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Nanoscience festival offers hands-on fun

(Source: [WAFB](#))

BATON ROUGE, LA — Louisiana Art & Science Museum (LASM) invites you to explore the science of ultrasmall matter during NanoDays, a nationwide festival celebrating nanoscale science and technology, on Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hands-on activities will help children and adults investigate the minuscule world of atoms, molecules, and nanoscale forces. Scientists from Baton Rouge will also be on hand to discuss their current research and to demonstrate the scanning tunneling microscope, which measures the surface of objects at the atomic level!

With possibilities of changing the way almost everything is made, nanoscience is the study of matter ranging from 1 to 100 nanometers. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter, and a human hair is about 80,000 nanometers in width. Many scientists and engineers are using nanotechnology to create alternative energy sources, techniques to clean up hazardous chemicals in the environment, and medical devices and drugs to detect and treat diseases more effectively and with fewer side effects.

NanoDays is organized by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net), and takes place nationally from March 26 through April 3, 2011.

LASM is happy to have the following community partners participate in NanoDays including the the J. Bennett Johnston Sr. Center for Advanced Microstructures & Devices (CAMD); LSU's Department of Physics & Astronomy, Department of Chemistry, Center for Computation and Technology, and Society of Physics Students; and the National Science Foundation- funded Louisiana Alliance for Simulation-Guided Materials Applications (La-SIGMA).

For more information about NISE Net, visit www.nisenet.org/nanodays. For more information about LASM, visit www.lasm.org.

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