Idaho State University | Graduate School

3MT® THREE MINUTE THESIS
FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

9TH ANNUAL 3MT COMPETITION

November 13, 2025

L.E. & Thelma Stephens Performing Arts Center

Idaho State University's Land Acknowledgment Statement

Acknowledging Native lands is an important way to honor and respect Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. The land on which Idaho State University's Pocatello campus sits is within the original Fort Hall Reservation boundaries and is the traditional and ancestral home of the Shoshone and Bannock peoples. We acknowledge the Fort Hall Shoshone and Bannock peoples, their elders past and present, their future generations, and all Indigenous peoples, including those upon whose land the University is located. We offer gratitude for the land itself and the original caretakers of it.

As a public research university, it is our ongoing commitment and responsibility to teach accurate histories of the regional Indigenous people and of our institutional relationship with them. It is our commitment to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and to ISU's citizens that we will collaborate on future educational discourse and activities in our communities.

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Letter from the Interim Dean of the Graduate School

Welcome to the Three-Minute Thesis Competition (3MT), the Graduate School's premier research event! This annual event is one that I eagerly anticipate. The excitement students feel for the event and their sense of accomplishment after leaving the stage are truly remarkable.

In 2018, we held our inaugural 3MT event as part of our Graduate Research Symposium. Our first objective was to reach a wider audience by increasing the number of students and the variety of disciplines represented. We started with less than thirty people in the audience and 17 students participating, a number achieved through significant recruitment efforts. Since then, we have grown in both quantity and diversity. For our 2025 3MT, we received over 45 submissions featuring scholarly topics that address issues of local to global significance.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the tremendous effort that the Graduate School team puts into creating an exceptional event for our outstanding students. Our graduate students have made notable progress, thanks in large part to the faculty's enthusiasm for mentoring them. The students are incredibly grateful for the trust, guidance, and support they receive.

If the presentations tonight move you, inspire you, or make you say "wow," we encourage you to help these students and others like them by donating to the Dean's Excellence Fund. This fund honors students for their exceptional work and directly supports our research events.

Whether you are a judge, a faculty mentor, a graduate student participant, or a community member interested in the presentations, we are thrilled to share in your enthusiasm for the work being showcased tonight. We appreciate your support for Idaho State University graduate students and their efforts.

Tracy Collum

Dr. Tracy Collum — Interim Dean of the Graduate School

Dean's Excellence Fund

For over 70 years, the Graduate School's mission has been to promote and support excellence in graduate education. To assist in this mission, the Graduate School is affiliated with the Idaho State University Family of Funds through the Dean's Excellence Fund.

You can honor students for their outstanding academic and creative achievements by donating to the Graduate School's Dean's Excellence Fund. Graduate students who place in our 3-Minute Thesis Competition and Research Symposium are eligible for cash prizes, funded in part by the Dean's Excellence Fund.

Your support of the Dean's Excellence Fund will have a direct and immediate impact on our graduate students. Your contribution will help us maintain our vision of being a leading force in high-quality graduate education. Donation amounts are flexible; however, to make the most significant positive impact on our GradBengals, we encourage you to consider setting up a recurring monthly gift.

To make a one-time or ongoing donation to the Graduate School's Dean's Excellence Fund, simply scan the QR code or visit isu.edu/graduate/about-us/deans-excellence-fund/.

3MT History

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland (UQ) in 2008, where graduate students have exactly three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance. 3MT challenges students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries so they can be presented concisely to a non-specialist audience.

Enthusiasm for the 3MT concept and its adoption in numerous universities led to the development of an international competition, in which the Graduate School has been participating since 2018.

Rules

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations, or 'movement' of any description; the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum, and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps, or songs).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Judging Criteria

Comprehension & Content

- Presentation provided clear motivation, background, and significance to the research question
- Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/finding of the research
- Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes, and impact of research

Engagement & Communication

- The oration was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience
- The PowerPoint slide was well-defined and enhanced the presentation
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention

Meet the 2025 Judges

Mustafa Mashal, Ph.D.

Special Advisor to the VP for Research and Economic Development and Professor of Civil Engineering

Dr. Mustafa Mashal is Special Advisor to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and Professor of Civil Engineering at Idaho State University, with a joint appointment at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory. He leads ISU's Structural Laboratories and Disaster Response Complex, advancing research in resilience, concrete materials, and structural performance. An ASCE SEI Fellow and licensed Professional Engineer in Idaho and New Zealand, he has published over 200 papers and holds five patents. Some of his honors include ISU's 2025 Distinguished Researcher Award, three Fulbright grants, ASCE's Alfred Noble Prize, and AASHTO's High Value Research Award.

Wendy Ruchti, Ph.D.

Associate Professor - Teaching and Educational Studies, College of Education

Dr. Wendy Ruchti is an Associate Professor of Science and STEM Education, specializing in transforming K-12 education through innovative STEM practices. Her research centers on critical areas of integrated STEM teaching and learning, the effective integration of STEM disciplines, and comprehensive STEM School transformation models. With a deep commitment to practical application, Dr. Ruchti actively partners with educators, school leaders, and district administrators. She provides expertise and support to schools aiming to strategically integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into a cohesive curriculum. Her ultimate goal is to enhance the educational experience by significantly increasing student engagement in STEM fields and nurturing strong interest in diverse STEM careers at a young age. Through her work, Dr. Ruchti aims to drive meaningful, systemic change in education to prepare the next generation of thinkers and problem solvers.

Jamie Howerton, M.Coun.

ISU Alumni Association Executive Board Member

Jamie Howerton has worked at ISU in various roles for the past 15 years. She spent the majority of that time at ISU as the director of the Testing Center. During her time at ISU, Jamie has enjoyed working with student workers and volunteering for various events and committees. She currently serves on the executive board of the Idaho State University Alumni Association. Jamie holds three degrees from ISU, including an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, and a Master of Counseling Degree in Student Affairs Counseling. Jamie has attended the 3MT event several years in a row and is looking forward to being able to help out as a judge.

Agenda

November 13, 2025

L.E. & Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center in Pocatello, Idaho

3MT Competition

Black Box Theatre

View the competition and awards reception virtually.

6:00 PM

Event Introduction & Opening

Dr. Tracy Collum, Interim Dean | Graduate School

Welcome

Dr. Robert W. Wagner, President

Three-Minute Thesis Presentations

Presenter 1	**S M Mahedy Hasan** Engineering & Applied Science - PhD
Presenter 2	**Callie Dance** Political Science - DA
Presenter 3	**Nicole Criddle** Social Work - MSW
Presenter 4	**Saugat Dotel** Civil Engineering - MS
Presenter 5	**Stephanie Christensen** Nursing Practice - DNP
Presenter 6	**Christopher Amrobo Enemuwe** Political Science - DA

Presenter 7	**Costain Nachuma** Engineering & Applied Science - PhD
Presenter 8	**Joules Emerson** Clinical Psychology - PhD
Presenter 9	**Sadman Sakib** Communication - MA
Presenter 10	**Rachel Sutherland** Anthropology - MS
Presenter 11	**Tyler Breech** Biology - PhD
Presenter 12	**Arifa Islam Champa** Engineering & Applied Science - PhD
Presenter 13	**Spencer Moore** Anthropology - MS
Presenter 14	**Nelly Cyuzuza** Biology - MS
Presenter 15	**Brenda Phillips** Occupational Therapy - MOT
Presenter 16	**Lydia Maganga** Communication - MA
Presenter 17	**Aubree Denker** Public Health - MPH
Presenter 18	**Andreas Kramer** Computer Science - MS
Presenter 19	**Jason Kindree** Political Science - DA
Presenter 20	**Sajida Ferdous** Communication - MA
Presenter 21	**Halle Thomson-Kidwell** Occupational Therapy - MOT

Presenter 22	**Derrick Owusu** History - MA
Presenter 23	**Amanda McBride** Nursing Practice - DNP
Presenter 24	**Tayler Elizondo** Rehabilitation & Communication Sciences - PhD
Presenter 25	**Michelle Collier** Public Administration - MPA
Presenter 26	**Aney Rani Paul** Engineering & Applied Science - PhD
Presenter 27	**Katelyn Cathcart** Clinical Psychology - PhD
Presenter 28	**Loni Wood** Communication - MA
Presenter 29	**Will Kimball** Chemistry - MS
Presenter 30	**Moyedun Zannat Brinta** English - MA

Closing Remarks

Dr. Tracy Collum, Interim Dean | Graduate School

Vote for the People's Choice Award

Scan the QR code with your photo app and make your selection.

isu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJl6l74lFKIIrA2

Awards Reception

Rotunda

Opening
Dr. Tracy Collum
Interim Dean | Graduate School

Winners Announced
Anna Siddoway
Interim Director | Graduate School

Reception
Enjoy beverages & hors d'oeuvres

Flamingo Trio

School of Performing Arts | Department of Music

Tavie Delilo
Violin
Bachelor of Music in Music Performance

Reece Dayley
Violin
Bachelor of Arts in Art & Minor in Music

Joseph Loomis
Cello
Bachelor of Music in Music Performance

Fall 2024 3MT Winners

1st Place

Callan Norby

Chemistry - MS

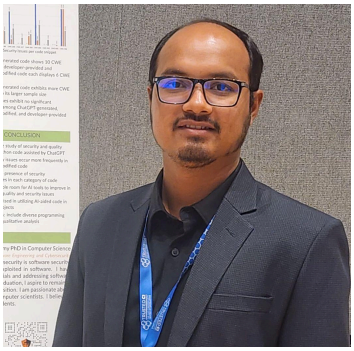
Novel Sulfur-Rich Hydrogels & Their Applications in Agriculture

2nd Place

Arifa Islam Champa

Engineering & Applied Science - PhD

Beyond the Hype: A Reevaluation of Effectiveness of Machine Learning and Deep Learning in Phishing Email Detection

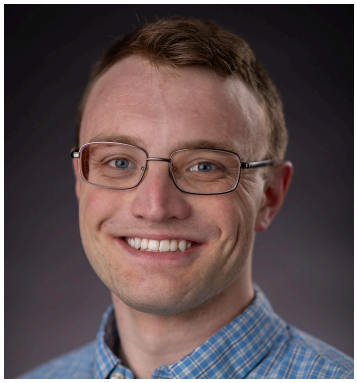


3rd Place

Md Fazle Rabbi

Engineering & Applied Science - PhD

Fact or Fiction: Do SBOM Tools Truly Identify Software Components and Vulnerabilities?



People's Choice Award

Dallin Stokes

Microbiology - MS

Overwriting Code: TwinPE in Malaria Parasites

Upcoming Events

State Three-Minute Thesis Competition

Spring 2026

2026 Research & Creative Works Symposium

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 | Pond Student Union Building, Pocatello, ID

Late Nights With the Graduate School

Visit the Graduate School website to learn about upcoming events for the Spring semester! Locations and dates will be released soon.

Summer Funding Deadline April 24, 2026

Summer funding is available for graduate students to support research, creative activities, and thesis and dissertation workshops.

Abstracts

S M Mahedy Hasan

Engineering & Applied Science - PhD

"Seeing Through the Black Box: Explainable AI for Skin Cancer Detection"

Skin cancer diagnosis is costly and limited in rural areas. This study proposes a custom CNN model that classifies skin lesions as benign or malignant and explains its decisions using an attention mechanism. Trained on the ISIC 2021 dataset, it achieves 98.5% accuracy and highlights key image regions, enhancing transparency and trust. The system aims to reduce diagnostic delays and support accessible, reliable skin cancer screening.

Callie Dance

Political Science - DA

"When Decriminalization Backfires: What Oregon and Washington Taught Us About the Opioid Crisis"

In 2021, Oregon and Washington made history by decriminalizing small amounts of illicit drugs, aiming to save lives from opioid overdose. My research compares them with Idaho and Montana, which retained traditional criminal penalties to see if policy reform truly worked. Surprisingly, overdose deaths and hospitalizations rose sharply after decriminalization. This study reveals that good intentions alone without treatment infrastructure and policy reform can worsen crisis. My findings challenge us to rethink what compassionate reform really means.

Nicole Criddle

Social Work - MSW

"Your Brain is Dumb"

Approximately 90% of youth in the juvenile justice system have experienced trauma, which reshapes the brain's development via adaptive neuroplasticity. This survival-driven rewiring prioritizes the limbic system—heightening fear and hypervigilance—while stunting prefrontal cortex development. As a result, traumatized youth respond with “survival coping” behaviors which present as defiance or aggression. Trauma-informed accountability and safe community partnerships can disrupt this cycle and foster recovery.

Saugat Dotel

Civil Engineering - MS

"Laboratory Evaluation of Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) bars to Improve Joints in Natural Fiber Reinforced Concrete (NFRC) Pavements"

This study investigates the potential of natural fiber reinforced concrete pavements with Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) dowels as a durable, eco-friendly alternative to traditional pavement system. Flax fibers were used to partially replace cement, by weight, and fine aggregates, by volume, at 0.5% and 1%. For load transfer analysis, a comparative evaluation was conducted for steel dowel (1.25 in.) and three GFRP dowel sizes (1 in., 1.18 in., 1.5 in.) embedded in both concrete mixes.

Stephanie Christensen

Nursing Practice - DNP

"Optimizing Hormone Replacement Therapy in Menopausal Patient Care"

Menopause causes symptoms that can impair quality of life. Although hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is an effective treatment, misconceptions from early studies have reduced its use. This project evaluates women's attitudes toward HRT and the impact of social media based education on knowledge and perceptions. Using a pre–post design with validated surveys, changes in attitudes and symptom awareness will be analyzed. The goal is to improve understanding and willingness to consider HRT.

Christopher Amrobo Enemuwe

Political Science - DA

"The Organized Crime of Kidnapping in Nigeria: A Quantitative Study of the Factors Influencing its Severity"

Extant literature on kidnapping in Nigeria often uses qualitative methods, neglecting perception-based surveys. This study applies regression analysis to 2022 Afrobarometer data, examining citizen perceptions of kidnapping's severity. Findings show poor police handling, worsening economic conditions, ethnic marginalization, and low trust strongly predict severity, while corruption and government crime response were not significant. The study highlights how hardship and institutional failure fuel kidnapping.

Costain Nachuma

Engineering & Applied Science - PhD

"The Domino Effect of Software Flaws"

Modern software relies on layers of third party libraries; a flaw in one layer can ripple across projects. Using 14.46 million Maven releases, we map how weaknesses move through dependency chains. About one third of the latest releases are directly vulnerable, and nearly two thirds are indirectly exposed via transitive dependencies. We also surface ecosystem specific hazards such as short session IDs and missing resource throttling, and we outline practical ways for teams to prioritize fixes that deliver the largest risk reduction.

Joules Emerson

Clinical Psychology - PhD

"Autistic Self-Acceptance & Autistic Suicide"

Suicide is a significant issue in the autistic community, with a fourth of the population having attempted. I investigated the role that perceived acceptance of identity by the self and by other plays into an autistic person's risk for suicide. I found that the more a person accepts their autistic identity, the less likely they are to have a history of suicidal behavior. Thus, the development of a strong autistic identity and connection to other autistic people is essential in preventing suicide attempts in this population.

Sadman Sakib

Communication - MA

"AI at the Ballot: Deepfake Campaigns, Framing, and Voter Engagement - Evidence from South Asia"

AI-generated videos are reshaping digital election campaigns. With no established codebook for theming AI-labeled campaign videos, this study develops and validates one coding scheme. Using evidence from South Asia, it analyzes hundreds of AI-labeled videos from ruling and opposition parties and audience responses to assess deployment and reception. Findings show audiences engage even when labels signal artificiality, indicating AI is redefining trust and persuasion in contemporary democracies.

Rachel Sutherland

Anthropology - MS

"A Tangled Comparison: Human and Faunal Hair in Microscopic Perspective"

This research employs optical and scanning electron microscopy to analyze structural differences in animal and human hair. External features, primarily scale pattern, and internal features like the medulla are analyzed for variation. In animal hair these differences can contribute to identification of species and in human hair they may indicate treatment practices. The microscopic images will establish a comparative reference collection and classification system that can support local studies.

Tyler Breech

Biology - PhD

"What's in a name? Assessing genetic variation in Idaho Redband Trout"

One goal of conservation is preserving unique genetic variation within species so they can adapt to changing environments. Thus, identifying where this variation occurs is critical for effective protection. Redband Trout inhabit a wide variety of environments in Idaho, from desert streams to cold mountain waters, and are naturally present in almost every Idaho watershed west of Shoshone Falls. To determine if such a large range has led to genetically distinct groups, I compared genetic data from Redband Trout across Idaho.

Arifa Islam Champa

Engineering & Applied Science - PhD

"The Detection Illusion: Revealing Hidden Failures in AI Phishing Detection"

Phishing attacks often use deceptive URLs to trick users into sharing sensitive information. We conduct a systematic feature selection study across five datasets to identify 32 key URL-based features for AI-driven phishing detection. Using large-scale evaluations, we compare machine learning, deep learning, and large language models on two disjoint datasets. Results show strong baseline performance but sharp drops with unseen data, emphasizing the need for robust, adaptable detection methods.

Spencer Moore

Anthropology - MS

"Bringing the Forgotten to Light: Identifying Individuals of Unknown Origin in Skeletal Collections"

Many human remains in collections exist without names, their identities lost through Red Market trade. This project uses stable isotope analysis, biological profiles, and digital facial approximation to recover traces of their identities. Utilizing ethically guided scientific methods, we work to restore their individuality and remind the world that these were people who lived, mattered, and deserve to be remembered.

Nelly Cyuzuza

Biology - MS

"Identifying the molecular targets of Masp1 protein during early development"

3 MC syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by mutations in the MASP1 gene, leading to facial abnormal phenotypes. While the molecular mechanism of Masp1 in defending the body against infectious pathogens is well understood, its function during early development remains unknown. To address this gap, I am identifying proteins that bind with Masp1 using frog embryos, which share similar developmental mechanisms with humans. This study will provide new insights into the role of Masp1 during early development and its link to patient phenotypes.

Brenda Phillips

Occupational Therapy - MOT

"Survey of Assessments Used in Occupational Therapy "

A study to explore the alignment between assessments taught in occupational therapy academic curriculum and those most frequently used in clinical practice. A literature review revealed a potential gap between academia and clinical practice. To address this, a survey of clinicians and academic educators was completed, results were analyzed, and researchers developed recommendations to improve student preparedness, strengthen knowledge translation, and drive evidence-based practice.

Lydia Maganga

Communication - MA

"TikTok use and its Intersection with Mental Health & Body Image among students at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) "

The study aimed to investigate the association between TikTok usage, mental health, and body image among university students. The research was conducted at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS). A total of 224 students participated by completing an online survey. The results suggest that there is a connection between TikTok use, mental health, and body image, particularly among young female students at the University.

Aubree Denker

Public Health - MPH

"Empowering Collegiate Athletes Through A Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Toolkit"

This project addresses a documented gap in sexual health and consent education among collegiate athletes by developing a comprehensive, evidence-based toolkit. The initiative aligns with state, federal, and NCAA compliance requirements for prevention education on consent and sexual violence. Through collaboration with Title IX and ISU Athletics, the project aims to build actionable skills, promote self-advocacy, and empower female student-athletes. If effective, the toolkit will be adaptable and scalable for future campus-wide implementation.

Andreas Kramer

Computer Science - MS

"Nonlocal Operator Learning for fMRI Encoding and Decoding Tasks"

Modeling how the brain encodes and reconstructs sensory information requires methods that can capture distributed, nonlocal structures across space and time. We introduce a framework based on Neural Integral Equations (NIEs), which learn unknown integral operators directly from fMRI data to model its underlying dynamics. This approach naturally incorporates long-range spatiotemporal dependencies, making it particularly suited for highly nonlocal systems like the brain.

Jason Kindree

Political Science - DA

"Empires and States in the Global Era"

Human empires are the most enduring and potentially most oppressive of state forms. The study of empires and superstates is receiving renewed interest from scholars within the social sciences, as imperial techniques and paradigms are recycled in the global era. A crucial step is to arrive at a general definition of empire based on research in various disciplines, and to assess the existing definitions and explanations.This will lay the foundation to produce a lens or instrument through which to view and understand them in a systematic way.

Sajida Ferdous

Communication - MA

"Immigration Position, Labeling, and Civility: An Analysis of YouTube Comments During a Salient Policy Moment in the United States"

This study analyzes YouTube discussions on immigration during February 2025, the first full month of President Trump's second term. Using the hashtag #immigrationraids, 2,303 comments from eight U.S. videos were systematically sampled and coded for stance, labeling, and civility. Intercoder agreement reached 89%. Anti-immigrant positions dominated, with frequent criminal or removal labels. While most comments remained civil, hostility appeared when immigrants were directly addressed.

Halle Thomson-Kidwell

Occupational Therapy - MOT

"Connected Learning: An Occupation-Based Strategy for Peer Engagement in Two-Campus OT Programs"

Prior research shows that connection and a sense of community positively impact students' well-being and academic experience (Lin & Gao, 2020; Parrish et al., 2021; Schmidt et al., 2023; Trespalacios et al., 2016). As campuses move towards online and distance-based learning, it is important to consider how students' perception of connection to their classmates is evolving. The purpose of this study is to determine if students feel more connected to their learning experience after participating in a face-to-face learning intervention.

Derrick Owusu

History - MA

"Mental Healthcare in Kumase: A History of Colonial Ideology and Indigenous Resilience"

My work examines British colonial efforts to establish a mental hospital in Kumase between 1916 and 1951. I argue that the failure to build the mental hospital was not mere neglect, but of a cycle in which British colonial administration produced endless plans without action. While colonial inaction was a function of financial restraint and local resistance over land exposed the limits of colonial authority. My work contributes to the growing historiography of colonial medicine and African psychiatry.

Amanda McBride

Nursing Practice - DNP

"From Awareness to Action: PHQ-9 Training Improves Depression Identification in Adult Care"

Depression is often underdiagnosed in adult healthcare settings, affecting patient outcomes. Using the PHQ-9 for systemic screening improves detection and reduces disparities. Training providers in PHQ-9 use enhances their ability to identify and manage at risk individuals, emphasizing the importance of such training for effective patient care.

Tayler Elizondo

Rehabilitation & Communication Sciences - PhD

"Staying in Balance: Reconsidering How College Athletes Adapt to Stress and Change"

College athletes balance demanding schedules, high expectations, and constant physical and psychological stress. My work explores how these forms of stress interact over time and how the body adapts (or fails to adapt) to them. Using the concept of allostasis, which describes stability through change, I aim to better understand how multiple factors influence athlete health and performance, in an attempt to guide more balanced approaches to prevention, care, and performance.

Michelle Collier

Public Administration - MPA

"Every Second Counts: Building Stronger Rural Dispatchers"

This study examines the unique training challenges faced by rural 911 dispatch centers - vital to emergency response yet lacking access to the high-quality training found in urban areas. Limited funding, staffing, and isolation hinder skill development. My research identifies strategies to stretch resources, build resilience, and reduce burnout through tailored, cost-effective training that strengthens performance and sustainability.

Aney Rani Paul

Engineering & Applied Science - PhD

"Adapting Technology to Humans: Expanding Gesture and Gaze Interaction in Spatial Computing"

This study investigates enhancing hand gesture and eye-tracking interactions in the Apple Vision Pro to develop more natural, inclusive, and intuitive human-computer interactions. The research intends to improve usability, accessibility, and immersion through the creation of novel gesture patterns and gaze-oriented controls. The results may revolutionize education, medical services, and creative design by enabling technology to conform to individuals rather than requiring individuals to adapt to it.

Katelyn Cathcart

Clinical Psychology - PhD

"Implicit Bias Toward Disability Disclosure in the Early Graduate Application Process"

Disability bias in graduate admissions is a critical yet underexamined barrier to equal access and inclusion in psychology. This study investigates implicit bias toward applicants with disabilities in psychology doctoral admissions. Standardized emails were sent to APA-accredited faculty nationwide, varying by disability disclosure (blindness, stutter, ADHD, or none). Results will identify potential inequities and inform inclusive training practices. Furthermore, findings may guide efforts to reduce bias in the admissions process.

Loni Wood

Communication - MA

“TikTok #tradwife”

This study explores the #tradwife movement on TikTok, where content presents the choice of being a stay-at-home wife as an empowering decision for the modern heterosexual woman. Through a thematic analysis of popular videos created by a Gen Z content creator, the study reveals how these narratives reshape the discussion around domesticity, femininity, and conservative political values as expressions of personal agency and empowerment. The findings highlight TikTok’s role in reshaping discussions about gender and identity.

Will Kimball

Chemistry - MS

"From Pollution to Purification: Sulfur Repurposed"

Every year, millions of tons of sulfur are produced as waste from fossil fuel refining. Instead of being used, this sulfur is piled into massive stockpiles. My research explores a way to transform this waste into new materials through a process called inverse vulcanization. While most sulfur-based materials are insoluble, I have developed polymers with water solubility, granting them an application in removing heavy metals from aqueous waste. This research provides a robust, cost-effective route to transforming waste into functional materials.

Moyedun Zannat Brinta

English - MA

"The Soundscape of Wuthering Heights: Music, Noise and Silence"

This paper presents Emily Bronte's use of uses music, noise, and silence in her famous novel Wuthering Heights to express strong emotions and human struggles. It shows that sound is not just the background but an important part of the story that forms feelings and identity. Bronte uses storms, ghostly cries, and quiet moments to present pain, love, and class differences. She also uses silence to show sadness, power, or hidden emotions. The paper concludes that to fully understand Wuthering Heights, we have to read and listen to it.