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Undergraduate Research Has its Day

By NSU Staff Writer Laura Butler

Northeastern State University hosted Oklahoma Research Day Friday, Nov. 13, at the Broken Arrow campus. This was the second consecutive year for Northeastern to host this event, which was coordinated by Dr. Tom Jackson, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"Last year when we hosted Oklahoma Research Day, we had almost 600 research posters and about 800 people attended the banquet," Jackson said. "Those were the largest numbers ever, and we received posters from 41 institutions and collaborations from five international universities."

According to NSU President Don Betz, this year's numbers were even larger.

"Over 1,000 students, faculty and staff from regional institutions around Oklahoma and other colleges in the area have gathered to celebrate the importance of undergraduate research," Betz said. "If you look at the breadth and depth of the work being displayed here today, it is very clear that this is a wonderful idea that sets the tone for creativity throughout the state."

"We hope the people of Oklahoma can appreciate the work being done by these institutions to encourage students to be creative, persistent and curious."

Oklahoma Research Day kicked off at 8:30 a.m. with registration and poster set up, followed by paper presentations. The banquet luncheon featured remarks from Jackson, Betz, Chancellor Glenn Johnson of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and Dr. Frank Waxman, a professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

The keynote speaker for the banquet was Dr. Timothy Lyden, director of the Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center and Associate Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. According to Jackson, Lyden, who holds two degrees from the University of Maine-Orono, is a "perfect example of someone who started at a regional university and has become internationally renowned as a scholar."

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Jennifer Martin, Northeastern State University Graduate Assistant, presents her rhetorical criticism research paper on Hillary Clinton's speech on "Women's Rights are Human Rights" during Research Day Nov. 13 at NSU Broken Arrow.