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## Grad students go head-to-head in Laurier's Three-Minute Thesis competition

WATERLOO – You might spend three minutes reading a newspaper article, making a sandwich, or cleaning your shoes, but Laurier PhD and master's students will have to deliver their entire theses in a mere three minutes for the Three-Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition March 8.

Students will condense thousands of words of research into a brief, engaging presentation for a non-specialist audience, using a single presentation slide. A judging panel will assess students on set criteria including communication style, engagement with the audience, and audience comprehension of the research.

Peter Braid, MP for Kitchener-Waterloo, will present the awards.

Examples of participating students and their research include:

- Eric Theriault, PhD candidate in Psychology: *Assessing the Relevance of Culture in Gambling and Problem Gambling in Francophone Communities in Northern Ontario*
- Robyn Bertram, MSc candidate in Kinesiology: *Testing the Effectiveness of Team Building Interventions in Community Group Exercise Settings*
- Scott Mitchell, MSc candidate in Integrative Biology: *Bacteriophage: Arms Dealers of the Microbial World*

"The 3MT® will help graduate students to develop their academic, presentation, and research communication skills," says Joan Norris, dean: Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. "Developing the capacity to explain their research effectively and succinctly to a general audience will be of great benefit to students."

The 3MT® takes place from 9 a.m. to noon in the Paul Martin Centre on Laurier's Waterloo campus. The event is open to the public.

Winners of the Laurier competition will receive cash prizes and the opportunity to represent the university at the Ontario 3MT® competition hosted by Queen's University on April 18, 2013.

Started at the University of Queensland in 2008 as a single university event, the 3MT® competition is now held in Canada, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and the United States. Laurier's 3MT® is organized by Laurier's Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. For more information, visit [wlu.ca/gradstudies/3MT](http://wlu.ca/gradstudies/3MT).