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# Applied Sciences Students Take Top Two Awards in 3MT Competition

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# **Applied Sciences Students Take Top Two Awards in 3MT Competition**

Matthew Frakes and Prabhdeep Sandha win top doctoral category honors

MOVEVBER 19, 2018 BY SARAH SAPP





Matthew Frakes delivers his winning presentation on nutrition intervention in concussion treatment at the Three Minute Thesis Competition, sponsored by the UM Graduate School. Photo by Megan Wolfe/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

OXFORD, Miss. – Matthew Frakes, of Columbus, Ohio, and Prabhdeep Sandha, of Jalandhar City, Punjab, India, won first and second place in the doctoral category in the recent Three Minute Thesis Competition sponsored by the University of Mississippi **Graduate School**.

This annual competition asks graduate students to present a compelling oration on their research thesis topic and its significance in just three minutes. They are allowed to use one PowerPoint slide.

"My 3MT topic was looking at a nutrition intervention at the time of concussion diagnosis or suspicion of a sports-related concussion throughout the athlete's concussion protocol until the athlete returns to baseline measurements," said Frakes, a doctoral student studying sports nutrition in the **Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management**.

Frakes said the nutrition intervention helps support overall energy and nutrient intake that is potentially diverged due to athlete's loss of appetite or nausea symptoms experienced in concussions.

"I am also observing athlete symptomology and assessing total calorie intake and overall dietary intake, where these observations and recordings may be related to the return to baseline measurements from pre- and post-concussion assessments," he said. "The goal of my study is to contribute to the findings on sports-related concussion recovery, and the impact overall energy intake has on return to baseline recovery time."

Melinda Valliant, professor of nutrition and hospitality management, oversees Frakes in his doctoral research

"Matthew has done an excellent job learning from and managing all facets of his pilot research project," Valliant said. "His success in the 3MT competition is a testament to his willingness to take feedback and apply it.

"Matt has demonstrated that he is not afraid to step out of his comfort zone and take risks, and I am so happy that has received this well-deserved honor."

Sandha's thesis also examined nutrition, but her research interest is in food security.

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#### Civil Engineering Professor Receives Most-Cited Paper Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation's capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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### Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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## Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to

"One in eight Americans, or 40 million Americans, experience some form of food insecurity in a 12-month period," said Sandha, also a doctoral student in nutrition and hospitality management.

"My research examined the impact of produce intervention on produce intake and behaviors of parents/caretakers of elementary school students in an economically distressed, highly food insecure, rural Appalachian Mississippi region."

Three schools participated in the study; two were control schools and one was the intervention school. A six-week intervention was implemented with three important parts: cafeteria tasting station twice a week, nutrition education, and provision of take-home materials and gadgets.

Every Friday, participants at the intervention school also received \$15 worth of fresh produce to replicate tasting station recipes at home.

"We utilized a validated 10-item USDA Household Adult Food Security Survey Module, which had questions like, 'We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more' or 'We couldn't afford to eat balanced meals," Sandha said.



Prabhdeep Sandha took second place in the doctoral category in the UM Three Minute Thesis Competition. Photo by Megan Wolfe/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

Sandha and her research partners found the perceived willingness to try new fruits and vegetables was significantly higher in the intervention group parents, compared to the control group.

"With this project, we were able to transform the household food environment to make it more likely that the family members have an adequate amount and access to healthy foods," Sandha said. "This program also enhanced the university's Flagship Constellation mission, which is to transform life through community outreach and community well-being."

David H. Holben, professor of nutrition and hospitality management, oversees Sandha's research.

"Ms. Sandha is very deserving of this award," Holben said: "She is a servant-leader who excels in the classroom, in her assistantship at the Institute for Child Nutrition and in a research setting. This award recognizes her excellence."

For more information about the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management, visit http://nhm.olemiss.edu/.

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