

USC Center on Public Diplomacy Announces New Acting Director

LOS ANGELES – January 25, 2008 – The USC Center on Public Diplomacy announces the appointment of Dr. Geoffrey Wiseman to the position of Acting Director.

As Acting Director, Wiseman will lead the Center's cutting-edge research agenda and professional expertise over the next six months. He will step in for the Center Director, Joshua S. Fouts, who is leaving the Center to focus on other projects. Wiseman assumed this position effective January 1 and will work with the Center's Deputy Director, Sherine B. Walton, and the growing team of staff, Fellows and researchers at the Center to maintain the Center's trajectory.

"I am grateful that Professor Wiseman has agreed to lead the Center in carrying out the ambitious agenda of conferences, publications, and other activities we have planned for the spring," said Ernest J. Wilson III, Dean of the Annenberg School for Communication.

An Australian diplomat by training and a scholar of diplomacy and international security, Wiseman is a Professor of the Practice of International Relations and Public Diplomacy and a Senior Fellow at the USC Center on Public Diplomacy. His professional experience includes a secondment to the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, three diplomatic postings (Stockholm, Hanoi, and Brussels), and serving as the Ford Foundation's program officer for international peace and security from 1992-95.

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The USC Center on Public Diplomacy at the Annenberg School was established in 2003 as a partnership between the USC Annenberg School for Communication and USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences' School of International Relations. It is a joint research and professional training center dedicated to furthering the study and practice of public diplomacy around the world.