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AMERICA'S FIRST PLANETARIUM

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64 percent of Adler Planetarium visitors think Pluto should still be a planet! 54 percent of visitors “feel bad” for Pluto

In an informal poll completed this morning at the **Adler Planetarium in Chicago**, 64 percent of Adler visitors believe that Pluto should be counted as a planet. 54 percent of visitors to the Adler also “feel bad” for Pluto. Eight planets now make up our Solar System.

Today in Prague, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) voted to reclassify Pluto from a planet to a “dwarf planet.” Because of its small size and atypical orbit, Pluto’s classification had been contested for many years. The new definition of a planet, as voted on by the IAU, is “a celestial body that is in orbit around the Sun, has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a ... nearly round shape, and has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.”

Pluto was discovered on February 18, 1930, by **Illinois native Clyde Tombaugh** just three months before the Adler Planetarium opened on May 12 and became America’s first planetarium. Unfortunately for Pluto, by the time Tombaugh made his discovery, commissioned artist Alphonso Ianelli had already completed work on the Adler’s bronze dedication plaque, which celebrated the eight known planets at the time. Today, visitors can still view the one-of-a-kind artwork, which is located in the Adler’s historic Rainbow Lobby.

To learn more about the eight planets – and newly designated dwarf planet Pluto – visit the Adler Planetarium’s Solar System gallery.

For information about planning a visit to the Adler go to www.adlerplanetarium.org.