

# Midweek memo



Dr. Andrzej Wierzbicki

## Wierzbicki to Lead USA's College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Andrzej Wierzbicki has been appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University effective Jan. 1.

Wierzbicki joined the University in 1993 as a faculty member in the department of chemistry, earning the rank of professor in 2001. He was chair of the department from 2001 through 2008, and has served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences over the past year.

"I am very pleased that Dr. Wierzbicki will continue to provide outstanding leadership for the College of Arts and Sciences," said Dr. David Johnson, senior vice president for academic affairs at USA. "Dr. Wierzbicki is committed to excellence in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and outreach to the community. He enjoys wide-spread support from students, faculty and fellow administrators. I can't wait to see what the college will achieve over the next few years."

Wierzbicki received his master's of science in physics and his doctorate in chemistry from A. Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Wierzbicki's extensive postdoctoral experience includes training at the University of Florida, Emory University, Georgia State

University, the University of Alberta, and Dalhousie University.

Wierzbicki has published more than 100 research papers in professional peer-reviewed journals and book chapters on various topics of chemistry and physics, and he has presented and contributed to more than 200 research presentations at international, national, and regional meetings. His published work has appeared in professional journals such as "Nature," "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences," "Journal of the American Chemical Society," "Biophysical Journal," "Journal of Physical Chemistry," "Physical Review," and "Surface Science."

His research has been supported by numerous grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, Research Corporation, and other state, industrial, and local sources of funding. His current research on biological aspects of the interaction between proteins and crystal surfaces is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

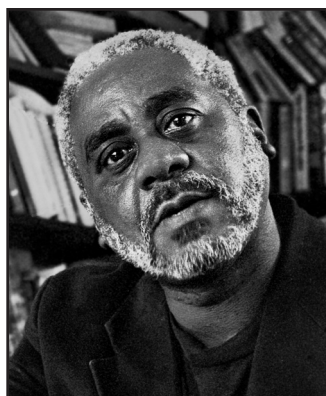
Wierzbicki has been a dedicated and effective instructor who has taught both lecture and laboratory courses in the chemistry department, ranging from freshman to senior level. In 2008 he was nominated for "Top Prof" by the USA Chapter of the Mortar Board Society. An important part of his teaching has involved supervised research. Out of his more than 40 student research assistants who have performed research under his direction, many have gone on to prestigious graduate programs in chemistry, to medical and dental schools, or have secured jobs in the chemical industry.

Arts and Sciences is the University's largest college, currently enrolling more than 4,000 students. It has awarded nearly 16,000 degrees.

The College of Arts and Sciences includes 19 departments and four interdisciplinary programs offering 24 different undergraduate majors,

31 minors, three undergraduate certificate programs and one graduate certificate program. The college also offers nine master's degrees and two doctorates, a Ph.D. in marine sciences and a Ph.D. in clinical and counseling psychology.

The members of the Arts and Sciences faculty teach the core liberal arts curriculum for all undergraduate students, regardless of major. Through the core curriculum, students are introduced to a broad spectrum of knowledge in four main areas: the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences and mathematics, and fine and performing arts.



Dr. Charles Johnson

## Award-Winning Author to Lecture at USA MLK Event

The University's African-American Studies program will commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Saenger Theatre with a lecture. The featured speaker for the event is Dr. Charles Johnson, author, screenwriter, critic, lecturer and professor. The event is free and open to the public.

He's a MacArthur "Genius Grant" winner, an Academy of Arts and Letters: 2002 Academy Award for Literature winner, and the first African-American man to win a

National Book Award since Ralph Ellison.

Johnson has been praised for his balance of philosophy and folklore for his novel "Middle Passage," which won the National Book Award in 1990. Like his other works of fiction, "Middle Passage" embodies Johnson's provocative version of black literature.

Johnson's first novel, "Faith and the Good Thing," was published in 1974 when the author was studying for his Ph.D. in phenomenology and literary aesthetics at Stony Brook University in New York.

Born in Evanston, Ill., Johnson began his career as a cartoonist. His two collections of cartoons were acclaimed for their subtle but pointed satire of race relations, and success, which led to "Charlie's Pad," a 1971 series on public television that Johnson created, co-produced and hosted.

As a cartoonist and journalist in the early 1970s, Johnson has published 1,000 drawings in national publications, a selection of which appears in "Humor Me: An Anthology of Humor by Writers of Color" by John McNally.

Johnson has also written 20 screenplays, among them "Booker," which received the International Prix Jeunesse Award, a 1985 Writers Guild Award for "outstanding script in the television category of children's shows," and was released for home-video in 1996.

Co-sponsors of the event are the USA Office of Academic Affairs; the College of Allied Health Professions; departments of communication, history, English, and music; Jaguar Productions; Office of Multicultural Student Affairs; African-American Student Association; USA's Center for Academic Service-Learning and Civic Engagement; the USA Football Program; Mobile County Commission; and the Museum of Mobile.

For more information, contact Jaguar Productions at (251) 460-7144.

## USA to Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Dr. King with Service and Outreach

### *Volunteers Needed to Support the Effort*

University of South Alabama students, faculty, staff, alumni and the local community will participate in the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. International Day of Service held Monday, Jan. 18, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. with registration and lunch held at Dumas Wesley Community Center and Sybil Smith Village at 111 Mobile St.

This initiative is sponsored by the USA Center for Academic Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, which is co-directed by Karen Peterson, English instructor, and Dawn McKinney, senior computer and information sciences instructor.

USA joins universities around the country in supporting the community by participating in service projects. Service-learning is a student-focused community effort that builds civic-minded citizens through community service. Students are also mentored by faculty, business and community partners.

"We are proud of our students, and we want them to have a major impact on their community through service," Peterson said.

T-shirts will be provided to the first 500 volunteers by the USA Student Government Association. Also, volunteers who serve at least three hours will receive one free theme park ticket to Walt Disney World Resort or Disney Land Resort. SGA will provide free Jag Tran transportation to students who need a ride to and from the work sites. Jag Tran will leave the flagpole at the Student Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

A complimentary lunch will be donated and served by Springhill Avenue United Methodist Church and cooked by Michael Roberts, a master chef. USA Dining Services is providing hot dogs, and Pepsi Buffalo Rock will donate soft drinks and water.

"This is a great way for us to make a difference in our community," McKinney said.

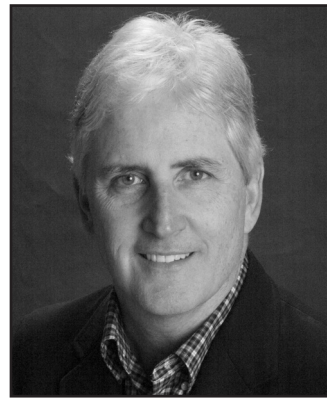
Additional sponsors for the USA MLK International Day of Service are Super Target, USA Office of Multicultural Affairs, Jaguar Productions, Farmers Insurance, the Bruce Wells Agency, USA Athletics, and USA Public Relations.

### Volunteers Needed for MLK Day Projects

Volunteers are needed to assist with the following projects planned for the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. International Day of Service:

- Building wheelchair ramps at 2723 and 2721 Josephine St.
- Painting a mural at Dumas Wesley Community Center.
- Men's and women's basketball team and coaches to hold mini sports clinics for kids.
- Arts and crafts projects for kids at Sybil Smith Village.
- Cleaning and yard work at the Ronald McDonald House.
- Cleaning and yard work in the Crichton community.
- Sorting and cleaning at Penelope's Closet at 63 North Florida St.

For more information, volunteers should contact Karen Peterson, event co-director, at [kpeterson@usouthal.edu](mailto:kpeterson@usouthal.edu). Volunteers should sign up by e-mailing their names and contact information to [studentsinaction@gmail.com](mailto:studentsinaction@gmail.com) or visit [www.1-800-volunteer.org](http://www.1-800-volunteer.org), and put in MLK and Mobile, Alabama, to reach the registration page. To register for the free Disney day, visit [www.giveadaygetadisneyday.com](http://www.giveadaygetadisneyday.com)



Dr. John Dempsey

### Dempsey Named Director of Electronic Learning

Dr. John Dempsey, professor of instructional design and development and director of the University's Online Learning Lab, has been appointed Director of Electronic Learning at the University.

Dr. David Johnson, senior vice president for academic affairs, said Dempsey will provide support to all units of the University in the use of electronic tools to facilitate learning among students, including providing leadership in the University's efforts to develop innovations in the delivery of academic programs.

As Director of Electronic Learning, Dempsey will be responsible for:

- Advising University administration regarding the adoption and implementation of instructional and learning systems and related software and hardware.
- Evaluating and making recommendations regarding the benefits of various electronic learning technology systems, software, and hardware.
- Administering and managing the USA Online Learning Lab.
- Participating in adoption decisions and contract negotiations regarding electronic learning technologies.
- Engaging with faculty and academic leaders to create innovative programs to support and improve learning.

- Planning and coordination of faculty development and training programs for electronic learning initiatives.

Dempsey has held a faculty position at USA for 21 years, including seven years as a department chair of professional studies. He has taught online courses since 1998 and has conducted faculty workshops on electronic learning for that entire period.

Dempsey received his doctorate in Instructional Systems from Florida State University. He has written numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters, and co-edited scholarly texts including "Interactive Instruction and Feedback" and is completing the third edition of the award-winning "Trends and Issues in Instructional Design and Technology." A practicing instructional designer, Dempsey has designed and developed educational Web sites and CBT for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Army, and multimedia CD-ROMS involving environmental education topics.

## CALENDAR *of Events*

### Send USA Campus Calendar Events Today

Items may be submitted to the calendar the following ways:

- E-mail items to [midweekmemo@usouthal.edu](mailto:midweekmemo@usouthal.edu) and [pubrel@usouthal.edu](mailto:pubrel@usouthal.edu)
- Fax to the Office of Public Relations at 460-7827
- Mail to the Office of Public Relations in Room 256, Administration Building
- Use the submission form on the calendar page Web site

You can access the calendar at [www.southalabama.edu/usacal/campuscalendar](http://www.southalabama.edu/usacal/campuscalendar)

# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA ONLINE LEARNING LAB

## Weekly OLL Workshops (WOW!)

They provide the faculty with hands-on training on topics that are valuable for improving online teaching. To sign up, contact Ms. Gail McLean at (251) 380-2861 or e-mail: [gmclean@usouthal.edu](mailto:gmclean@usouthal.edu).

Wed. 3-5 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. - Noon  
UCOM, College of Education  
Computer Lab, Room 3302

Jan. 20, 22 .....	Using the eCollege Course Management System (CMS) for Online Course Development
Jan. 27, 29 .....	eCollege Gradebook / Quizzes and Test Banks
Feb. 3, 5 .....	Effective Use of the Interactive Whiteboard in a Classroom
Feb. 10, 12 .....	Audio Production and Podcasting: On-Demand Learning
Feb. 17, 19 .....	Producing Simple Instructional Videos and Video Podcasts
Feb. 24, 26 .....	Developing Educational Websites Using Dreamweaver
March 3, 5 .....	Creative Commons and EndNote: Protecting and Documenting Instructional Materials
March 10, 12 .....	Creating Online Lectures and Software Simulations
March 24, 26 .....	Using a Virtual Learning Environment: Second Life
March 31, April 2 .....	Moodle: An Open Source CMS for Supplementing Online and Blended Courses
April 7, 9 .....	Pedagogy & Motivation Strategies in Online Learning
April 14, 16 .....	Using Assessment to Learn
April 21, 23 .....	Mobile Learning for the Mobile Student

## USA Online Instructor Bootcamp

Two workshops designed to facilitate the use of the Web for both on-campus and online courses.

**March 2, 2010, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m., The Big Picture**

Topics: Setting up a course in eCollege (syllabus, announcements, course admin) and Incorporating content

**March 9, 2010, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m., Technology Teasers**

Topics: Recording, editing and publishing a podcast and a video podcast

To sign up for the workshops, contact Ms. Gail McLean at (251) 380-2861 or e-mail: [gmclean@usouthal.edu](mailto:gmclean@usouthal.edu).

UCOM,  
College of Education  
Computer Lab, Room 3302

## SECOND LIFE TOURS

Weekly Second Life tours will continue this spring on Thursday evenings from 6-7 p.m. Each week, we'll meet at the Jaguarland Bay Boat Welcome Center (<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Jaguarland%20USA%20Education/62/20/27>) and then continue on to our scheduled tour locations.

Our Spring 2010 schedule is as follows:

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|--|--|
| 1. Tutorial 1 ( Basics: Flying, Running, Dress, Maps, Chat) (1/21) | 9. Lifelong Learning (3/25)              |
| 2. Medical Education (1/28)  | 10. Arts and Performance Education (4/1) |
| 3. Environmental Education (2/4)                                   | 11. Special Education (4/8)              |
| 4. Distance Education (2/11)                                       | 12. Vocational Education (4/15)          |
| 5. Art and Design Schools (2/18)                                   | 13. Educational Research (4/22)          |
| 6. Hybrid Courses (2/25)   |  |
| 7. Language Education (3/4)  |  |
| 8. Finance and Economics (3/11)                                    |  |

Visit the Second Life section of our wiki (<http://onlinelearninglab.wikispaces.com/>) or join our Ning group (<http://saeslgroup.ning.com/>) for more information/updates on what USA is doing in Second Life.



For more information, contact Online Learning Lab,  
UCOM 3407, call (251) 380-2642, e-mail [oll1@usouthal.edu](mailto:oll1@usouthal.edu)  
or visit [www.onlinelearninglab.wikispaces.com](http://www.onlinelearninglab.wikispaces.com)



## USA Center for Forensics and Information Technology Security Established

The University has established the University of South Alabama Center for Forensics and Information Technology Security. The new USA CFITS was established by USA President Gordon Moulton on the recommendation of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. David Johnson.

Earlier this year, the Department of Defense provided capacity-building funding to the USA School of Computer and Information Sciences through the DOD's Information Assurance Scholarship Program to develop resources that are now manifest with the USA CFITS center designation.

The center will serve as a platform for the School of Computer and Information Sciences to create

new programs in the future and apply for federal grants.

"This is an important event for the School of Computer and Information Sciences," Dr. Johnson said. "The demand for computing students continues to grow even in the present economic environment. CFITS is another step that we are taking to establish cutting-edge programs that will attract the best students to meet this demand."

Dr. Alec Yasinsac, dean of the School of Computer and Information Sciences, said the new center will be a good building block for future growth at USA.

"President Moulton's CFITS Center designation reinforces USA's commitment to the growth of the School of Computer and Information Sciences and to our bright future in information security and digital investigations research and education. I am proud of the SCIS faculty and staff who have earned this designation, and I look forward to the opportunities that it

brings. It certainly foreshadows the expectations and excitement of our Fall 2011 move into Shelby Hall."

Dr. Bob Sweeney, an associate professor in the School of Computer and Information Sciences and director of the new center, said, "I am excited by President Moulton's designation of USA CFITS, which reflects the University of South Alabama's commitment to the vital task of training information technology professionals to secure our nation's information infrastructure. I believe this center will be a valued asset to our community and will help recruit, retain, and train top students from our area and beyond."

Dr. Rayford Vaughn, founder and director of the Center for Computer Security Research at Mississippi State University, strongly endorsed creation of USA CFITS.

"Cyber-security and computing forensics are critical to our nation's health, and both are rapidly growing international research areas. I am

glad to see USA take this bold step. No doubt that USA CFITS will provide immediate benefit to the state of Alabama and it is destined to make a national impact in the near future. Additionally, I have known and worked with members of this center in the past, and I am confident that they can bring the necessary technical and managerial skills to bear that will undoubtedly make this center an immediate regional asset."

For further information on USA CFITS, refer to the center's Web site at [www.usacfits.org](http://www.usacfits.org) or contact USA CFITS Director Dr. Bob Sweeney at [bsweeney@usouthal.edu](mailto:bsweeney@usouthal.edu) or (251) 460-6390.



## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA CAMPUS CALENDAR

### Monday, January 18, 2010

Campus holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### Tuesday, January 19, 2010

A Banner General Navigation Class for hands-on training in general navigation through Banner 7.4 will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Seminar Room, Computer Services Center. Requires supervisor approval. Self register at <https://jagmail.usouthal.edu/cgi-bin/CA/seminar/semself.cgi>. For more information, contact Amy Hutchings at (251) 460-6161, e-mail [seminars@usouthal.edu](mailto:seminars@usouthal.edu), or visit [www.southalabama.edu/cscworkshops.html](http://www.southalabama.edu/cscworkshops.html).

### Thursday, January 21, 2010

The USA Show Choir will hold an interest and informational meeting at 6 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Student Center. For more information, contact Brandon M. Caten, president, at (251) 895-6075, e-mail [Brandon.Caten@gmail.com](mailto:Brandon.Caten@gmail.com), or visit [www.southalabamashowchoir.com](http://www.southalabamashowchoir.com).

## Got Calendar Info?

E-mail items to [midweekmemo@usouthal.edu](mailto:midweekmemo@usouthal.edu)

### Tuesday, January 26, 2010

A class for Mail Merge in Word 2007 will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Seminar Room of the Computer Services Center. Participants must have working knowledge of Word 2007 and/or Excel 2007. For more information, contact Amy Hutchings at (251) 460-6161, e-mail [seminars@usouthal.edu](mailto:seminars@usouthal.edu), or visit [www.southalabama.edu/cscworkshops.html](http://www.southalabama.edu/cscworkshops.html).

### Sunday, January 31, 2010

Dr. William C. Carter, a distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, will present "Proust's 'In Search of Lost Time'" at 3 p.m. in USA Baldwin County's Performance Center as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. Carter will talk about the general life and works of Marcel Proust. Carter is the project director and co-producer of the award-winning documentary, "Marcel Proust: A Writer's Life." For more information, contact Dr. Christine Bogar at (251) 928-8133, e-mail [usabc@usouthal.edu](mailto:usabc@usouthal.edu), or visit [www.usouthal.edu/usabc/](http://www.usouthal.edu/usabc/).