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**VISITORS TO STEP "INSIDE EINSTEIN'S UNIVERSE" AT
ADLER PLANETARIUM'S ASTRONOMY DAY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005**

CHICAGO -- Did the universe have a beginning? What happens at the edge of a black hole? Will space expand forever? To celebrate Einstein's contributions to science the Adler Planetarium, in conjunction with the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, Meade Instruments, and *Astronomy Magazine*, will present **Astronomy Day – Inside Einstein's Universe** from 11 am to 3 pm on Saturday, April 16, 2005.

Inside Einstein's Universe and the World Year of Physics

In 1905, Albert Einstein published four amazing papers, including his special theory of relativity and the famous $E=mc^2$ equation. His ideas about the connections between space, time, matter, and energy revolutionized our view of the universe we live in, paving the way for virtually all of modern physics and astronomy. Science education organizations all over the world are celebrating the "World Year of Physics" this year, involving the public in activities that commemorate the pioneering contributions of Einstein during his "miraculous year" a century ago.

"Our 'Inside Einstein's Universe' initiative with planetariums and science centers nationwide aims to use the Einstein Centennial celebration as an opportunity to engage diverse audiences in the 21st century adventure of NASA's research explorations of deep space," said Mary Dussault, Deputy Director of the Universe Forum. "When Einstein was young, our view of the cosmos was limited, but today powerful telescopes on Earth and in orbit give us an unprecedented view deep into space and back in time. We can see billions of galaxies, detect the afterglow of the Big Bang, and measure x-rays from million-degree gas just before it disappears into a black hole. We appreciate the chance to collaborate with institutions like the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum that are experts at making these space science concepts fun, accessible and relevant to their audiences."

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“Inside Einstein’s Universe” programming at the Adler Planetarium

“The Adler is one of only 14 institutions across the country selected to be a major partner for the ‘Inside Einstein’s Universe’ education and outreach program,” said Michelle Nichols, master educator, Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum. “We’re excited about this partnership, because we share NASA’s commitment to improve public understanding and appreciation of science and technology. The opportunity to have access to NASA science content, amazing visual resources, and a community of organizations developing programs for the Einstein Centennial enhances our efforts to inspire the next generation of explorers.”

Astronomy Day Activities

On Saturday, April 16, 2005, join Adler educators for a fun-filled day of black holes and bending space. Explore how black holes are created in the "Life Cycle of Stars" demonstration. Participate in an interactive presentation “Journey To The Beginning of Time” and investigate the size and scale of objects in the Universe. Make a constellation finder and discover where you can find a black hole in the nighttime sky. At the *Astronomy Magazine* Resource Table, receive free copies of *Astronomy Magazine*, star maps, and sky guides. Astronomy Day visitors can also enter to win a Meade ETX-90 telescope valued at \$645, a Meade LX200GPS telescope valued at \$5,300, and subscriptions to *Astronomy Magazine*. All activities are free with paid museum admission.

The NASA Universe Forum

The Universe Education Forum is managed for NASA by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, located in Cambridge, MA. As a national center for teaching and learning about the structure and evolution of the Universe, the Universe Forum uses the unique resources of NASA’s deep space exploration missions to provide exciting learning experiences for students, teachers and the public. To learn more about “Inside Einstein’s Universe” please visit <http://www.universeforum.org/einstein/>.

This program complements the educational efforts of the American Physical Society’s "World Year of Physics 2005" celebration and NASA’s "Beyond Einstein" program.

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum opened in 1930 as the Western Hemisphere’s first planetarium and has been at the forefront of innovation ever since. Celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2005, the Adler promotes cutting-edge research in astronomy and its fascinating history. In addition to one of the world’s most important antique instrument collections, the Adler is the only museum in the world with two planetarium theaters,

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including the world's first StarRider Theater, the most technologically advanced digital planetarium. The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and is open every day except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. For more information, call 312.922.STAR, or visit our website at www.adlerplanetarium.org

The Adler Planetarium and the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum have announced an 18-month partnership called *Under One Sky* (Bajo Un Mismo Cielo). Among the first such collaborations in the nation, *Under One Sky* will expand educational opportunities in Chicago and offer reciprocal member benefits at both museums. From now until December 31, 2005, the two institutions will explore a rich heritage of cultural astronomy in Mexico.

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