

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 17, 2003

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**IS THE UNIVERSE EXPANDING AT AN EVER-
ACCELERATING RATE? FIND OUT
AT A SPECIAL PUBLIC LECTURE THURSDAY,
MAY 15 AT THE ADLER PLANETARIUM**

Astronomers have recently come to the startling conclusion that we live in a Universe that is expanding at an ever-accelerating pace but they have no idea why. This “runaway Universe” is one of the biggest mysteries in science today. Learn more about this amazing phenomenon and trace the history of the research that led to its discovery at a special public lecture, “The Runaway Universe,” by Dr. Wendy Freedman on Thursday, May 15 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum.

Wendy Freedman, Ph.D., a faculty member and astronomer at the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, California, is internationally recognized as providing key observational data used to accurately estimate the age of the Universe. She also has the distinction of being the first woman to join Carnegie's permanent scientific staff.

One of Dr. Freedman's primary research interests is aimed at measuring an accurate value for the rate at which the Universe is expanding. She is one of three principle investigators on a team of about thirty astronomers from the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Australia that was awarded the largest allocation of time on the Hubble Space Telescope for a period of five years.

Dr. Freedman is currently a member of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey Committee of the National Academy of Sciences. She is also a member of the

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National Research Council's Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics, the executive board of the Center for Particle Astrophysics and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's scientific oversight committee planning the Next Generation Space Telescope.

The cost for the lecture is \$12 for adults, \$8 for Seniors, \$5 for Adler Members, Students and Teachers with ID. Reserve your space by calling 312.322.0551 or by email: mmau@adlernet.org

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in the Adler's exciting Public Lecture Series 2003. The final lecture in the series is *Life, the Universe and SETI* by Dr. Jill Tarter, Director of the Center for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Research (SETI), Friday, June 13, 2003. For information call 312-322-0551 or check out the Adler's Web site at www.adlerplanetarium.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS

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.

Summer Hours

June 1 through September 1, 2003

Saturday - Wednesday	9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday - Friday	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 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.

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum was founded in 1930 as the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Its astronomy programs have reached over 40 million people during the past 73 years. Ten state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the glass-enclosed Sky Pavilion and the renovated landmark 1930s building present modern space

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exploration along with the history of astronomy. The StarRiderTheater featuring Digistar 3 is the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, fueling the imagination of visitors during virtual flights through the cosmos. With a dedicated and professional staff, 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 partially supported by a CityArts Program 4 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Adler gratefully acknowledges the generous support it receives from the Chicago Park District on behalf of the citizens of Chicago.

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

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