

## 2012 BMBGA Symposium concludes today

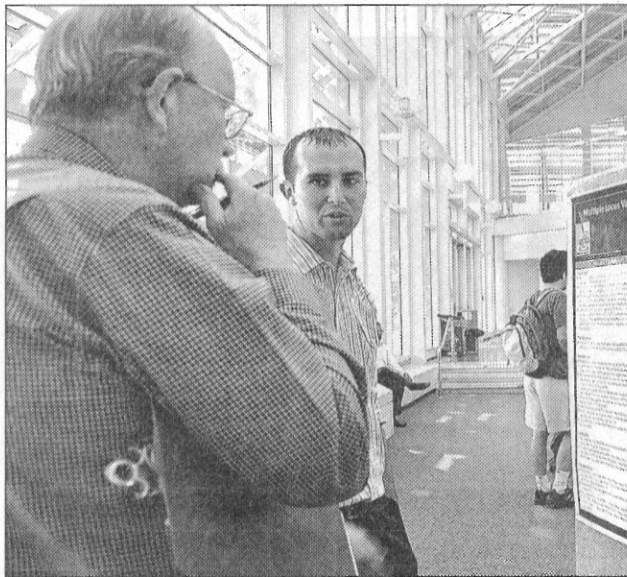
**CYNTHIA DOBBS**

Science Reporter

The premier research being conducted at Oklahoma State University is being showcased today at the 2012 BMBGSA Research Symposium.

It started yesterday with Oral presentations from eight different graduate students on their specific areas of expertise. The Biochemistry and Molecular biology student Government Association hosts this event every fall at OSU.

This year, 49 participants from 11 departments in the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences are competing in the oral and poster presentations. Vice President of Research Dr. Stephen McKeever, DNA the Undergraduate Biochemistry club, GPSGA and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Lee Bird are funding the symposium.



KAYLA SANFORD/O'COLLEGIAN

**Chris Timmons (right), a plant pathology student at Texas, gives his presentation to judge Jack Dillwith.**

Dr. John Gustafson, department head of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, delivered the welcome address yesterday morning at 8:45 a.m.. Oral presentations began with a block of

talks on nutrition followed by Proteomics research on exciting new cancer drugs. Registration is free and open to all students. Students can register to attend the symposium by visiting the

### 2012 BMBGSA Symposium

Oral presentations resume today at 9 a.m. in NRC room 348B.

**Cost: Free**

registration booth across from room 348B in the Noble Research Center.

Oral presentations resume today at 9 a.m. at 348B NRC, with presentations on ecology, followed by research on biofuels, cell biology and protein structure. Free breakfast and lunch is provided for symposium attendees.

Dr. Patrick Abbot, an associate professor at Vanderbilt University, will deliver the keynote address. Abbot studies social evolution, molecular evolution-ary genetics and insect-microbe

interactions. The talk titled "Optimism, Suspicion and History Lessons in the Age of 'Omics'", will be held in room 348B of the NRC.

After the keynote address the winners of the Oral and Poster presentations will be presented with awards recognizing their outstanding work in science. Students will win attractive cash prizes ranging from \$725 to \$125.

The decrease in the university budget has caused a decrease in the number of speakers than previous years, but Mr. Jake Kline, the BMBGSA president, said every student especially the ones pursuing a degree in the life sciences should attend the symposium.

"I believe people don't fully understand the amount and variety of research that is going on at OSU," he said. "I know as an undergrad here at OSU, I was nearly oblivious to the different

types of research that were going on around me. The Symposium is an amazing opportunity to see how many different aspects there are to research.

"Research is a large part of OSU's identity in the academic world. At the forefront of our research are our grad students. Come by the Symposium to see their work and show your support."

Students of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology department have been hard at work to organize an excellent event promoting research at OSU since this summer.

This symposium offers a glimpse into the variety of research available in house. It serves to increase accessibility towards mentors, who can explain and guide an undergraduate student who may be interested in research in the future.