

# Message from President Cook and Marcel Roy Domalanta

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Hello everyone. Joining me today is Marcel Roy Domalanta, coatings and polymeric materials doctoral student, here at NDSU. Welcome. A couple weeks ago he competed in the annual Three Minute Thesis competition and was selected as the winner. So, congratulations. Thanks so much. It's a great event. So, we're here to learn a little bit about yourself and a little bit about your research.

So, tell us a little bit about you. My name is Marcel Roy Domalanta, as you said. So, I from the Philippines so, Pearl Island, and there are a lot of islands there and I was actually born on top of a mountain there. No kidding! Yeah. That's fantastic. When I went here during August and it kind of reminded me of my hometown because it's cold. So, a lot of people when I went here they told me that oh you better prepare for the winter. That's what they always tell me. Sure. And it seems like the winter now is not that cold. Well, it's been a good winter. [We'll take it, right?] Yeah, we're going to take it.

So, how many years have you been here? So, that's a good question because I've only been here for eight months. Eight months. Yeah, so I started here at fall in 2023 and what happened there was our adviser, Dr Caldona, so he told me oh do you want to join the three-minute competition? Immediately, of course, I said no. Because what would me, you know, I've been there for just a one semester and I'm like no. And then he said what do you mean no? Okay fine, let's do it. Congratulations! You're eight months in and you're just killing it.

What was the title of your presentation? All right, so my title was "Soy much better: Making non-stick materials stick".

So basically, what my research is about, of course, you have used already a non-stick pan, right? Yeah. So, those things on top of there, they're called fluoropolymers. So, it's just basically a plastic with some fluorine there okay. So, those are non-stick materials. Okay. So, how did they stick right if it's nonstick? So, to do that it involves like very complex things, you know, we don't want that, we don't want to discuss about very complicated things. So, what we did here is just add some soy in extracts, and then poof it sticks. So, yeah it's very fantastic and it's working very well. We already run some corrosion tests and it killing it.

Well so, what was your reaction when you won? So, what happened there was, of course, I was so happy because you know \$1,000 isn't, you know, you can't just pick it up. Right. Right and yeah. You could buy me lunch later with that money. I'm just kidding! Go ahead. So, what happened there was yeah, I watched some of the presentations from the other competitors so I was like, I'm in trouble. Yeah, I'm in danger. So, what happened there is I went there and then, you know, it's about to happen anyway so I just did what I can, and then thankfully, yeah, I got the prize.

So, how does participating in this competition help you as a student, help you as a researcher? Yeah so, as a researcher, it's very challenging. I mean imagine you're so used to doing those technical words that nobody knows about. Doing those a lot of complicated things and you have to squeeze it out to very simple words so that's actually fun and challenging at the same time. So, it was fun, and at the same time, I got to know more about my research, too because you have to simplify it to common language and it makes that communication way better. So, it's not just technical person talking about very hard words like nobody cares about.

Very well said. So, you work on these, we're in the lab that you work. Yeah. How exciting and I mean you work on really complex problems that took a long time and, you know, I, you know, being a researcher myself I know you often fail more than you succeed. Exactly. But you're grinding forward and then one of the critical parts is translating the work in the lab to the real world and then communicating that. And you're an expert at that. You just won a very competitive competition so we're very proud of you. Thank you. Congratulations on making that work out.

So, what I want everybody out there to know is this is sort of, what we're very proud of at NDSU or students like yourselves who are working hard who come to NDSU to do incredible research and are able to take what we're doing in the laboratory and really making a difference in the world. So, you're changing the world we're really proud of you for that so congratulations. Thank you so much.

All right you got to do this with me. All right, on three go Bison. Okay. One, two, three. Go Bison! Go Bison! There we go. All right.