

SWOSU Biology Students Assist with Science in Action Day

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University biology students (from left) Sassy Guthmueller of Purcell, Takara Hawkins of Madill, Angela Foust of Oologah and Erica Benda of Union City recently participated in "Science in Action Day 2010" at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman. Accompanying them was SWOSU Biological Sciences Assistant Professor Dr. Andrea Holgado.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University biology students and Dr. Andrea Holgado on the Weatherford campus recently participated in "Science in Action Day 2010" at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman.

A record-breaking 1,180 people attended the event designed to introduce children to science. Parents and children had the opportunity to explore the museum and see scientific demonstrations presented by various groups.

The SWOSU students helped with the Neuroscience Booth along with faculty and students from the University of Oklahoma Zoology Department.

SWOSU students provided a demonstration in which children were able to view live *C. elegans* worms under a fluorescent microscope. The worms had been engineered in such a way that their nervous system glowed green. *C. elegans* is a microscopic worm often used as a model organism in biomedical research, particularly in the field of neuroscience. In the future, Holgado said studies of the nervous system in this worm may provide insight into various neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. These findings will be used in the development of new treatments for these diseases.