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

**Doctoral Winners:**

1st 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.

2nd Place - $250
Ramesh Manyam – Program: Computer Science
Title: Deep Learning Model for Predicting Readmissions Following Cardiac Surgery
Advisor: Yanqing Zhang, Ph.D.

3rd 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:**

1st 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.

2nd Place - $250
Sara Gardner – Program: Anthropology
Title: An Experimental Study of Bone Tools from Swartkrans Cave, South Africa
Advisor: Frank Williams, Ph.D.

3rd 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.