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AMERICA'S FIRST PLANETARIUM

Contact: Molly O'Connell
312-322-0524
moconnell@adlerplanetarium.org

Amy McGee
312-542-2424
amcgee@adlerplanetarium.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADLER WOMEN'S BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2006, PRESENTS \$300,000 TO PLANETARIUM

CHICAGO (Jan. 1, 2006) – The Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium elected **Susan V. Downing**, Chicago, president effective Jan. 1, 2006. Other new officers are **Anna Igoe**, Riverside, executive vice president; **Debra Beck**, Winnetka, vice president board development; **Caroline Becker Joss**, River Forest, vice president project and fund development; **Colleen M. Creighton**, Chicago, treasurer; and **Pamela Jann**, Chicago, recording secretary.

Also named as key committee chairs are: **Sherry Schmitter Block**, Chicago, "Celestial Ball" chair; **Pamela Cramer**, Winnetka, "Women in Space Science" dinner chair; and **Katherine Hunt**, Winnetka, parliamentarian.

Founded in 2002, the Adler Women's Board is the museum's lead partner in education, raising more than \$650,000 in the past three years. The Women's Board helps young people reach for the stars by supporting the research, education and advocacy missions of the Adler. The Women's Board contributed \$300,000 to the Adler in 2005.

"We extend our gratitude to outgoing president Cynthia Ballew and the entire Women's Board for their extraordinary commitment to the Adler. In just a few short years the Women's Board has become a key partner in our efforts to inspire the next generation of explorers," said Adler President Dr. Paul H. Knappenberger Jr.

The Adler – America's First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. The Adler is home to two full-size planetarium theaters, including the world's first StarRider Theater, and one of the world's most important antique instrument collections. The Adler is a recognized leader in science education, with a focus on inspiring young people, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in science.

The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and is open every day except for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For more information visit our website at www.adlerplanetarium.org.

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