

SPRING EVENT

UW 3MT

THREE MINUTE THESIS

PRESENTED BY

The Office of Graduate Student Affairs
& UW Libraries Research Commons

05.23.24

3 – 4:30 PM @ ALDER AUDITORIUM, UW SEATTLE

Welcome!

THIS YEAR'S THEME

Impact for the Public Good

UW 3MT® is a professional development competition that celebrates the exciting capstone and research experiences of master's and doctoral students at the University of Washington from all three campuses. The competition supports graduate students' capacity to effectively and simply explain their capstone, thesis or dissertation projects in three minutes, in verbiage appropriate for a public audience.

Presenters will have a chance to win First Place, Runner Up, and People's Choice awards. Last year's event was stellar with a virtual audience and a showcase of UW leadership from all of our communities. We are thrilled you have joined us for this exciting event.

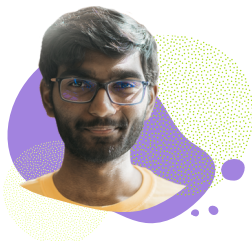
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COMPETING FINALIST BIOS

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Aparna Venkat

HE/HIM

Ph.D. candidate, Statistics

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Is the Best Explanation the True Explanation?

Aparna is a fourth-year Statistics Ph.D. student at the University of Washington. He is interested in developing causal inference and machine learning methods, typically motivated by problems in social science and health. He is co-advised by Tyler McCormick and Ema Perković. Prior to starting his Ph.D., he received his B.S. in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics from the University of Colorado Boulder.

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twitter.com/aparna_v



Elizabeth Pelletier

SHE/HER

Ph.D. candidate, Public Policy & Management

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Does Paid Leave Help All Parents?

Elizabeth is a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy and Management at the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance at the UW, where she studies how social and labor policies shape economic wellbeing and inequality in the U.S. Her dissertation focuses on paid leave policies and the economic conditions of parents of newborns. Before starting her Ph.D., Elizabeth was a researcher at the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., where she used data on state criminal justice systems to inform policy debates about mass incarceration and reform.

AFFILIATIONS >

- Trainee, UW Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >

- NIH T32 Data Science and Demography Training Fellow
- Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant
- WA State Labor Research Grant
- Hubert M. Blalock Fellowship

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Sarah Pollack

SHE/HER

Master's candidate, Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Detecting Illegal Trade Risk in U.S. Mahogany Imports

Sarah grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina and Brookline, Massachusetts and attended the University of North Carolina where she received her Bachelor's degree in Statistics and Analytics with a second major in Art History. She came to the University of Washington to apply her statistical training to ecology and environmental science through the Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management (QERM) program. Sarah works in the Center for International Trade in Forest Products (CINTRAFOR) lab. In her free time, she enjoys birdwatching, collecting license plates, and watching football.

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Fiona Sun

SHE/HER

Master's candidate,
Human-Centered Design
and Engineering

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Healthy Amazonian Gardens - Growing Backyard Gardens in the Peruvian Amazon

In the Peruvian Amazon rainforest lies Iquitos, a city challenged by its rapid, informal urbanization and limited public green spaces. This capstone project aims to use design and technology to raise awareness and promote ecological actions — specifically, encouraging residents to cultivate gardens in their backyards. Our team conducted field research to understand the locals' relationship with nature, and then created artifacts including educational materials, a garden planner, and a long-term engagement plan ready to be implemented in the program's next phase, assisting 60 households designing their backyard gardens. This project aims to incorporate design thinking and methods into public health initiatives to enhance the tangible impact of research.

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >

- HCDE Social Action Fellowship

www.linkedin.com/in/fiona-sun77/



Niveditha Kalavakonda

SHE/HER

Ph.D. candidate, Electrical and
Computer Engineering

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Surgical Scene Understanding Towards Human-Centered Collaboration in Robotic Surgery

Niveditha is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, advised by Prof. Blake Hannaford. Her research focuses on using robot vision and human-robot interaction to inform safe surgeon-robot collaboration. She is also a part of the Science, Technology, and Society Studies Department, working on Tech Policy research for robotics, advised by UW Law Professor Ryan Calo. Niveditha earned her MS in Electrical Engineering at the UW and B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Amrita School of Engineering (India).

AFFILIATIONS >

- Founding Board Member of Women in Computer Vision (WiCV),
- Founding member Student Advisory Board UW-ECE

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >

- Yang Award for Outstanding Doctoral Award,
- Husky 100 (2024),
- Amazon Catalyst Fellow

@nkalavak



Sumedh Supe

HE/HIM/HIS

Master's, Technology
Innovation

PRESENTATION TITLE >

AI in the Forest: Preventing Billions From Burning

Sumedh Supe is an engineer turned human-centered designer. A recent graduate from UW Technology Innovation program in Winter 2024, he has worked at the nexus of design, business and technology. Solving for problems in healthcare, social issues and forestry. Previously, he contributed to building the technical AI company portfolio for a global Seattle-based healthcare non-profit. In the health-tech space, he has devised a solution to digitize healthcare records for the Indian urban poor and he has worked to enable enhanced telemedicine access in rural parts of India. Other than work, Sumedh is an outdoor enthusiast. Loves biking, rowing and swimming.

COMPETING FINALIST BIOS

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Joselyn Landazuri Vinueza

SHE/HER

Ph.D., Microbiology

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Can We Win the War on Cancer Caused by Viruses?

Joselyn is an Ecuadorian-born American Ph.D. interested in scientific international development between the United States and developing countries like Ecuador. She earned her Ph.D. in Microbiology in Fall 2024. Joselyn's goal is to leverage her infectious disease background to improve the health and lives of women and children in developing countries, by advocating for equal vaccine distribution and dedicated federal support to protect developing countries against future pandemics.

AFFILIATIONS >

- National Science Policy Network

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >

- Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Training Grant

@viral_joss



Sara Khor

SHE/HER

Ph.D. candidate, Comparative Health Outcomes, Policy, and Economics (CHOICE) Institute

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Race in Clinical Risk Predictions

Sara is trained in both decision science and data science and is passionate about integrating the two in research that ensures equitable healthcare decision making. Her research focuses on three interrelated themes that lie in the intersection of data science, decision science, and health equity: 1) Algorithmic bias and fairness; 2) incorporating health equity into traditional decision analytic frameworks; and 3) generating evidence to inform policies to reduce patient financial toxicity and health disparities.

AFFILIATIONS >

- International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, UW student chapter

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >

- PhRMA Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship in Health Outcomes Research;
- AFPE Predoctoral Fellowship in Health Outcomes Disparities;
- Conquer Cancer Merit Award from the ASCO Foundation

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Sherry Gu

SHE/HER

Master's candidate, Bioengineering

PRESENTATION TITLE >

The Paperclip is Mightier Than the Sword

Sherry is a Bioengineering student in the Master of Applied Bioengineering (MAB) program, coming to UW after graduating with a BSc in Neuroscience from the University of Alberta. Her master's project focuses on developing a low-cost, quantitative method to assess the functionality of ultrasound transducers, an idea originating from TEAM Malawi at VTech with connections to the Center for Industrial and Medical Ultrasound at APL-UW. She is also interested in ultrasound-mediated drug delivery and its potential applications for cancer treatment in low-resource settings, and currently works at the Averkiou Lab. On days that she isn't doing school work, she enjoys volunteering at animal rescues, rewatching her favorite shows, and eating noodles.

AFFILIATIONS >

- Collaboration with CIMU (APL-UW) and TEAM Malawi (VTech) for project

www.linkedin.com/in/shgu

COMPETING FINALIST BIOS

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Daisy Ma

SHE/HER

Ph.D. candidate,
School Psychology

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Empowering Parents: Making Mealtime Unstressful

Daisy's research focuses on cognitive science studies and clinical practices related to children with autism and other developmental disabilities. With her solid clinical experience and research background, she has held diverse professional roles, including elementary school teacher, cognitive psychology research assistant, clinical social worker in a psychiatric hospital, and school psychologist. She has been dedicated to serving individuals and families dealing with neurodiversity and developmental disorders. Her interdisciplinary background enables her to approach issues from multiple perspectives, allowing her to provide comprehensive support to individuals and families.

www.linkedin.com/in/ruqianma/



Nicole Stankovic

SHE/HER

Master's candidate, Public Health;
Master's candidate, Music

PRESENTATION TITLE >

Music As Medicine: Exploring the Health Impacts of Music and Its Accessibility in Seattle Public Schools

Nicole is a pianist and emerging public health professional set to graduate with dual master's degrees in Piano Performance and Public Health. Originally from Park City, Utah, Nicole moved to Seattle in 2017, where she earned undergraduate degrees in piano performance and chemistry from the UW. Having had an interest in health from a young age, Nicole chose to pursue public health to explore well-being from a broader community perspective, especially in the wake of COVID-19. Her passions span performance, education, community organizing, and research, reflecting her belief in the power of merging different disciplines to enhance understanding and drive change.

AFFILIATIONS >

- UAW 4121

FELLOWSHIPS/FUNDING >

- Kennan and Phyllis Hollingsworth Endowed Fellowship

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Sawyer Thomas

HE/HIM

Ph.D. candidate, Mechanical
Engineering

PRESENTATION TITLE >

From Arteries to Space Stations: How Architected Patterns Lead to Custom Adaptation

Sawyer's work at the nexus of solid mechanics, computational design, material science, and robotics, drives innovation by bridging the gap between research and industrial application.

AFFILIATIONS >

- Transformative Robotics Lab,
- Nimble Surgical,
- NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC)

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Our Judges



Karen Beaudry

Co-Vice President, University
Relations, ARCS Foundation
Seattle Chapter



Derek Fulwiler

Executive Director,
Population Health Initiative,
University of Washington



Briana Furch, MD, MPH

Physician, Vaccine and Infectious
Disease Division, Fred Hutch



Dana Robinson Slote

Director of Media Relations,
University of Washington

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PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD >

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