



## **The 18th Annual Conference: An Invitation from the President**



I am pleased to invite you to the eighteenth annual conference of the Global Awareness Society International (GASI) in Washington, DC. We are meeting at a time when the global economy has drifted into recession as confidence in the financial markets plummets and as the housing market is in free fall. Yet it is also a historic time when the nation and the world are buoyed by the hope of a new administration

and its first African American president. The task ahead is daunting, for we know that the world economy, like a huge ocean liner, will take time to turn around. But we nevertheless have the audacity to hope that it can.

The theme of our conference is *Globalization: the Challenge of Prosperity and Inequality*. It is uniquely appropriate for this challenging time. As the recession shrinks world trade and lowers commodity prices, many of the world's developing countries

will feel the pain. It is my hope that cooperation of among the developed and developing economies will prevent the positive benefits of globalization from slipping away.

As a gathering of academics, professionals, and students, the GASI conference provides a unique forum for learned discussions of a wide range of global issues. I invite you to join me in Washington DC in May 2009 to share your ideas.

Sincerely,  
Ransford W. Palmer

## **19th Annual Conference Site Announced**

The 2010 will be held in Krakow Poland under the leadership of Dr. Anna Lubecka of Jagiellonian University. The conference will commence on May 23, 2010 with papers sessions for three days in Krakow. There will be a post-conference field experience offering the chance to visit several historically and culturally important venues in Poland. The Call for Papers as well as travel options will be announced on the website- <http://orgs.bloomu.edu/gasi>.

## **Student Paper Program a Huge Success**

The student paper program organized by Dr. Michael Seipel of Brigham Young University showed a large increase in submissions for this year's conference. Over 30 students from 10 universities will be presenting papers in Washington. With the help of donations from **Crown Products Corporation** of Metairie, LA, **The Leland Stanford McKeeman Global Awareness Fund**, and the **Changshub and Myung Ja Roh GASI Scholarship Fund**, 26 students will receive partial travel grants in support of

## **Keynote Speakers For 2009**



Mr. Lawrence MacDonald, Director of Communications and Policy at the *Center for Global Development* will deliver the Keynote Address at the Global Banquet on Saturday evening, May 24, 2009. His topic will be *Independent Research and Practical Ideas for Global Prosperity*.



Dean Orlando L. Taylor of Howard University's Graduate School will offer opening remarks at the Washington Conference on Friday May 23, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Orlando L. Taylor is currently Vice Provost for Research, Dean of the Graduate School, and Professor of Communications at Howard University.

He has held many other positions at Howard, including Dean of its School of Communication and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.



**Photographer and  
Newsletter Editor  
Dr. Madhav Sharma**



# GLOBAL AWARENESS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

## ***Global Awareness Society International Seventeenth Annual Conference One Globe, Many Voices, Many Challenges***

The Global Awareness Society International 17th Annual Conference was held **from May 22, 2008 to May 25, 2008**. On Friday May 23 the Conference Opening and Welcoming Remarks were presented by Dr. Michael M. Seipel, President of Global Awareness Society International. Following the Conference Opening and Welcoming Remarks Dr. David Soltz, President of Bloomsburg University presented The Introductory Remarks and the session on the importance of International Education. During the Plenary Session: Regional Voices and Their Challenges for Further Understanding and Development, there were many speakers:

**President:** Chang Shub Roh Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Bloomsburg University, Global Awareness Society International Founder and Board Chairman.

**Africa:** Represented by Dr. Wold Zemedkun, Finance and Entrepreneurship, Norfolk State University.

**Asia:** Represented by Dr. Midori Yamanouchi, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lackawanna College.

**Caribbean:** Represented by Dr. Stanley J. Lawson, Tobin College of Business, St. John University.

**Europe:** Represented by Dr. Heidrun Hagen; Kirchen, Germany.

**Middle East:** Represented by Dr. Shah Mehrabi, Department of Business and Economics, Montgomery College.

After the opening remarks many sessions were presented throughout May 23, 2008 and May 24, 2008. Over eighteen sessions were presented by the world educational professionals on Global Economy; Culture and Globalization; Social Dynamics and Social Change; Health Issues in the Global Arena; Diversity in the Global Community; Global Issues and Africa; Diverse Issues in the Global Arena (Student Session); Social Issues in Korea; Educational Issues and the Local and Global Community; Global Issues, Culture, and Languages; Global Impact on the College Music Curriculum; Economic Issues, Culture, Conflict, and Change; Globalization and Economic Issues; Social Work and Social Justice, Globalization; A Global Curriculum in a Global Society and the like. **There were over 90 participants in the 2008 Global Awareness Society International from all over the world.**

Following the assortment of sessions was the awards ceremony. The Global Awareness Society International, Inc. strives to encourage student research in the many areas related to globalization. Each year the Society provides scholarships include The Roh Family Global Awareness Scholarship, maintained by the Bloomsburg University Foundation; The Global Awareness Scholarship, endowed by Chang Shub Roh and maintained by Bloomsburg University's Husky Fund; and the Leland Stanford McKeeman Global Awareness Scholarship, endowed by friends and family members of Stan McKeeman and maintained by the Global Awareness Society International, Inc. In addition, the Crown Products Company of Metairie Louisiana provides annual scholarship support for student's presentations.



***GASI President Michael Seipel of Brigham Young University presents Students' Awards***





## ***New Bloomsburg University President David L. Soltz Speaks of Global Education In His Inaugural Address***

*The following contains excerpts from President Soltz's address delivered Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, during his inauguration as 18th*



The President identified the core values of: access, inclusion, opportunity, excellence, success and value and states that Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania exemplifies these six values. And that is why BU is a university of choice for students, faculty and staff. ... Most of our students are from Pennsylvania, with about half coming from the more rural areas of central and northeastern Pennsylvania and 25 percent from the greater Philadelphia area. About 10 percent of our students are from out-of-state. Our international students are from over 30 different countries, ranging from Bangladesh and Brazil to Vietnam and Zambia, with the greatest number coming from China and Russia. We are committed to increasing that number to enhance the cultural and intellectual diversity of our campus and to prepare all of our students for life in a multicultural world and a global economy. ... Our mission provides access to first-generation college students, with over 40 percent of our students being the first in their family to go to college. We are also delighted to be graduating the second, third and, even, fourth generations of area families as Bloomsburg University alumni. ... Today, we prepare students from throughout the world in the full range of academic disciplines for life and work in the global economy. ... As we move toward the end of the first decade of the 21st century, we are delighted that our fall 2008 freshman class is the largest, most diverse and best prepared academically. The number of historically underrepresented students at BU has more than doubled since 2001 and they now represent 10.1 percent of our student body, but there is still much work to be done. I commit us to continuing this growth in diversity of our student body, and of our faculty and staff. ... The BU Multicultural Center has a wide array of programs and activities designed to increase multicultural awareness and understanding at BU and in our

community. We must and will do more to expand the impact of our center and to infuse multicultural perspectives into our curriculum. To further these efforts, I intend to establish an External Diversity Council to assist me and the university in building on our successes in reaching out to diverse communities and meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse student body. ... The Bloomsburg University faculty members are dedicated teacher-scholars who have chosen an academic career with a primary focus on excellence in undergraduate education and who use their scholarship to inform their teaching. ... We build on our successes to make Bloomsburg University even more of a university of choice and to increase our high student success as we prepare our students for careers in the global economy of the 21st century. ... The College of Liberal Arts will have the lead role in internationalizing the curriculum. We must establish a process to infuse international studies and global education throughout our degree programs. We need a more robust international exchange program that both provides many more of our students with study abroad opportunities and brings students from many nations to our campus to enhance the diversity and multicultural perspective that all of our students must have to be the global citizens they will need to be. ... In closing, I want to say again that I am truly privileged to have the opportunity to lead Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania forward to deal effectively with the opportunities and challenges of these uncertain but promising times. We have a strong base in our excellent faculty and staff and our well-prepared and motivated students. In his book "Good to Great," Jim Collins states: "Everyone would like to be the best, but most organizations lack the discipline to figure out with egoless clarity what they can be the best at and the will to do whatever it takes to turn the potential into reality." With your advice, assistance, support and friendship, we cannot fail to turn our potential into reality and to move Bloomsburg University from being a very good institution to being a great public comprehensive university. Thank you!





## *Taj Mahal: the story of Immortal Love*

*By Madhav P. Sharma*



The Taj Mahal, declared by UNESCO in 1983 as “the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world’s heritage” was built by Shah Jahan,

a Mughal Emperor, to express immortal love to his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Legend says that the emperor was grief-stricken when Mumtaz passed away during the birth of their fourteen baby. In her dying breath, Mumtaz convinced the emperor to construct a mausoleum that will immortalize their love. The em-

peror granted the wish and started the construction in 1632 A.D. The building was completed around 1653 A.D. The opulent, domed mausoleum is the finest example of Mughal art and architecture. Historians describe the style as a diversity masterpiece that combines architectural styles from Persia, Ottoman, India and Islam.



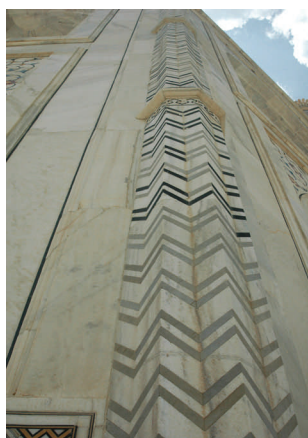
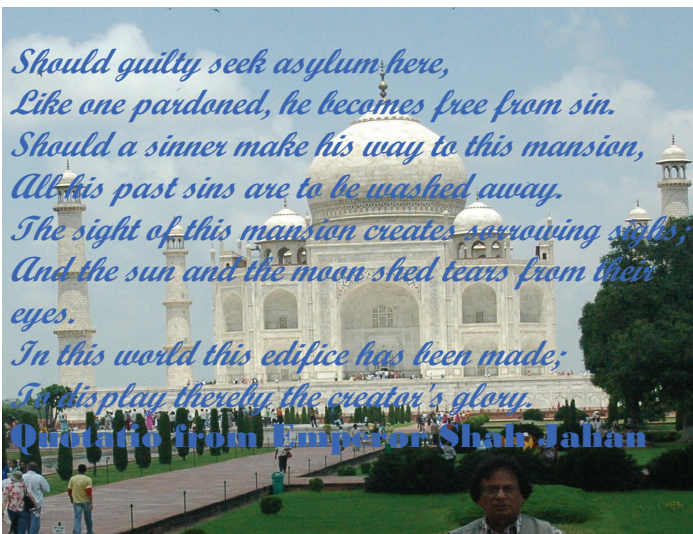
Entrance: The Great Gate—  
Gateway to the Taj Mahal

According to the historians, “Ninety Nine Names of God are to be found as calligraphic inscriptions on the sides of the actual tomb of Mumtaz Mahal, in the crypt including “O Noble, O Magnificent, O Majestic, O Unique, O Eternal, O Glorious...”. The tomb of Shah Jahan bears a calligraphic inscription that reads; “He traveled from this world to the banquet-hall of Eternity on the night of the twenty-sixth of the month of Rajab, in the year 1076 Hijri.”

One can take a camel driven cart from the parking lot to the main gate of the Taj Mahal.



*Should guilty seek asylum here,  
Like one pardoned, he becomes free from sin.  
Should a sinner make his way to this mansion,  
All his past sins are to be washed away.  
The sight of this mansion creates sorrowing sighs;  
And the sun and the moon shed tears from their eyes.  
In this world this edifice has been made;  
To display thereby the creator's glory.*  
**Quotation from Emperor Shah Jahan**



The outside design





### *Walkways Garden enjoying the beauty of reflecting pool*

The garden uses raised pathways that divide each of the four quarters of the garden into 16 sunken parterres or flowerbeds. A raised marble water tank at the center of the garden, halfway between the tomb and gateway, with a reflecting pool on North-South axis reflects the image of the Taj Mahal.



With the discovery of Mahtab Bagh or "Moonlight Garden" on the other side of the Yamuna, Archaeological Survey of India interprets that the Yamuna itself was incorporated into the garden's design and was meant to be seen as one of the rivers of Paradise.

When one enters through the Taj Mahal gates and reads the calligraphy that reads, "O Soul, thou art at rest. Return to the Lord at Peace with him, and he at peace with you."



The Taj Mahal complex is bounded by crenellated red sandstone walls on three sides with river-facing side open. These structures, composed primarily of red sandstone, are typical of the smaller Mughal tombs of the era. The garden-facing inner sides of the wall are fronted by columned arcades, a feature typical of Hindu temples later incorporated into Mughal mosques.

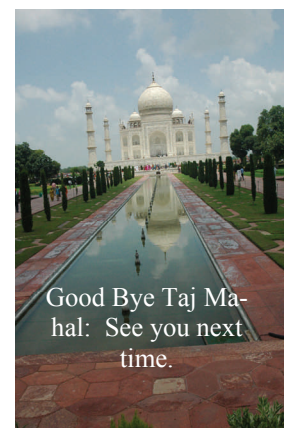


As I completed my tour in the evening, I turned around one more time to view this construction that has been the source of admiration transcending culture and geography for many decades of history. No wonder, the structure is listed as one of the seven wonders of the modern world.



The materials for the construction of the Taj Mahal came from all over the world, for example white marble was brought for Rajasthan, the jasper from Punjab, jade and crystal from China, the turquoise from Tibet, sapphire from Sri Lanka and the like. Similarly, artist, architects, sculptor, mosaics', calligraphers and the like came from all over the world. It is estimated that the cost of the construction was about 32 million Rupees that translate into trillions of dollars at the present currency rates.

According to the department of tourism, India, around four million visitors visit the Taj Mahal annually and October, November, and February are the best months to visit The Taj Mahal.



Good Bye Taj Mahal:  
See you next time.



## Member News

**Board members,** Drs. Lewis Mennerick and Mehrangiz Najafizadeh of the Department of Sociology at the University of Kansas have received a research grant to continue work in Azerbaijan during the summer of 2009.



**Board member,** Dr. Shah Mehrabi, of Montgomery College (Maryland) recently attended a meeting of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation. He continues to serve as an advisor in the Ministry of Finance in Afghanistan.



**Journal of Global Awareness** editor, Dr. Jay Nathan (center), of St. John's University, was recently recognized as one of three Outstanding Faculty for 2009 in the Tobin College of Business. Also pictured is Dr. Midori Yamanouchi (second from left) who was recently named Honorary Distinguished professor at Karaganda University in Kazakhstan.



**Dr. Roh presents award for Distinguished Service to Mike Seipel**

**GASI,** a non-profit organization established in 1991, aims to explore the exciting potential that globalization of the world's cultures and societies presents to each and every one on the planet.



**Longtime colleagues Berhanu Mengistu, Wold Zemedkun, and Patricia Hopson-Shelton catch-up on one another in San Francisco**

### Faces from the Conference



**Our vision:** A vital step toward achieving peace, harmony, and cooperation among the diverse peoples of our globe is to promote mutual understanding and appreciation for one another. Global Awareness Society International strives to turn a global vision into reality.



**Polish Conference Planning**



**Waiting for the cable car**



## Study Abroad Experience: Student Profile



**Student Name:** Laura Buffone, President, GASI, Bloomsburg University Chapter.

**Student Major Program of Study at BU:** Double majoring in History and Secondary Education Citizenship, with a minor in Anthropology

**Country of Exchange Program:** Ireland

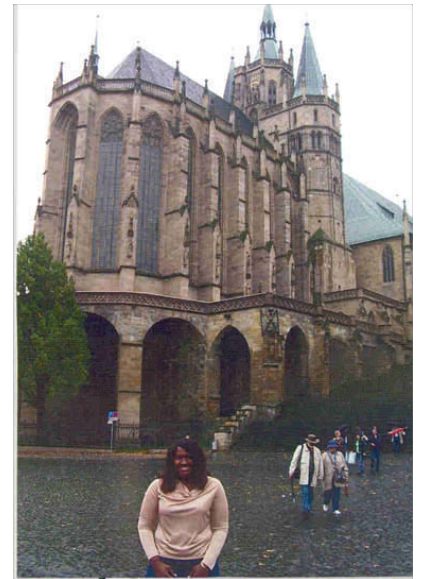
**Name of Host Institution:** Dublin Business School/ School of Arts in Dublin

**Describe your experience:** The understanding and appreciation of other cultures one gains from the study abroad is simply priceless. The quote my advisor in Dublin recited from Euripides sums up studying abroad. "Experience, travel - these are as education in themselves." Studying and doing well in school will lead to success, but one of the best ways to gain hands on experience, and to make lifetime friends and memories is to study abroad. It is difficult to express in words the intercultural understanding, empathy for humanity, and compassion towards other Global citizens one will gain after completing a study abroad experience.

-Laura Buffone



**GASI: Asian, USA and European Connection**



**Student Name:** Erica M. Hill, Member GASI, Bloomsburg University

**Student Major Program of Study at BU:** German

**Country of Exchange Program:** Germany, GASI Student member.

**Describe your experience:** appreciative for people and things that I have experienced over there. So far it has been a wonderful experience in Jena. I have been able to learn not only more German and German culture, but I have also been able to learn about myself and life. Of course there are some days that are better than others, but the majority of my study abroad has been a rewarding experience. I have also become more



**GASI Leaders**



### Executive Officer

Micheal Seipel  
Past President  
Field: Social Work  
Brigham Young University

Ransford Palmer  
President  
Field: Economics  
Howard University

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James C. Pomfret  
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Field: Mathematics  
Bloomsburg University

Madhav P. Sharma  
Executive Director/Editor  
Publisher of GASI Newsletter  
Field: International Education  
Bloomsburg University

Chang Shub Roh  
Chairman of the Board and Founder  
Field: Sociology & Social Welfare  
Bloomsburg University

Program Chair  
Lewis Mennerick  
Field: Sociology  
University of Kansas

Midori Yamanouchi  
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Vice President  
Lackawanna College

Ransford Palmer  
Membership Chair  
Field: Economics  
Howard University

Jay Nathan  
Journal Editor  
Field: Economics  
St. John's University



## May 21-24, 2009 Conference Set for Washington DC

**GLOBAL AWARENESS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL  
18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVENT SCHEDULE**  
MOST EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON GRAND HYATT HOTEL  
1000 H ST N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC, USA

### Thursday, May 21, 2009

4:00 – 6:00 PM On -site Registration  
4:00 – 5:00 PM Global Awareness Society International, Inc Board of Directors Meeting  
5:00 – 6:00 PM GASI Consultants and Officers Meeting

### Friday, May 22, 2009

8:30 -9:00 AM Conference Opening  
9:00-10:00 AM Plenary Session  
10:30 AM – 5:15 PM Contributed Paper Sessions  
6:00 – 7:00 PM Book Reception

### Saturday, May 23, 2009

8:00-8:30 AM Coffee, Tea, and Muffins  
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Contributed Paper Sessions  
4:30 – 5:30 PM Annual Business Meeting and Preview of Poland 2010 Conference  
6:30-9:30 PM Global Banquet

### Sunday, May 24, 2009

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Cultural Experience in Annapolis. MD  
2:00-5:00 PM Cookout at the home of GASI President, Ransford Palmer

### Contributors to GASI

*Please send checks to:  
Global Awareness  
Society International*

*Attention:  
Dr. James C. Pomfret,  
Treasurer, GASI  
Bloomsburg University  
400 East Second Street  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815*

*Please specify whether  
the contribution should  
be dedicated to one of  
the scholarship funds.*

The theme for the 2009 conference is,

**"Globalization: The Challenge of Prosperity and Inequality"**



Submit manuscripts for review to:

Dr. Jay Nathan, Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of Global Awareness  
Tobin College of Business  
St. John's University  
Queens, New York 11439, USA

**GASI Regular address:**  
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