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## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

In 1609, Galileo Galilei first used a telescope to look at objects in the night sky, signaling a new era of exploration. This year, in honor of the 400th anniversary of Galileo's observations, the Adler will celebrate the *International Year of Astronomy* (IYA).

As part of IYA, the Adler has developed two new shows, *3-D Universe: A Symphony* and *IBEX: Search for the*

*Edge of the Solar System*, and will unveil a one-of-a-kind museum exhibition, *Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass* (opening May 22). Throughout the year, the Adler will host public observing events and programming that will inspire a new generation of explorers to look up in the sky.

[Click here to learn more about the \*International Year of Astronomy at the Adler\*.](#)

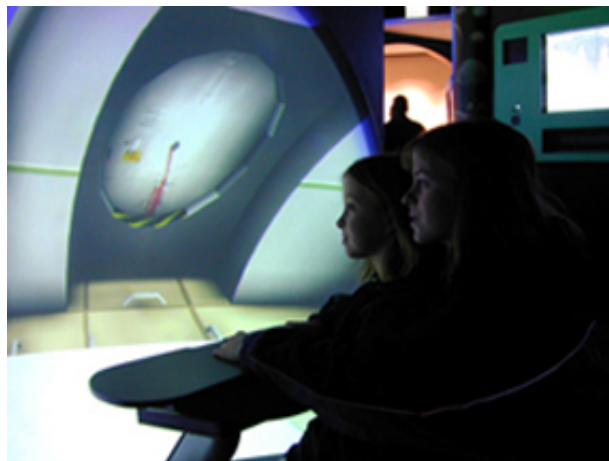
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## CELEBRATE THE SPRING EQUINOX

Friday, March 20  
1:15 - 3:00 pm

Enjoy the first day of spring at the Adler by exploring the Spring Equinox.

- **Reason for the Seasons:**  
Discover why we have different seasons in a demonstration that "turns you" into the Earth.
- **Solar Telescope Viewing:**  
Safely view the Sun through the Adler's special solar telescopes (weather permitting).



- **Astronomy Conversations:** Visit the *Space Visualization Laboratory* (SVL) from 2:00 - 3:00 pm to ask Adler astronomers questions about the Spring Equinox, the Sun, black holes and more.

Activities are free with paid museum admission and recommended for kids ages 7 and up.

[Click here to learn more about Spring Equinox activities.](#)

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## SPRING BREAK HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

**Monday, March 30 - Friday, April 3**  
**Monday, April 6 - Friday, April 10**  
**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

This Spring Break, visit the Adler to learn about NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) mission, which is mapping the boundaries of our Solar System for the first time. Interactive demonstrations and activities, including *Particle Detection*, *Achieving Orbit* and *Mystery Matter*, will teach kids about the

mission, the IBEX spacecraft and more!

Activities are free with paid museum admission and recommended for kids ages 6 and up.

**From March 23 through April 19, 2009, the Adler will extend its hours for Spring Break to 9:30 am - 5:00 pm.**

[Click here to learn more about Spring Break activities and interactive demonstrations.](#)

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## A TELESCOPE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Did you know that when it was invented in 1608 the telescope wasn't called a "telescope"? In its early years, this optical device was sold to European military leaders and astronomers under such names as "far-looker," "perspective glass," "Dutch trunk" and "cylinder."



It wasn't until a banquet in 1611 honoring Galileo, who first used a telescope to look up at the night sky, that a Greek poet suggested naming the instrument using the Greek roots "tele," or far away, and "skopein," to see.

Learn more about telescopes in the Adler's upcoming exhibition, ***Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass***, opening Friday, May 22, 2009. More than 45 telescopes will be on display, including a rare ivory telescope and a 22-foot-long telescope that visitors can look through. The exhibition will explore how these extraordinary instruments, including

an 18th century telescope covered in gold-tooled red Moroccan leather (pictured above), have changed our concepts of the Universe and our place in it.

Photo courtesy of the Adler Planetarium's *Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy* (M-458).

[Click here to listen to Adler podcasts and learn more about the latest space discoveries.](#)

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