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"The Extravagant Universe"

Special Lecture Sunday, November 10, 2002 at the Adler

Professor Robert P. Kirshner will present evidence that the Universe is expanding at an accelerating rate in his lecture at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum on Sunday, November 10, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

The author of *The Extravagant Universe: Exploding Stars, Dark Energy, and the Accelerating Cosmos*, Professor Kirshner will talk about the discovery that Science Magazine hailed as the "Scientific Breakthrough of the Year for 1998." It suggests that the main component of the Universe is dark energy - perhaps in the form of a cosmological constant, a concept first proposed and then rejected by Albert Einstein, who called it his "greatest blunder." Kirshner will present a first-hand account of the evidence from exploding stars located halfway across the Universe that shows dark energy is speeding up cosmic expansion.

Dr. Kirshner is the Clowes Professor of Science at Harvard University and head of the Optical and Infrared Division at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. He teaches Harvard's large undergraduate course "Matter in the Universe" and is the author of more than 200 scientific publications. He has also written for National Geographic, Natural History, Scientific American and Sky & telescope.

The lecture is free with museum admission. A book signing will follow the lecture. The *Extravagant Universe: Exploding Stars, Dark Energy, and the Accelerating Cosmos* is available in the Adler's Infinity Gift Shop.

MUSEUM 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.

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 FEES

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 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 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 over 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."