



**February 5, 2008**

**SECOND LIFE: VIRTUAL CLASSROOM APPLICATIONS**

12:00-1:30 PM

Ahmanson Center (ACB), West Wing, Room 238 (Signs will be posted, leading you to the lecture)

*Dr. Holly Willis*

*Director of Academic Programs for the Institute for Multimedia Literacy*

*School of Cinematic Arts*

**What is Second Life and how can it be used in academia?**

Dr. Willis will take attendees through Second Life to suggest how it can be used across many disciplines for teaching and research. Second Life is an Internet-based virtual world, which has many academic possibilities. Users can:

- **interact in social and scholarly networks**
- **participate in individual and group activities, including conferences and workshops, and**
- **create and trade teaching objects**

Dr. Willis will illustrate how Second Life works, and how it can create diversity and depth to enhance students' learning experiences. She will also review how to get started, and provide resources for taking the next step.

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**February 12, 2008**

**DEATH BY POWERPOINT**

12:00-1:30 PM

Ahmanson Center (ACB), West Wing, Room 238 (Signs will be posted, leading you to the lecture)

*Professor Geoffrey Spedding, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering*

*Professor Doe Mayer, Film and Television and Many More...*

Students shuffle quietly into the darkened room, past the figure of the professor who, head down, is preparing his presentation. The students notice the pile of slide printouts and dutifully take one. The harried professor finally seems to have solved his technical problems and has located his presentation. He opens it up, and fumbles his way over to the 'start presentation' icon. A collective dread and resignation settles over the room, as professor and students begin on slide 1 of 76.

**This is Death by PowerPoint.**

How and why does this happen, and what are the alternatives? USC professors from the schools of engineering and cinema will conduct a discussion on the use of PowerPoint in teaching and communication, aided and abetted by first-hand accounts from students who have been there.

**Please RSVP for lunch to [uscet@usc.edu](mailto:uscet@usc.edu),**

Subject line: Second Life and/or Death by PowerPoint