

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**THE ADLER PLANETARIUM
& ASTRONOMY MUSEUM
BRINGS THE UNIVERSE DOWN TO EARTH
August - October 2003 Event Calendar**

Ongoing Special Exhibit and Shows:

Search for Alien Worlds

Sky Theater Show

Are we alone in the Universe? A decade ago there were no known planets beyond our solar system, but in the last several years a tremendous burst of discoveries have revealed more than one hundred planets circling other stars. How common are these alien worlds? Are they anything like our Earth? Could they possibly support life? Explore these and other questions in this intriguing new show.

Alien Encounters

StarRider Theater Show

Travel to yet-undiscovered planets in the far reaches of space as we search for life in the Universe. Using scientific theory as a jumping off point, *Alien Encounters* creates exotic worlds filled with fantastic creatures. You will discover living creatures like giant insect-like life forms on low-gravity planets and highly muscular star-shaped creatures on high-gravity worlds, both environments radically different from our own. Let your imagination take flight in this exciting alien adventure.

Stranded in an Alien Lab

Through January 4, 2004

In this creative new special exhibit, children can imagine themselves as space explorers who have landed unexpectedly near a laboratory on an Earth-like planet. Stranded on this strange and unfamiliar world, they'll investigate an alien scientist's lab. While exploring this fun and interactive exhibit, children will use the clues hidden throughout to solve the mystery about the scientist and her work.

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Observing Event

Mars Madness Sky Parties

Join us on the south lawn of Adler to see Mars, our neighbor planet, in its closest proximity to Earth in almost 60,000 years! By late August, Mars will come within 34 million miles of Earth, appearing six times larger and shining 85 times brighter than usual “the most striking and spectacular Mars apparition in tens of thousands of years” (*The New York Times*)

Special observing events will be held:

- Thursday, August 28, 9:00 pm – Midnight
- Friday, August 29, 9:00 pm – Midnight
- Friday, September 5, 9:00 pm – Midnight

Adler's Doane observatory will be open for tours and public viewing all three nights. Telescopes will be setup on the South Lawn (weather permitting) for public viewing. Adler astronomers and educators will be on hand to answer your questions about Mars.

In the Adler's Sky Theater, see "Mars Tonight," which recreates the late August/early September skies, including Mars' motion through the constellations, and learn why this celestial event is important. Cost: \$5 (free for Adler members). Note, on September 5, the viewing of "Mars Tonight" is included in the Far Out Friday admission.

Special Events and Activities:

Far Out Friday

First Friday of each month

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 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 for 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.

Each month something new can be seen in the sky and at the Adler! Learn how to use your new telescope. Bring your scope with you, and Adler staff and volunteers will help you set it up and practice using it. Keep your eye on our Web site www.adlerplanetarium.org for details on each month's event.

Friday, August 1, 7:30 pm

How can we explore Mars before visiting it? Join Peter Doran, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, explains how scientists study the Antarctic dry valleys on Earth as an analogy to conditions that may be found on Mars.

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Friday, September 5, 7:30 pm

Bill Hartmann, Participating Scientist in the U.S. Mars Global Surveyor Mission, presents a comprehensive look at Mars comparing geologic processes on the Red Planet with those on Earth.

Luna Cabana

Thursday evenings through August 28

5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

In Chicago, it's almost always cooler by the lake, but this summer lakefront temperatures sizzle at the Adler's Luna Cabana. Free Latin dance instruction be available each week to get you and keep you on the dance floor. The Adler will offers live Salsa music and Latin-inspired food and drinks bringing the flavor of the tropics to the windy city. Admission: \$5. For information call 312-322-0516.

Third Annual World's Largest Outdoor Salsa Lesson

Thursday, August 14

5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Dance Lesson begins at 6:45 p.m.

Dance under the Sun on Adler's Sundial Terrace with a dazzling view of the Chicago skyline as a backdrop. Learn to Salsa from Maricza Valentin from the award winning Latin Rhythms Dance Studio. Special guest appearance *by* Chicago's very own Dino Latino singing his hit song "El Verano" from his latest album *Evolucion*. Enjoy the Afro Caribbean drums of **Nuestro Tambo**. Dance the rest of the evening to Chicago's top Salsa DJ's spinning the best of today's hot Salsa music. **Admission on this very special evening is free.**

Haunted Planetarium!

Saturday, October 25, 2003

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Come all ghosties, ghoulies and scary beasts to celebrate Adler's second Haunted Planetarium!! All children who come in costume will receive **half off** building admission with a paid adult admission. Activities include Trick or Treating, Constellation Pumpkin Carving Demonstrations,, Monster Sky Tales, Aliens activities, Mad Scientist Demonstrations, and more! A spooktacular time will be had by all!! All activities are free with paid building admission.

Adler Education Courses

Now You See It, Now You Don't!

Bridget Basta

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

What might aliens look like? Learn about various kinds of life and what researchers

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think aliens may be like. By testing water samples and using microscopes, kids will search for signs of life on Earth to better understand our search for life elsewhere in the Universe. (One session) For children ages 7-10.

Saturday September 13 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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

Cosmic Playground: Science Basics

Education Department Staff

Why does gravity pull things together? How is a solid different from a liquid? This interactive, hands-on, family class will help you answer some of the "whys" and "hows" of the Universe. Liquid nitrogen demonstrations will illustrate the different states of matter. Participants will use stomp rockets to explore the forces of gravity. The "magic" hovering paper clip will make magnetism obvious. Course enrollment limit is 18

children. (One session) For children ages 4-8 and one adult companion.
Saturday September 20 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Fee: \$20 / Member's Fee: \$15 (no charge for adults accompanying children)

Preview of the Fall Skies

Jim Seevers, Astronomer Emeritus
Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum
Preview celestial events for the next two seasons. Using the Zeiss projector in the Sky Theater, we will re-create the evening sky and identify which stars, planets, and other interesting objects will be visible; where they will move in the sky; and, where and when to watch for meteor showers, eclipses, and bright comets. (One or two sessions)
Wednesday September 24 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fee: \$20 / Members Fee: \$15

Exploring the Universe: The Solar System

Larry Ciupik
Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum
Explore the Earth's motions and how these affect our view of the day and night sky. Investigate the Sun, the planets and their moons, comets and asteroids, and theories of the origin of the Solar System. This class uses the Planetarium exhibits and star projectors, and includes a visit to the Doane Observatory.* (Exploring the Universe: Stars and Galaxies is offered in the Spring term.) (Eight sessions, plus final exam on November 19)
Non-credit Students: register directly with the Adler Planetarium as auditors
College Credit Students: register through DePaul University. Pre-requisite not required
Wednesdays September 24 through November 19 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Fee: \$100 / Member's Fee: \$85

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Meteorites: Stones from the Sky

Dr. Mark Hammergren
Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum
Have you ever wanted to hold the heavens in your hands? Now you'll get a chance to touch something that is older than the Earth itself! Explore the dramatic origins and histories of mysterious rocky visitors from space in this hands-on lab. Learn how meteorites have affected life on Earth, how to recognize various meteorite types, and how you can hunt for these rare and valuable treasures yourself. (One Session)
Thursday September 25 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fee: \$20 / Member's Fee: \$15

Stargazing for Beginners

Patrick Frendreis
Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum
In the Sky Theater, discover how to find constellations and bright stars. Advance to using star maps. Learn how to view sunspots safely, and how to look for the best meteor showers, colorful Northern Lights, and periodic comets. Watch the seasonal parade of constellations and the Sun, observe Moon phases, and follow the motions of the planets. Weather permitting, this class will include sky viewing outdoors and a tour of the Doane Observatory*. (Five sessions)
Thursdays September 25 through October 23 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fee: \$75 / Member's Fee: \$65

Introduction to Practical Celestial Navigation

John Laurie

This course will begin with a navigation review and proceed into an introductory overview of the concepts and limited theory of Celestial Navigation. This will include example problems as well as hands-on calculations and plotting of sun sights and planet sights. Construction and proper use of the sextant will also be covered. Students will have the opportunity to utilize forms and plotting sheets to complete sample problems, obtaining enough practical knowledge to try some sight-taking on their own. Required Materials: pencils, dividers, a plotter, parallel rulers and plotting sheets, 2003 Nautical Almanac, a set of H.O. 249 Sight Reduction Tables, and a designated textbook/workbook. (Eight sessions)

Wednesdays October 1 through November 19 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$150 / Member's Fee: \$140

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Radio Filaments in the Milky Way

Dr. Farhad Yusef-Zadeh

Northwestern University

A great deal of structuring has been observed in the form of filaments in the nucleus of our Milky Way Galaxy, in the nuclei of active galaxies, and in the Crab nebula. We will review observations of these unusual filaments in radio and X-ray wavelengths using the Very Large Array of radio telescopes and the orbiting Chandra X-ray observatory. Finally, we'll describe a number of theoretical models that have been proposed to explain the origin of these mysterious structures. (Two sessions)

Wednesdays October 1 & 8 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$50 / Member's Fee: \$45

Aliens in Western Art and Science

Dr. Marvin Bolt

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

University of Notre Dame

Alien life forms have inspired western philosophy, religion, art, literature, and science for over two thousand years. See how extraterrestrials appear in the works of the earliest Greek thinkers and their medieval commentators, Renaissance artists, and more modern writers and scientists up to 1900. After noticing how thoughts of extraterrestrials tell us a lot about ourselves, you will never think about aliens in the same way again! (Two sessions)

Thursdays October 9 and 16 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fees: \$40 / Member's Fee: \$35

Aliens From Hollywood

Freddy Atkins

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

Follow the ideas and concepts of what aliens are, or were, in the eyes of Hollywood filmmakers. How did these creatures live? Where did they come from? What were their objectives? How and why were they portrayed the way that they were? We will examine clips featuring aliens from the early days of film, through the cold war, and into the aliens of today's films. Part one will begin with the early 1900s and continue through the 1960s. Part two will deal with the 1970s to today's films. (Two sessions)

Thursdays October 23 and 30 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fee: \$40 / Member's Fee: \$35

How to Buy a Telescope

Michelle Nichols

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

Thinking of buying a telescope for your own use or as a special holiday gift? We'll discuss the pros and cons of different types of telescopes and binoculars, discover just what you can and cannot expect to see through each, and explore various accessories,

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such as eyepieces and filters. We will also have several telescopes and accessories available for hands-on experience during the workshop. (One session)

Wednesday October 29 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

*** Please note: The Doane Observatory is not wheelchair accessible.**

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.

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 a canyon on the red planet Mars looking for possibilities of life. **Open run.**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS

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|---------------|-----------------------|
| 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

Through September 1, 2003

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 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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