



Science Museum of Western Virginia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Science Museum hosts Brain “Mythbusters” on March 11

Aimed at middle and high school students, presentation will feature plastinated human brains

Roanoke, Va. (February 22, 2013) – Does listening to Mozart make you smarter? Do we really use just 10 percent of our brains?

Answers to such lore will be provided March 11 at 4 p.m. at the Science Museum of Western Virginia as Dr. Audra Van Wart, a research scientist from the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, presents “Mythbusters: The Truth About Your Brain.”

Part of Brain Awareness Week, Dr. Van Wart’s discussion is aimed at middle and high school students, though the event is free and open to all. Her 45-minute presentation will include use of actual plastinated human brains on loan from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg.



Dr. Van Wart is a neuroscientist and director of education and training at the VTC Research Institute. She earned her doctorate in neurobiology and behavior at the State University of New York at Stony Brook before undertaking a postdoctoral fellowship at the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. For the three years prior to joining VTC, she worked at Cell Press, most recently as the associate scientific editor of the biomedical journal “Neuron.”

“Mythbusters: The Truth About Your Brain” will be the Science Museum’s final program before closing in Tanglewood Mall on March 15 to begin moving back to Center in the Square. The Museum is scheduled to reopen May 18 in its transformed space in Center that will feature new interactive exhibits and classrooms, a state-of-the-art Open Lab, and a butterfly garden.

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About the Science Museum of Western Virginia:

Chartered in 1970 as the first science museum in Virginia, the Science Museum of Western Virginia is among the fewer than 5-percent of science centers in the U.S. nationally accredited by the American Association of Museums.

While Center in the Square completes its \$27 million renovation project, the Science Museum can be found at Tanglewood Mall. Thanks to the Center in the Square renovation, a Reinvention Campaign for all new exhibits, and a vibrant new partnership with Virginia Tech, the Science Museum of Western Virginia will reopen in May 2013 as one of the region’s premier destinations.