

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT: Dawn Kappel
Director of External Communications
312-322-0524

**THE ADLER PLANETARIUM & ASTRONOMY
MUSEUM
BRINGS THE UNIVERSE DOWN TO EARTH
October - December Event Calendar**

Special Exhibit:

Evening Amusements: Popular Astronomy 1750-1930

December 7, 2002 – March 9, 2003

Nearly everyone gazes in awe at the spectacle of the night sky. We satisfy our curiosity about the sky by reading books, visiting a planetarium or even “surfing the net” to learn more about astronomy. Now commonplace, such activities only became feasible pursuits for the general public starting in the mid to late 1700s. With the help of materials produced explicitly for popular consumption, everyday people could begin to educate themselves about astronomy and regard learning to be a form of entertainment for the whole family. The Adler’s fascinating new temporary exhibit, *Evening Amusements: Popular Astronomy 1750-1930*, traces the discoveries and developments that contributed to the rise of popular astronomy and demonstrates the numerous ways in which people from centuries past incorporated astronomical learning into everyday life. This unique and captivating display of historical artifacts, including antique books, maps, posters, prints, and scientific instruments departs from the typical museum exhibit that usually explores the “great men” of science. Instead, it examines the objects that more ordinary men, women, and children would hold in their hands as they attempted to learn about the wonders of their Universe.

Hands-on activities based on historical models will be available for visitors.

Family Astronomy Week

Thursday, December 26 through Monday, December 30, 2002, 11 am to 4 pm.

In celebration of our newest temporary history exhibit, *Evening Amusements: Popular Astronomy 1750-1930*, the Adler Planetarium Education Department presents a variety of activities where families will be able to learn about this time period.

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Special Events:

Haunted Planetarium!

Saturday, October 26, 2002

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Don't miss the Adler's first **Haunted Planetarium!** Come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume and enjoy activities like **Night Sky Pumpkin Carving Demonstrations**, where you'll learn how to carve a pumpkin in the shape of your favorite constellation, **Trick or Treating** for cool Halloween toys & trinkets, **Monster Sky Tales**, featuring Perseus & the Creepy Sea Monster, The Fifth Sun, and Werewolves & Moon Phases, hair-raising **Mad Scientist Demonstrations**, and **Halloween Card Block Printing**, a great take-home activity. There may even be a ghost or two lurking among the Adler's galleries. A spooktacular time will be had by all!!

A Weekend with the Zula Patrol

Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate science education for children! Join the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum and members of the Zula Patrol in two fun-filled days of space travel. The Adler will present two new videos chronicling the adventures of the Zula Patrol. The Zula Patrol, created by Deb Manchester, is a children's series designed to introduce space science education while teaching tolerance to children ages 5 to 12. Along with the new videos the Adler's education staff will be presenting interactive alien activities to children of all ages!

Far Out Fridays

October 4,* November 1 and December 6

5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy the spectacle of the starry sky as you experience Far Out Fridays at the Adler! Scope out the many family activities on the first Friday of every month from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. including telescope viewing, shows in the historic Sky Theater and the world's first StarRider™ Theater, live lectures by Adler astronomers, hands-on activities, special demonstrations, and Doane Observatory tours. Far Out Fridays are \$15.00 for adults, \$12.00 for children/senior citizens, \$5.00 Adler Members. A Family Star Pack is four for \$45.00 (2 adults/ 2 children or 1 adult/ 3 children). Far Out Fridays are generously sponsored by Food For Thought Management Group.

*Celebrate autumn with the fruit of the vine! The October 4, 2002 Far Out Friday will feature a complimentary tasting of international wines. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Star of Wonder

November 22, 2002 - January 6, 2003

Zeiss Planetarium Sky Show

Travel back in time to discover the story behind the fabled "Star of Bethlehem." Was it an exploding star, a brilliant comet, or an unusual grouping of the planets? Explore what scientists theorize the Magi witnessed in the sky of their homeland that prompted them to

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travel to Bethlehem. "Star of Wonder" carefully examines these theories and comes to a surprising and dramatic conclusion that is based on ancient astronomical records and modern computer calculations of planet positions. The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum's enduring holiday sky show "Star of Wonder" has become a tradition for many families who return each year to experience the remarkable story of the Magi and gaze in wonder at the skies that shone over Bethlehem long ago.

The Extravagant Universe

Sunday, November 10, 2002

4:00pm-5:00pm

Professor Robert Kirshner, Harvard University

Lecture and book signing ***Free with museum admission***

Albert Einstein said the cosmological constant was his greatest blunder. Professor Robert P. Kirshner, Clowes Professor of Science at Harvard University and Head of the Optical and Infrared Division at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, presents a first-hand account of the evidence from exploding stars halfway across the Universe that shows dark energy is speeding up cosmic expansion. In his new book *The Extravagant Universe: Exploding Stars, dark energy, and the Case of the Accelerating Cosmos*, he proposes the surprising synthesis that the Universe is made of 2/3 dark energy (perhaps in the form of the cosmological constant) and only 1/3 dark matter. And we don't know what either of them is.

Professor Kirshner teaches Harvard's large undergraduate course "Matter in the Universe" and is the author of over 200 scientific publications. He has also written for National Geographic, Natural History, Scientific American, and Sky & Telescope.

Adult & Family Education Programs:

Matter and Antimatter

Dr. Rick Kessler

The University of Chicago

Every sub-atomic particle has a partner called an "antiparticle," but everything in our Universe is made of particles. Why has nature chosen particles over antiparticles? What is it about matter that is different from antimatter? Come hear about this fascinating puzzle and about experiments at particle accelerators that detect matter-antimatter differences. (Two sessions)

Wednesdays October 2 and 9 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee \$30 / Member's Fee: \$25

Advanced Navigation

Bob Peterson

Great Lakes Compass

This class builds on the previous class "Modern Celestial Navigation," although there will be a review of the basic celestial navigation methods. The focus will be on refining

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sight reduction techniques, learning advanced methods, and practicing the art of celestial navigation. (Six sessions)

Tools needed for this class:

- 2002 nautical almanac
- Basic navigation tools (parallel rules, divider, etc.)
- Trigonometric function calculator

Thursdays October 3 through November 7 6:00-8:00 p.m

Fee: \$90 / Members Fee: \$85

Sky Photography

Jim Seevers, Astronomer Emeritus

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

Would you like to take photos of the night sky? On the first night of this class we'll discuss cameras, lenses, films, and useful techniques to photograph objects in the sky. On the second night, weather permitting, we'll practice photographing constellations and planets in the Doane Observatory.* Rain date October 24 (Two sessions)

Thursdays October 10 & 17 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Rain date October 24

Fee: \$30 / Member's Fee: \$25

**Currently the Doane Observatory is not wheelchair accessible.*

Our Evolving Solar System

Dr. Eric Carlson, Astronomer Emeritus

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

The Earth has not always been as we see it today. Investigate how the changing Sun, planets, asteroids and comets have all affected Earth and its life forms — and how life has, in turn, dramatically altered our planet. (One session)

Wednesday October 16 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$15 / Member's Fee: \$10

The Science of Rockets!

Adler Education Staff

How does the Space Shuttle get into orbit? Discover the basic principles of launching rockets into space. Explore Newton's Laws of Motion, rocket staging and aerodynamics at a level that you don't need to be a rocket scientist to understand! Participants will assemble their own model rockets and launch them during the class (weather permitting). Course enrollment limit is 15 children. (One session)

For children ages 9-12 (adult companion optional).

Saturday October 19 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$30** / Member's Fee: \$25** (no charge for adults)**Includes required materials fee for a rocket kit plus two rocket engines to take home.

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Are We Alone? The Search for Life in the Universe

Dr. Geza Gyuk

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

The University of Chicago

Explore how recent discoveries—from the detection of new worlds far beyond our own solar system to the prospects of water on Mars—suggest the possibility of life elsewhere in the Cosmos. Since discovering bacteria that can survive under extreme conditions, we now know that life is far more robust and adaptable than we previously believed. After generations of speculation we may be on the verge of determining if we are not alone in the Universe. (Two sessions)

Wednesdays October 23 and 30

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$25 / Member's Fee: \$20

The First Science Fiction Novel

Dr. Bruce Stephenson

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

The University of Chicago

Johann Kepler's little book, *Somnium (A Dream)*, has been called the first science fiction novel. Explore some of the intriguing issues raised by its subject matter such as interplanetary travel and witchcraft. Investigate the nuts and bolts of the book, including Kepler's choice of narrative structure and his reasons for writing it in the first place.

(One session)

Thursday October 24 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$15 / Member's Fee: \$10

Alien Atmospheres

Adler Education Staff

See how liquid nitrogen can be used to explore extreme temperatures and states of matter. Simulate the crushing pressure on Jupiter and the vacuum of space using hands-on activities. From basic elements, build the molecules found in the atmospheres of other worlds. Get an introduction to the chemistry of our Solar System in this family-friendly course. Course enrollment is limited to 15 children. (One session)

For children ages 8-11 and an adult companion

Saturday November 2 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20 / Member's Fee: \$15

Light and Energy

Dr. Kim Coble

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

The University of Chicago

Explore how astronomers use the concepts of “light” and “energy” to investigate the Universe. Learn how different instruments measure the properties of light, and how these properties can be used to understand objects like stars and galaxies. Investigate the idea of energy as an organizing principle, and discover how most activity in the Universe

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involves energy changing from one form to another. Compare the energies involved in astronomical processes with those in our everyday experience. (Two sessions)

Wednesdays November 6 and 13 6:30-8:30 pm.

Fee: \$30 / Member's Fee: \$25

Surfing the Stars: Astronomy via Computer

James Mikoda

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

How do they know there's water on Mars? Was that the International Space Station I saw last night? What's NASA planning next? How can you learn the answers to these questions and more? With your computer, of course! Learn about technology resources that will help improve your knowledge and understanding of astronomy. Explore interactive space-related Web sites and view easy-to-use space science software. Course enrollment limit is 16. (One session)

Thursday November 7 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20 / Member's Fee: \$15

How to Buy a Telescope

Michelle Nichols

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

Thinking of buying a telescope for yourself or as a special holiday gift? Discuss the pros and cons of different types of telescopes and binoculars. Discover just what you can and cannot expect to see through them. Examine various accessories, such as eyepieces and filters. Several telescopes and accessories will be available for hands-on use. (One session)

Wednesday November 20 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$15 / Member's Fee: \$10

Signals From Space

Adler Education Staff

Is it possible aliens are grooving to your favorite tune, or watching "Must See TV"? We'll discover how light travels through the distant reaches of space, giving us pictures of the Universe, and letting us search for alien broadcasts. Learn how to "see" different kinds of light. Build your own radio using simple household items! Join us for this beginning class about radio astronomy. Course enrollment is 15 children. (One session) For children ages 9-12.

Saturday December 7 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20 / Member's Fee: \$15

Preview of the Winter Skies

Jim SeEVERS, Astronomer Emeritus

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

In the Sky Theater--where it's always clear and dark--we'll use the Zeiss projector to recreate the starry sky and identify which constellations, planet groupings, and any out-of-the-ordinary objects will be visible this season. We'll track their motions, and find out

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where and when to watch for the best showers of “shooting stars,” solar and lunar eclipses, and bright comets. (One session)

Wednesday December 18 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$15/ Member’s Fee: \$10

To register for any course at the Adler, please contact:

Maria Mau, Registrar

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

1300 S. Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, IL 60605

Phone (312) 322-0551

Complete course information and a downloadable registration form are available on the following page of the Adler’s Web site

www.adlerplanetarium.org/education/programs/index.ssi

Ongoing Presentations:

Bringing the Heavens to Earth: Cultural Astronomies around the World Exhibit

Since ancient times, people have looked at the heavens with awe and wonder, but they have also used the sky as an inspiration and resource for the entire spectrum of their lives. This innovative permanent exhibit gallery will delve into some of the cultures of the world that have, throughout time, contributed various answers to the timeless quest to understand our place in the Universe, and found diverse ways to incorporate astronomy into their daily lives.

Skywatchers of Africa

Sky Theater

Leading visitors on an exciting exploration of how the first human civilizations contemplated the heavens, *Skywatchers of Africa* examines how the skies were used as a tool for survival, to define communities, and to find spiritual meaning and guidance.

Until November 22, 2002.

Images of the Infinite: Hubble Space Telescope

Zeiss Planetarium Show

Since its deployment from the space shuttle Discovery on April 25, 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has provided us with spectacular awe-inspiring images and has enriched our understanding of the Universe. This sky show highlights the history and top science findings of the telescope, as well as taking you on an unforgettable tour through the Solar System, Milky Way Galaxy, and to the limits of the visible Universe! **Open**

run.

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Solar Storms

StarRider™ Theater Show

The Sun's far-reaching influence on the Earth and its diverse life forms has continued for over four billion years. In this dramatic new StarRider show, you will travel to our nearest star, plunge deep into a sunspot, and then emerge to experience the awesome power of solar flares. You will discover the Sun's surprising impact on several aspects of our daily lives: from the awesome beauty of the Northern Lights to blackouts of electrical power grids and interruptions of satellite-based communications. Don't miss the excitement of Solar Storms. **Open run.**

Journey to Infinity

StarRider™ Theater Show

Join us on an interactive trip through the Universe, which begins on an alien world 5 billion years ago. You'll witness the formation of our solar system from gas and dust enriched by star explosions and fly out from Earth past the Sun and the planets, through the stars and the Milky Way Galaxy into the distant realms of the Universe. Along the way you will navigate through the oceans of Europa, a moon of Jupiter, and in a canyon on the red planet Mars looking for possibilities of life. **Open run.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS

September 3-December 24

Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sat-Sun 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Special Holiday Hours:

Friday, November 29,

Thursday, December 26-

Sunday, January 5, 2003 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

HOURS

Normal schedule resumes:

Monday, January 6, 2003

Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sat-Sun 9:00 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 \$18.00 for adults,

\$17.00 for seniors 65 and older and

\$16.00 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 one sky show.

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The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum is the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Its astronomy programs have reached over 40 million people during the past 72 years. Ten state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the glass-enclosed Sky Pavilion and the renovated landmark 1930s 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 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.

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