Ph.D.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$150 & People's Choice**

**Amirah Hurst** – Program: Biology

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** Effects of Early Life Opiate Exposure on the Brain

**Advisor:** Anne Murphy, Ph.D.

### Masters Finalist

**Alaina “Laini” Whitton** – Program: Public Health-Epidemiology

**College/School:** School of Public Health

**Title:** Attitudes and Risky Sexual Behavior among Youth in Kampala, Uganda: Empirical Analyses of Risk Factors by Gender

**Advisor:** Monica Swahn, Ph.D.

**Alexus Moore** – Program: Sociology

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** The Effect of Social Support on Problem Substance use within Black Homeless Youth

**Advisor:** Eric Wright, Ph.D.

**Amirah Hurst** – Program: Biology

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** Effects of Early Life Opiate Exposure on the Brain

**Advisor:** Anne Murphy, Ph.D.

**Chad Moore** – Program: Religious Studies

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** Inclusive Theologies and Transgender Refugees and Asylum Seekers

**Advisor:** Monique Moultrie, Ph.D.

**Joanna Caldwell** – Program: Public Health-Epidemiology

**College/School:** School of Public Health

**Title:** Discrimination and Mental Health Among LGBTQ Southerners

**Advisor:** Eric Wright, Ph.D.

**Michelle D’Amico** – Program: Public Health-Biostatistics

**College/School:** School of Public Health

**Title:** Examining Associations between Availability of Paid Sick Leave and Preventive Health Behaviors in a National Sample of Older Adults

**Advisor:** Matthew Hayat, Ph.D.

**Sara Gardner** – Program: Anthropology

**Title:** An Experimental Study of Bone Tools from Swartkrans Cave, South Africa

**Advisor:** Frank Williams, Ph.D.

### Doctoral Finalist

**Casy Walters** – Program: Developmental Psychology

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** Spoken vocabulary outcomes of toddlers with developmental delay receiving parent-coached augmented language intervention: A phonetic description and analysis

**Advisor:** Rose Sevcik, Ph.D.

**Charlie Harper** – Program: Educational Leadership

**College/School:** College of Education and Human Development

**Title:** The Perceptions and Experiences of Elementary Georgia Science Ambassadors: What Educational Leaders and Policy Makers Need to Know

**Advisor:** Sheryl Cowart Moss, Ph.D.

**Luqian Wang** – Program: Astronomy

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** Detection and Characterization of Hot Subdwarf Companions of Massive Stars

**Advisor:** Douglas R. Gies, Ph.D.

**Mary Fernandes** – Program: Clinical Neuropsychology

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** Associations Between Pupillary Response Patterns to Emotional Faces and Self-Reported Social Anxiety

**Advisor:** Erin Tone, Ph.D.

**Ramesh Manyam** – Program: Computer Science

**Title:** Deep Learning Model for Predicting Readmissions Following Cardiac Surgery

**Advisor:** Yanqing Zhang, Ph.D.

**Sergey Klimov** – Program: Biology/Math & Statistics

**College/School:** College of Arts and Sciences

**Title:** Machine Learning Approaches to Predict Recurrence of Aggressive Tumors

**Advisors:** Ritu Aneja, Ph.D. and Yi Jiang, Ph.D.

**Thaddeus Johnson** – Program: Criminal Justice & Criminology

**College/School:** Andrew Young School of Public Policy

**Title:** Making Sense of the School-to-Prison-Pipeline: Connecting Exclusionary School Discipline, Susceptibility, and Race |

**Advisor:** Eric Sevigny, Ph.D.