

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 16, 2002

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**NASA Astronaut John Grunsfeld
Revisits Family Ties to the
*Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum***

NASA Astronaut John Grunsfeld Ph. D, Mission Specialist on the March 2002 space shuttle mission to refurbish to the Hubble Space Telescope, will visit the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum on Tuesday April 23, 2002 to talk with the public about his space adventures.

Grunsfeld will hold public presentations at the Adler, at 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Highlighting his experience as an astronaut, his four NASA missions since 1995 and his personal ties to the Adler, the talks will include a post-flight video, a question and answer session, and the opportunity for audience members to personally meet the NASA Astronaut.

Grunsfeld has unique family connections to the Adler, as his grandfather, Ernest A. Grunsfeld Jr., was the architect of the Adler's award-winning landmark 1930 building. Ernest A. Grunsfeld Jr. was also the cousin of the founder of the Adler Planetarium, Max Adler.

In completing this most recent mission, STS-109 Columbia, the crew effectively updated the Hubble Space Telescope with a new power unit, a camera and new solar arrays. Grunsfeld helped to execute these upgrades and performed three space walks totaling 21 hours and nine minutes. Grunsfeld also carried a small section of the Adler's historic dome on the flight.

Add One / Grunsfeld

Born in Chicago, Grunsfeld is a 1976 graduate of Highland Park High School and went on to receive his bachelor's of science degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He earned his master's of science degree and doctorate of philosophy in physics from the University of Chicago in 1984 and 1988, respectively.

Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in March 1992, Grunsfeld reported to Johnson Space Center the following August. Upon completion of one year of training and evaluation he was qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist. Before serving on the STS-109 Columbia Mission, March 1-12th 2002, Grunsfeld had already logged more than 836 hours in Space, in three separate missions including, the STS-67 / Astro-2 Endeavor (March 2nd -18th, 1995), STS-81 Atlantis (January 12th-22nd, 1997) and STS-103 Discovery (December 19th-27th, 1999).

On Tuesday April 23rd, 2002 Grunsfeld's presentations will be free, included with the cost of building admission. Tickets for the presentations will be issued on a first come, first served basis on the morning of April 23rd only. ***For information on local press opportunities with Grunsfeld, prior to the Adler visit, please contact Ellen Gillis at the NASA Astronaut Appearances Office at (281) 244-8116.***

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum hours:
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

On the first Friday of each month the Adler offers special programs with extended hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Regular Admission:

Ultimate Universe Adventure is \$16.00 for adults, \$15.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$14.00 for children 4 – 17.

This package includes admission and the choice of two sky shows.

Galaxy Passport is \$13.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$11.00 for children 4 – 17. This package includes admission and choice of sky shows.

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum is the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Its astronomy programs have reached over 35 million people during the past 72 years. Nine state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the stunning new Sky Pavilion and the recently renovated landmark 1930 building present modern space exploration along with the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider™ Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, fuels the imagination of visitors during virtual flights through the cosmos. With a staff of almost 200, the Adler pursues its mission to present the human quest to better understand the universe. Adler scientists and historians, who hold joint appointments at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, are working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history. The Adler is leading the way into the new "Space Millennium."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (312) 922-STAR / TTY: (312) 322-0995
www.adlerplanetarium.org.**