



Newsletter of the

# GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

829 N. Market  
Wichita, KS 67214  
(316) 264-6884

Promoting Global Learning through the Exchange of Ideas and Experiences

Editor: Suzan Williams

[www.glcwichita.org](http://www.glcwichita.org)

JAN/FEB 2003

## GLC to Kickoff 15th Year and Annual Meeting with Panel Discussion on Religious Fundamentalism

### February Program

Faith Community Leaders / Panelists

*"The Impact of Religious Fundamentalism in Today's World"*

Wed, Feb 12th, 7 p.m., Muslim Community Center, 6655 E. 34th St. North

In honor of GLC's 15th year, members and the public are invited to attend the 15th Annual Meeting of the Global Learning Center. The anniversary celebration will include an informative panel discussion on "The Impact of Religious Fundamentalism in Today's World." *Muslim, Reformed Jewish, Hindu and Christian perspectives* will be presented by the following panelists.

Dr. Wael Azmeh has spoken in churches, synagogues and colleges/universities about Islam, Muslims and Arabs. He is a leader with the Islamic Society of Wichita, Inter-Faith Ministries, and the Global Learning Center. He is a founder and coordinator of the Muslim Public Affairs Council of Wichita. Azmeh is also a Cardiologist in private practice in Wichita.

Rabbi Michael Davis comes to us from the Congregation of Temple Emanu-El. He studied at the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York and was ordained in 1991. He also studied at Hebrew Union College of Jerusalem and is a 3rd generation reformed rabbi. He has served congregations in New York, Florida and California prior to coming to Wichita.

Dr. Pawan Kahol is a native of India and a Hindu who has frequently presented the basic tenets of Hinduism at interreligious conferences. He holds a Ph.D. in Physics and serves as Chairman of the Department of Physics at Wichita State University.

Rev. Bill Reece served as pastor of the Pine Valley Christian Church for 27 years. Since retiring, he has provided leadership as director of the Mainstream Coalition, director of the Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Hunger (CTECH) and co-chair of the Religious Coalition for Choice.

### Coming in April...

Dr. Kent Jackson Bransford, national expert on climate change and health *"Degrees of Danger: How Smarter Energy Choices Can Protect Health, Climate and Security,"* 7:30 p.m., Inter-Faith Ministries Gallery, 829 N. Market, Wichita

### March Program

Dr. Walt Chappell on: *"Helping Africans Feed Themselves"*

Thurs, Mar 20th, 7:30 p.m.

IFM Gallery, 829 N. Market

Dr. Walt Chappell has worked with African sustainable development projects since 1987 and will present his experience with agricultural development in Burundi and Gabon. The focus of the work has been on how to help transfer appropriate, sustainable technology to help Africans and people in other developing countries to grow, store, process and market more of their own food. Chappell will be sharing his ideas on how to develop a fair and equal market for African products and ways to stop the cycle of hunger, poverty and war.

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*"The right action applied in the right location  
with the right leverage can move the world."*

## From the President of the Board...

by Robert Simon

*"The more things change, the more they remain the same."*

*"It's a small world after all."*

*"Charity begins at home and spreads abroad."*

*"Give me a lever big enough, and a place to stand and I can move the world."*

These statements are probably familiar to you, and yet you may not realize that they are also guiding principles for the mission of the Global Learning Center. "How so?" you ask? Let me explain.

First, despite the fact that the world continues to change at an ever escalating pace in terms of technologies, physical growth, our impact on a fragile environment, and so much more...there are places on our planet that remain untouched by all of it...places where life goes on now as it has for ages. These places often hold a beauty and a wisdom which their indigenous peoples can teach us. At the same time, human emotions like greed, and selfishness, and fear, and anger, and self-righteousness are still far too prevalent, and still far too likely to destroy us all. And yet there is always a core of caring, spiritual and practical visionaries who invariably make a remarkable difference. The more things change...the more they remain the same.

After all, it really is a small world. This is partly because global travel and communication makes connecting with people around the world as easy as having a conversation in your living room. It's also because the world for each of us can essentially be reduced to one that includes just the people and events that we allow to most impact our lives. In other words, Saddam Hussein has not directly affected my life as far as I know,

but my neighbors do...and so do American politicians, and the authors I read, and more. On the other hand, if a Saddam-sponsored bomb explodes in Wichita tomorrow, my world will change. Small world, huh?

On the other hand, maybe I can detonate an explosion of understanding or enlightenment here at home that will reach the trouble spots of the world and douse flames of anger and hatred and fear and selfishness. Perhaps I can do that with learning more about world cultures, or praying and meditating in a scientific way, or inviting foreign guests into my world, or traveling to theirs, or making a financial contribution, or all of these...or even things no one has thought of or learned to practice yet. I'm convinced that my charitable efforts can begin right where I am and spread abroad to touch the world.

Finally, the Greek philosopher and mathematician, Archimedes, helps us keep in mind the power of leverage. It is not clear whether he was speaking the law according to physics, or philosophy, or both; but it doesn't matter. It is a truth in either case.

***The right action applied in the right location with the right leverage can move the world.***

The Global Learning Center is about to embark on another year of being dedicated to all of these propositions. We intend to be part of the small slice of the populace that has always been dedicated to beginning charitable and catalytic efforts where we live that can be a part of shifting the great paradigms of the world. Come help us build a new lever.

## Is Demand for Oil Fueling Iraq Conflict?

by Manfred Menking

(Printed in *The Wichita Eagle*, Dec. 4, 2002)

Before Iraqi troops were routed out of Kuwait in 1991, consensus grew for the need for fuel conservation. Wichita Eagle editorials at the time strongly agreed with reader calls for more efficiency. The first Bush Administration strictly objected to mandated higher efficiency standards and, with a forceful lobbying blitz, successfully prevented legislation in Congress. Nearly 12 years later, average automobile fuel consumption has increased. We currently cover more than 50 percent of our needs with imported oil, consuming more than one-quarter of total worldwide oil production and contributing a disproportionate share of greenhouse gases to global warming and climate change.

Fortunately, members of U.S. faith communities have now recognized the moral implications of this consumption pattern. Likewise, praying for peace in Iraq in a homily on Nov. 10, "Remembrance Sunday," the Rt. Rev. Thomas Burns, bishop of the British armed forces, severely questioned the justness of new war and stated that "genuine purpose, e.g., removing a serious threat, can become compromised by self-interest, e.g., securing oil supplies."

*continued on page 3*

# 3 GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

## Director's Report

by Suzan Williams, Executive Director

As your new director, I am thrilled to be a part of this wonderful organization. If we have not yet met, please introduce yourself to me and share your GLC memories and ideas. I will look forward to talking to you very soon.

The Director's Report will be a regular feature to let you know what's going on in our committees and where we could use your help.

The Program Committee, led by Dr. Manfred Menking, is doing a great job recruiting guest speakers and experts to address issues that are relevant, informative and challenging to our members...like the panel discussion "The Impact of Religious Fundamentalism in Today's World" that is scheduled for our Annual Meeting and 15th Birthday celebration on Feb 12th.

The Membership Committee, led by Mary Knecht, is charging ahead with incredible energy and an ambitious plan to increase memberships. The plan is called "20/20 Vision for GLC in 2003." It is aimed at maintaining all current members while adding 20 new businesses, 20 new organizations/churches, 20 new individual/family memberships, and 20 new students. If you know of a business, church, organization, friend, neighbor, or student who should be contacted, call Mary Knecht.

The Nominating Committee is working hard to prepare a slate of candidates to fill outgoing board positions and offices. Nominations will be presented to you for approval at the annual meeting. Call Mary Knecht if you're interested.

The Communications Committee is focusing on: publications, media relations, web site, email, and calling functions. We are updating the image of our publications, as you may have noticed with the new image of this newsletter. Call Sue Williams if you wish to help.

The Finance Committee is also in need of your help. We hope to go after grants and corporate sponsors this year with your help.

The Hospitality Committee includes greeters and servers. Call Mary Knecht if you can help.

## Three Lectures Scheduled with Distinguished Mideast Scholar

Dr. Suad Josef, leading scholar of Middle East women's studies, will be in residence at WSU March 30 to April 3. Josef is known internationally for her work bridging women's studies and the Arab world. She will deliver three lectures: "Women and Power in the Middle East"; "Culture as a Learning Tool"; and "Arab-American Citizenship." Dr. Debbie Gordon, associate professor with WSU and GLC Board member, submitted the successful proposal that facilitated Dr. Josef's visit to WSU. For times and locations go to [www.wichita.edu/Lyseum](http://www.wichita.edu/Lyseum).

### OIL & IRAQ

*continued from page 2*

*(Published in The Wichita Eagle)*

Is there a connection between access to Iraqi oil--the second largest known reserves in the world--and Bush administration plans for regime change? People of foreign countries including those in Europe assume so.

As in 1990, the notion that oil may be the dominant force driving U.S. policies toward war is most disturbing and painful for conscientious observers. The postwar embargo has been devastating to Iraqi society. Estimates of sanction-induced casualties during the past decade range from a minimum of 350,000 to more than 1 million, predominantly children.

The Bush administration argues that it is solely Saddam Hussein with his weapons of mass destruction who determines our policies. If it exists, the Iraqi weapons arsenal is minute compared with the irrationally huge nuclear forces of the U.S.

Regrettably, Iraq's noncompliance with the Nonproliferation Treaty of 1970 is not unique. The U.S. also refuses to adhere to its treaty obligations, and in the

past two years has flatly discarded most arms-control agreements. Last weekend (Dec 2002) the British newspaper the Daily Mirror reported that Richard Perle, Chairman of the U.S. Defense Policy Board, stunned British members of Parliament when he admitted the United States would attack Iraq even if U.N. inspectors fail to find weapons of mass destruction. Iraqi society has not yet recovered from the 1991 Gulf War and subsequent sanctions. The extent of innocent civilian losses in a renewed war is unpredictable and likely quite severe. That is what we must remember when we consider copious gasoline supplies an American birthright.

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**MANY THANKS TO RANDY  
BUSH FOR HIS  
DEDICATION TO GLC AS  
OUR PAST DIRECTOR.  
BEST WISHES RANDY!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Wed, Feb 12th, 7 p.m., Muslim Community Center  
Annual Meeting & Panel Discussion on: *"The Impact of Religious Fundamentalism in Today's World"* (Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Christian perspectives represented)

Thurs, Mar 20th, 7:30 p.m., IFM Gallery, 829 N. Market  
*"Helping Africans Feed Themselves: Ways to Stop the Cycle of Hunger, Poverty, and War,"* Presented by Dr. Walt Chappell

GLC Hosts 2 PBS/ KPTS Program Club/Discussion Groups  
Join GLC for group viewing of PBS/KPTS programs followed by PBS Program Club Q&A session led by GLC.

(Feb 10 - grassroots Pilot experience kicks off series-view at home).

Tues, Mar 25, NOVA: Dirty Bombs (Viewing & Q&A's)  
6:45 to view program, explores dirty bombs as new terrorist weapon. Discussion led by Dr. Menking, 829 N. Market

Wed, Mar 26, Journey to Planet Earth (Viewing & Q&A's) view program at 6:45 p.m on how sever environmental poroblems can lead to Political Crisis and Hostilities.at home of Mary Knecht, 1634 N. Athenian, RSVP at 942-8068 ( limited space).

Mar 30th - Apr 3rd, Dr. Suad Josef in Residence at WSU *"Women & Power in the Middle East"; "Culture as a Learning Tool"; and Arab-American Citizenship"* check: [www.wichita.edu/Lyseum](http://www.wichita.edu/Lyseum)

HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY  
GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

2003 ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN US FOR A  
CELEBRATION,  
A PANEL DISCUSSION  
AND A RECEPTION  
FEBRUARY 12TH  
(details on cover page)

IT'S TIME TO  
JOIN GLC if  
you have not yet  
done so. We  
need you! Also,  
thanks to those  
who have given  
your support  
through your  
donations/dues!

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\_\_\_ Partner (\$100-499)

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\_\_\_ \$30 Individual

\_\_\_ Johnston Fund

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Contributions & dues are fully tax deductible



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Jan/Feb 2003

Discovering the World Around Us



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APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2003

**REV. JAMES M. LAWSON, JR., Civil Rights Activist  
in Wichita April 22 to Discuss Nonviolent Future**

**Dr. Kent J. Bransford**  
*Health, Climate, & Security Issues*

**Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m. (Free)**

*East Heights United Methodist Church, 4407 East Douglas, Wichita*

**Speaker: Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr.**

**Topic: "Envisioning a Nonviolent Future - Where Do We Go  
From Here: Chaos or Community?"**

**Thur., April 24, 7:30 p.m. (Free)**

*IFM Villa, 848 N. Market (lower level  
enter by south west stairwell)*

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Kent Jackson Bransford**

**Topic: "Degrees of Danger: How  
Smart Energy Choices can Protect  
Health, Climate and Security."**

***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called James M. Lawson  
"The leading nonviolence theorist in the world."***

Rev. James Morris Lawson, Jr. is a retired United Methodist pastor, master teacher, and organizer of nonviolent resistance against injustice. Raised in Massillon, Ohio, Rev. Lawson began speaking out against racial injustices early in his life. In 1957 he met Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and that same year, Rev. Lawson went to Nashville to teach the mechanics of nonviolence to civil rights activists.

Rev. Lawson is past president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which was founded by Dr. King to end racial segregation by nonviolent protests. Martin Luther King, Jr. called Lawson "the leading nonviolence theorist in the world."

Rev. Lawson lectures throughout the United States and examines current affairs through the lens of compassion and justice.

The program is sponsored by Inter-Faith Ministries. Admission is FREE and open to the public. Rev. Lawson will also lead a Religious Leaders' Luncheon on April 23 at IFM Villa, 848 N. Market. Cost: \$5. For reservations call: 264-9030.

Dr. Kent is a member of the National Board of Directors of Physicians for Social Responsibility, working with the national office in Washington, DC. He currently serves in the Environmental and Health Division, speaking on the health impacts of energy usage and global climate change in a state by state campaign.

**Tuesday, April 22 (Free)**

**Earth Day Kansas at the Sedgwick County Zoo**

Presented by Boeing Wichita...especially for classrooms. Free admission to the zoo and Earth Day activities. For information call Andrea Wiltse at (316) 526-8756 or go to: <http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/community/wichita/003.html>

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*"Now that America is at war in Iraq, it is my great hope that the current administration truly has or will find unmistakable evidence of the urgent threat to world peace and security that has been represented by Saddam Hussein's government, and that they will be able to successfully communicate that evidence to the entire world in due time."*

## Iraq: The "Poster Child" for a Global Dilemma

By Robert Simon, President, Global Learning Center Board

This is one of many thoughts that are uppermost in my mind as the United States, under the leadership of the Bush administration, has now deployed and committed at least 300,000 troops to the Persian Gulf region - along with thousands of pieces of military equipment - and spent many tens of billions of dollars in the process of toppling Saddam Hussein's government. We knew from the beginning that this was not done merely as a show of force.

Still, the current war in Iraq represents an unprecedented pre-emptive strike against a country that did not overtly attack anyone since its offensive into Kuwait. But this does not bother me nearly as much as the idea that our government may be acting on a perceived threat that can never be proved in a court of American (and world) opinion. Without such proof, it is America - with its awesome military capability - that becomes the threat in the eyes of the world. I am one who would hate to see that happen considering how America's legacy in history has largely been just the opposite. And the profound lack of law and order in Iraq as a result of removing the established authority doesn't help at all.

On the other hand, world history is rife with examples of how impending threats presented by illegitimate or rogue governments were unnoticed, ignored or downplayed by other governments until it was too late. The world (in some cases) has barely been able to stop the ensuing and intolerable destruction of lives and property that occurred as a result of military offensives launched by such powers. Exemplary situations have erupted in Central and South America, been widespread in Africa, occurred all too recently in the Balkans, and resulted in the deaths of more than ten million people during World War II - thanks to the imperialistic designs of Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito.

Still, some of these same situations would no doubt have been much worse had it not been for interventions by governmental and military coalitions deployed to defend against these offensives. And yet, one cannot help but wonder (at least in a "devil's advocacy") if a more timely and "surgical" military intervention might have been a preferred choice for preventing the much greater conflagrations that emerged in these instances. While undoubtedly still only the lesser of evils, a warning followed by prosecution of a pre-emptive military strike against Hitler, Milosevic, Mugabe, or (depending on your politics) The Sandinistas or the Contras may have been justifiable if all reasonable diplomatic alternatives had first been exhausted.

According to the Bush administration, this is the dilemma with which the world was faced in the situation with Iraq. Alternately, there may be similar or even greater threats presented by countries like North Korea, Iran, Syria, and even China or Saudi Arabia. Unquestionably, however, we must be increasingly concerned about growing legions of terrorists. These folks are bent on advancing their causes in ways

that are both reprehensible (in that they target innocents rather than combatants) and insidious because they operate without borders or allegiances to anyone but themselves.

In a recent radio commentary, I asserted that the world is essentially "too dumb to make peace." In part, this is because I believe we would avoid wars if we only knew how. And yet, war is only the ultimate version of what we do as individuals when we seek to achieve personal goals through violence. Why should we expect the geopolitical world to be any better than those who inhabit it?

### Current GLC Board, New Members Committee Chairs, and Advisors

**Officers & Committee Chairs:** President, Rob Simon; Vice President, Michael Poage; Secretary, Beverly Danley; Treasurer, Glyn Rimmington; Program Chair, Manfred Menking; Membership Chair, Mary Knecht; and Communications Chair, Walt Chappell.

**New and Returning Board Members:** Vimal Goyle, Mohammad Awad-Eljied, Chinyere Okafor, Wayne Howdeshell, Randal Austin, Pat Ciotti, Ned Lakin, Wayel Azmeh, Stuart Elliott, Bruce Fritz, Carol Rose, Barbara McKey, Pam Henry, C.G. Chacko, Billy McCray, Randy Bush, and Debbie Gordon.

**Honorary Board Members and Advisors:** Howard and Jeanne Johnston, Manfred Menking and Ginger Miller.

**Student Advisors:** Roua Azmeh from East High School and Tyler Eastman from Friends University.

**New Members:** Delora Donovan, Barbara Faust, Shafig Hasan, Don Hufford, Nadia Javaeed, Barbara McKee, Kathy & Phil Miller, Jette & Steen Mortenson, Chinyere Okafor, Margo Parks, Mike Philson, Tonia Reazin-Rupe, John and Karol Schlicker, Carolyn Shaw, Mary Sherman, Suzan Williams, and Jim and Lisa Vayda

# 3 GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

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## *The Risky Business of War with Iraq*

By Randy Bush, Ph.D. (Written March 3, 2003)

As we make the transition to Spring 2003, war in Iraq looms large on the horizon of world politics. The Bush Administration has been beating the war drum for six months now, and with more than 200,000 troops now deployed to the Persian Gulf region war has become almost inevitable. The dominant theme in recent media coverage of the coming war is the element of risk involved. Columnists and pundits are alternately praising and castigating the Bush administration for its willingness to risk nearly everything to go to war against Iraq. Let's consider a political risk analysis of war with Iraq.

Globally, the Bush administration is risking America's position of world leadership by pressuring the United Nations Security Council members to support a war that some have legitimate questions about. European allies, especially France and Germany, are particularly resistant to a prospective war and their citizens are highly mobilized against it. In Britain the United States has solid support from Tony Blair's New Labor government, but increasingly Blair faces opposition from British citizens. Russia and China are also reluctant to support another resolution on war in Iraq and will likely abstain at best. Most recently, the Bush administration has stepped up the pressure on Turkey to permit US troops to enter their country to prepare for an assault on Iraq from the north. Turkey is a member of NATO and virtually the only functioning democracy among Muslim countries of the Middle East. The Turkish parliament voted down a resolution to permit US troops to launch an attack on Iraq from Turkey, largely because 90+ percent of the Turkish public opposes the war due to the fact that they have much to lose and relatively little to gain from a war in neighboring Iraq. The Turkish government risks losing control of its Kurdish population and territory, if Iraq is liberated and Iraqi Kurds attempt to establish their own state. The greatest risk that the United States faces by

going to war in Iraq is the delegitimation of its world leadership role, which may engender even more anti-Americanism world-wide, particularly in the Muslim world.

Domestically, the Bush administration is risking the recovery of the American economy, the solvency of the federal government, and its own chances for reelection in 2004. If the war goes badly, it will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on the already stagnant national economy and lead to excessive costs that the federal budget cannot bear at a time when it is already suffering from projected \$600+ billion annual deficits. The new economic policies advanced by the Bush administration, which feature further tax cuts primarily for the richest Americans, will inevitably lead to even larger deficits when the costs of war and occupation in Iraq are finally realized. The most immediate impact of huge federal deficits will be to threaten the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and other social programs which constitute the largest share of the federal budget. Even if the war goes well, it will place a heavy burden on the economy and the federal budget; and if the Bush Administration cannot amend that before 2004, then George W. Bush may face the same fate as his father who was victorious in war and defeated by a poor economy. Beyond that, however, the combination of risky foreign policy adventures with reckless economic policy could create a truly dire domestic crisis, like the post-Vietnam war recession of the 1970s or the post-World War I depression of the 1930s.

In sum, the Bush administration's policy of war against Iraq is a gamble—with historic levels of risk involved for the nation and the world. Either way, whether the war goes well or badly, the costs of war may be greater than most Americans are prepared to bear. At the Global Learning Center we want to promote dialogue on such important issues, please join us for our monthly programs this spring.

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*Randy Bush, Ph.D., is former executive director of the Global Learning Center. He currently works as international student advisor and Political Science instructor at Butler County Community College and he has a Ph.D. in Political Science/International Relations from the University of Washington in Seattle.*

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- April 22**  
7:00 p.m.  
(FREE)      *"Envisioning a Nonviolent Future - Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?"*  
Rev. James Morris Lawson, Jr.,  
East Heights Methodist, 4407 E. Douglas
- April 22**  
(FREE)      *"Earth Day Kansas"* sponsored Boeing Wichita  
at the Sedgwick County Zoo
- April 24**  
7:30 p.m.  
(FREE)      *"Degrees of Danger: How Smart Energy Choices can Protect Health, Climate and Security"*, Dr. Kent Jackson Bransford,  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
IFM Villa, 848 N. Market (lower level)
- May 16**  
7:00 p.m.  
(FREE)      *"Mexican Workers in the Era of Free Trade"*  
featuring Carmen Julia Silva (blacklisted  
Duro Bag Worker) and Judy Ancel, Dir.  
of the Institute for Labor Studies, UMKC  
IFM Gallery, 829 N. Market
- May 31-June 1**  
10-5 / 12-5 p.m.      *"Multicultural Gathering"*  
Old Cowtown, 1871 Sim Park Drive
- June 24**  
7:30 p.m.      *Return Trip to Bosnia*, Rev. Michael Poage  
IFM Gallery, 829 N. Market (FREE)

## THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

If you have not yet joined the Global Learning Center for 2003, this will be your last issue of this Newsletter. If you want to continue receiving the newsletter, you will need to either become a member or subscribe to the newsletter now, or you will be taken off our mailing list. Please act today to avoid an interruption in your mailings.

clip and mail

I wish to promote global understanding.....

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**BUY YOUR UN DAY BANQUET  
TICKETS TODAY!!!** (For details see  
article below and calendar on back cover.)

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**President / Editor: Rob Simon**  
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**Summer 2003**

**UN DAY Banquet Speaker and Venue Secured**  
**Victor Sidel Presents Timely Topic for Major GLC Fundraiser**

Calendar pages will soon turn to reveal October and America's annual UN Day observance. This year, however, the calendar must turn one more page to bring us to the **Global Learning Center's Annual UN Day Banquet**, which is also our major fundraising event. The banquet will be held on **November 2** at the **Olive Tree Banquet Hall** with dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the program starting at 7:00.

**Dr. Victor Sidel**, Distinguished University Professor of Social Medicine to be our guest speaker. Dr. Sidel's timely topic this year will be "**Responsibilities of a Superpower: The U.S., the U.N., and Weapons of Mass Destruction.**"

How timely **IS** the subject of this talk? As one activist group has declared, "**We found the weapons of mass destruction. They're in the President's budget.**"

The Bush Administration claimed that we invaded Iraq to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and yet:

- The U.S. is preparing to build new nuclear weapons and resume nuclear testing;
- The U.S. has an official nuclear plan for developing "more usable" nuclear weapons for "certain battlefield situations;"
- The U.S. has threatened non-nuclear countries with nuclear weapons;
- And the U.S has done all of this independently of the United Nations.

At last year's banquet, speaker, Joseph Cirincione, made a case that the United States no longer believes in the vision of the United Nations. Victor Sidel will help us to determine whether or not that has changed.

Tickets purchased in advance will be \$25 for Members and \$35 for Non-members (\$5 per person more at the door based on available space). This is an increase above last year's prices, but this is the Global Learning Center's only major fundraiser and like so many other non-profit organizations, the GLC is really struggling this year to maintain not only its fine programming, but it's viability as an organization.

**Global Learning Has Never Been More Critical!**

**PLEASE PUT THE GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER AT THE  
TOP OF YOUR LIST FOR CHARITABLE GIVING TODAY!**

**DR. VALENTINA CHAPPELL To Speak  
on Today's Russia, September 18th**  
**Recent Trip to Homeland Fuels Surprise and  
Optimism**

Valentina writes:

"It seems to me that history forgets about cyclic development when it steps into Russia. Instead, it starts spinning in a whirlwind at a horrible speed.

"Three years is not a long period of time, but I could hardly recognize my home country when I visited Russia this summer.

"Moscow's beautiful architectural image has been renewed. Churches and buildings destroyed during the Soviet era had been reconstructed, and most of the monuments to the Communist and KGB leaders had been removed. Does it mean that the Soviet era is over?"

(Continued p.2)

**Global Learning Center Needs "People Power" to Help in Development**

Committees for Finance, Membership, and Communications for the Global Learning Center are in need of new blood. Only the Program Committee is currently operating with a full contingent of volunteers. For all the others, we could use some ideas and some rolled up sleeves. (Continued p.2)

**Inside...**

President's Message  
Valentina's Russia (cont.)  
People Power Help (cont.)  
Iran Today... Cheraghi  
Poage: Return to Bosnia

**Back Cover....**

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Membership Information  
GLC Board Members

### President's Message

## "Think Globally, Act Locally"

By - Rob Simon

Those of us who support the work of the Global Learning Center in various ways know how important it is to BE global learners. Otherwise, we wouldn't be members.

The world we live in becomes more interconnected and essentially smaller each day. There are degrees to which we understand that, and yet mysteries remain undisclosed about how much a part of a single fabric of creation we all really are. So while we are focusing on developing accurate global views, we must by no means shortchange getting our acts together right where we happen to be.

Whoever coined the slogan, "Think globally; act locally," gave us an excellent reminder of how to keep a balance in being a good steward of the planet. Science is uncovering the foundations of more and more mysteries while blossoming intuitions have been sensing their unraveling for some time. From this convergence of insights, we are learning that how we feel, think and act has a more profound effect than we know... and on a much larger world than we can fully realize.

As we embrace this understanding, we start to realize that what we do in the corners of the world that we touch most intimately is of the greatest importance.

Sure... we can send our charitable dollars all over the globe on our behalf. We can travel to far away places and roll up our sleeves to go to work for needy folks. But we can also enfold the whole world in light by praying in the moment. We can promote world peace by keeping the peace in our families and with our friends.

It's no wonder that on the stage of nationalism we think the worst of those we call our enemies. We sometimes don't think so highly of the guy that lives down the street.

It's no wonder we are suspicious of the motives of people we have never met and know little or nothing about. We can't even trust the folks that we know fairly well and may even share great commonalities with.

It's no wonder that diplomats have trouble negotiating peace when their countries are at odds. Many of them go home to husbands and wives they can't get along with either.

It's no wonder that we often keep repeating the same mistakes over and over in society. We look down on our youth and discount their abilities to contribute just long enough for them to grow up to be cynical and out of touch just like many of us are. Then the whole thing starts again.

**Think globally; act locally.**

Every time we conserve water, or reduce, re-use, recycle, and repair, we are acting locally in a way that will change the world. Every time we go out of our way to help a needy person in our own community, or sometimes give of our resources at a level that actually hurts, or refuse to assume that we are always right and that others are motivated by unenlightened self-interest, we make the world a better place. **Believe it!**

### VALENTINA's Russia (continued from page 1)

I'll share with you the facts and events that will help to answer this question [about the Soviet era] during my GLC presentation at the Interfaith Ministry Gallery on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

"During my four-week stay, there were at least two explosions in Moscow committed by the Chechen 'black widows.' I'll tell you about the tactics the Chechen terrorists are using in Russia.

"One of the richest businessmen made legal arrangements that if he and his vice presidents are arrested, an American citizen will take over his oil company. The irony of the situation is that UKOS was the first Russian company that introduced a transparent accounting system.

"The dominating majority of 'private' businesses are practicing so-called 'double accounting', which has created a shadow economy in the country. The Russian government is trying to resolve this "taxless" situation.

"I will share my impressions about the middle class attitude towards the new capitalist way of life, and how it is surviving what is often called an 'American' way of life."

Dr. Chappell began teaching at the Friends University College of Business in 1997. She now teaches in the Degree Completion Program and the Graduate Program as well as the Traditional Undergraduate Program. Dr. Chappell is involved with Computer Information Systems (CIS) and management Information Systems (MIS) courses in the Degree Completion Program. A graduate of Voronezh State University in Russia, she first became a member of the VSU faculty and during sabbaticals went to the University of Surrey in Great Britain, successfully defending her doctoral thesis.

### People Power Help (continued from page 1)

Here's a description of committees, with chairs and current members to assist you in making your choices about where to lend your talents:

#### **FINANCE / FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

*Chair: Glyn Rimmington*

*Committee Members: Bruce Fritz*

*Ex-Officio Members: Howard Johnston, Sue Williams*

The Finance/Fundraising Committee will focus on grants, corporate sponsors, ethnic dinners, and similar sources of funding. In the coming months it will reevaluate dues structures and be responsible for producing the grant request to the United States Institute of Peace, as well as other grants and funds.

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Chair: Open*

*Committee Members: Beverly Danley, Mike Poage,*

*Pat Ciotti; Ex-Officio Members: Howard Johnston*

*and Sue Williams*

(Continued next page)

### 3 GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

#### People Power Help Wanted (continued from page 2)

The Membership Committee is responsible for planning and carrying out plans to increase and enhance GLC membership and to serve the membership. This committee will be responsible for planning functions such as the Annual Meeting, Holiday Socials, UN Banquet, and ethnic dinners and handling hospitality and registration functions.

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: *Walt Chappell*

Committee Members: *Rob Simon*

Ex-Officio Members: *Howard Johnston / Sue Williams*

The Communication Committee deals with how we communicate with GLC members and the public. This includes the GLC web site, newsletter, speaker's bureau, mailing list maintenance, promotional activities and advertising, membership brochures, display booths, and any other methods that communicate about GLC. This committee also identifies ways to work closely with organizations such as the World Trade Center, Peace and Social Justice Center and others.

#### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chair: *Manfred Menking*

Committee Members: *Randy Bush, Debbie Gordon, Vimal Goyle, and Carol Rose*

Ex-Officio Members: *Howard Johnston / Sue Williams*

The Program Committee is responsible for planning, scheduling, and implementing all GLC programs, with emphasis on providing programs by theme and finding qualified presenters to carry out those themes.

If you have skills to lend, please contact Sue at 946-0066.

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#### **DR. HOSSEIN CHERAGHI Speaks on Iran Today At GLC July Ethnic Dinner & Art Auction** *Café Mediterranean Provides Dinner Fare*

Iran today is not exactly what media and propaganda messages would have folks believe. So says Dr. Hossein Cheraghi, a native of Iran.

Dr. Cheraghi began his talk on July 27 (after a tasty buffet at the Café Mediterranean) with a bit of a disclaimer. He admitted that his thoughts on Iran would represent just one perspective of many. He then went on to efficiently deliver a very effective and even-handed representation of daily life and politics in Iran with a historical perspective that allowed listeners a glimpse into a society that is more complex and currently more accessible to Western ways of thinking than pundits allow.

Dr. Cheraghi - married and the father of two daughters and a son - received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Teheran. He came to the United States in 1984 and received a Master's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. degree in industrial engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been a professor of industrial engineering at Wichita State University since 1993.

Dr. Cheraghi has kept abreast of events in Iran and has traveled there almost yearly. His overview of modern history and current events is influenced in part by his acquaintance with the current president of Iran.

One of his main points was that American styled democracy does not come easily to a country such as Iran where the culture has evolved for thousands of years in a completely different way. However, he is optimistic that the current President in Iran will leave an indelible mark before his

second term ends, and he hopes that the leader who follows him will continue in that vein.

July's Ethnic Dinner also featured the pen and ink art of Michael J. Peers.

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#### RETURN TO BOSNIA

- by *Michael Poage*

Return trips anywhere usually reveal changes - pleasant and painful. This was true of my second trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina this past March.

My first trip to that beautiful and war-torn country was in 2000. I had gone there on my own having wanted to see the country, especially the capital city, Sarajevo, for many years. And having had that first visit I was anxious to return. I flew from London, where I had stayed for four days, to Sarajevo on March 19. I was traveling alone so my "schedule" was mostly up to me.

Since I am a writer, one goal of my visit was to connect with some Bosnian poets and writers.

Another goal was to visit another city and also to contact a chaplain with Eagle Base near Tuzla, Bosnia. I accomplished, with varying degrees of success, each of these goals.

When I arrived in Sarajevo on March 19, that night, in my hotel room, I woke up about 4 a.m. and could not get back to sleep. I turned the television on and saw CNN International in English announcing that the war against Iraq had just begun. I *really* could not go back to sleep then - having actively opposed the war - so I watched the news...until 5 a.m.

At that time I heard the sounds of the Muslim prayers spoken from the nearby mosques.

Soon I muted the television, watched the violent images of war and listened to the prayers of the faithful. I sat on the edge of my bed and felt the warmth of tears crawl down my cheeks.

Another important difference between the two trips was the economic changes. There were many more beggars, men, women and children, than in 2000. The unemployment across BiH (Bosnia-Herzegovina) has reached catastrophic levels. Retirees do not receive much, if any, of their allotted pension amounts. So there is much despair among the twenty-somethings and the sixty-somethings.

Finally, something that has remained constant is a sense of humor - a fact of life that kept many people alive during the 1992-95 war and still helps to give people hope and some perspective on life and death, despair and recovery. It is important to keep in mind that no one is an "expert" on Bosnia or the Balkans so I offer these brief observations as one human being who has come to love the country shaped, not like a heart on a Valentine's Day card, but shaped much more like the real human heart beating within each of us -- across the globe.

## Global Learning Center Programs

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

See our expanded calendar at  
[www.glcwichita.org](http://www.glcwichita.org)

Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. - Dr. Valentina Chappell, "Today's Russia." Dr. Chappell's recent trip to homeland fuels surprise and optimism. 829 N. Market (Gallery). Contact: 946-0066.

Sept. 25, Oct 2, & Oct 9 - 7:30 p.m., "Israel & Palestine Conflict." (Video Taped Lectures) IFM, 829 N. Market

Sept. 27, 6:00 p.m., Immigrant Workers' Freedom Ride. Mid-American All Indian Center, 650 N. Seneca.

Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m. - "Terror, Torment and Tyranny: The State of Human Rights Today." Williams F. Schultz, Exec. Dir., Amnesty International, USA., KSU, Forum Hall.

Nov 2, 6:00 p.m. - U.N. Banquet, Dr. Victor Sidel, "Responsibilities of a Superpower: The U.S., the U.N. and Weapons of Mass Destruction." Olive Tree Restaurant, 29th & Rock Road. Tickets purchased now: \$25 (per member), \$35 (per non-member). \$5 more per person if purchased at the door and based on available space. Mail your check to: GLC, 829 N. Market, Wichita 67214 or call Sue at 316-946-0066.

Nov. 13-14, WSU 2nd Annual Global Learning Conference. Hughes Metropolitan Complex.



**GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER**  
 829 N. Market  
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C.G. Chacko

Bruce Fritz

Dr. Vimal Goyle, M.D.

Wayne Howdeshell

Barbara McKee

Rev. Carol Rose

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*World Trade*

Discovering the World Around Us

Summer Issue, 2003



Newsletter of the

# GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

829 N. Market  
Wichita, KS 67214  
(316) 264-6884

Promoting Global Learning through the Exchange of Ideas and Experiences

President / Editor: Rob Simon  
Executive Director: Suzan Williams

[www.glcwichita.org](http://www.glcwichita.org)

Fall 2003

## LAST MINUTE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!

### Dr. Victor Sidel is UN DAY Banquet Speaker Olive Tree Restaurant Site for Major GLC Fundraiser

America's annual UN Day celebration is observed in Wichita this year on **November 2** at the **Olive Tree Banquet Hall**, with the **Global Learning Center's Annual UN Day Banquet**. A major fundraising event for GLC, the banquet will be held with dinner beginning at **6:00 p.m.** and the program starting at 7:00.

*Dr. Victor Sidel* returns to Wichita to be our guest speaker and will present the timely topic *"Responsibilities of a Superpower: The U.S., the U.N., and Weapons of Mass Destruction."* (See Page 3 for more information.)

## Global Learning 2003 & Internet2 Conference Slated for WSU Hughes Metropolitan Complex

— by Glyn Rimmington

With a host of sponsors involved, this year's **Global Learning Conference** promises to be even more exciting and engaging than the inaugural conference last year. The Hughes Metropolitan Complex on the corner of Oliver and 29<sup>th</sup> St. N. will be the location for an event that spans Thursday afternoon and all day Friday, **November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**, and the theme of the conference this year is **"Global Workforce Development."**

At a time when our concern about peace and security are heightened and when we are losing jobs through outsourcing to overseas countries, making our workforce globally competitive is an imperative. This applies in both general and discipline-specific education. It is as important to be more cognizant of history, culture, language, teamwork and communication as it is to keep up with latest developments in areas such as aerospace engineering, telemedicine, performing arts or supply chain management.

It is no accident that jobs in call centers, engineering design, medical diagnosis, accounting, actuarial assessments, software development and maintenance are being taken by people, who are multilingual, culturally sophisticated, globally aware and educated to equal or higher standards than those we enjoy in America.

It is not just blue-collar jobs such as those in heavy manufacturing that are being lost. Now white collar jobs can also be outsourced offshore using the Internet. Even the job of a university professor is not safe.

Global learning has been happening in other countries, like China and India for a long time. Competing employees from such countries are fluent in 4 or more languages, are familiar with world geography, culture and history and often know more about the United States than

many of our citizens. Raising barriers to free market forces is not a sustainable solution and applying it will only reduce the standing of the United States as a bastion of free trade and enterprise.

We must act to revolutionize the education of our workforce so we can win back jobs lost. Universities everywhere are starting to realize that they need to prepare students as global citizens, who can function and succeed across cultures and environments in an increasingly interdependent world. This is not lost on leaders in the K-12 sector or on companies like Boeing, which has invested heavily in developing its workforce so it can maintain a globally competitive edge.

This conference is a must for employers, educators, legislators, students and other members of the community.

This year's presentations will include:

- Dr. Bob Ballard, discoverer of the wreck of the Titanic, who will talk about the Jason Project-global learning for K 12 students;
- Dr. Michelle Selinger from the UK, one of CISCO's top international advisors on e-learning;
- Dr. Paul Gruba from Australia, a leader in transformation of teaching methods to achieve multicultural perspectives as learning outcomes;
- Dr. Heather Boyles, who will speak about the role of Internet2 in International Relations.

(Continued p.2)

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### President's Message

## Global Does Not Rhyme With Trouble (But it might as well.)

By - Rob Simon

When it comes to global concerns in today's world, we could say that we have double trouble... but that would be putting it quite mildly! On planet earth, we've gotten ourselves into a huge mess... and we have no one to blame but ourselves! We have global trouble... and most of us are sleep-walking right into the thick of it.

We could start with the fact that we have never outgrown the need for imperialistic domination by one nation-state over another. Then we might quickly tack on the fact that we are still handcuffed by rampant nationalism on a planet that seems smaller everyday. Then couple that with runaway militarism; and, for good measure, recognize that many places in the world have governments where citizens have little or no say in how they are governed. And then the icing on the cake is that in places like America (where we are supposed to have "government of the people, by the people and for the people") we routinely set aside our responsibilities as citizens and let the outspoken and politically astute hijack our government's administration at all levels.

Stir in fear, greed, revenge, racism, egotism, selfishness, religiosity, pseudo-spirituality, and more and we have a stew that is starting to stink and is far from palatable. And yet world citizens who could be empowered to make positive changes are not sniffing out the stench, apparently have not noticed or have become too tolerant of the bad taste in their mouths, or they have been hypnotized or frightened into thinking they are powerless.

**...they have been hypnotized or frightened...**

We are walking a tightrope or straddling a fence between our mutually assured destruction and our opportunity to awaken for slumber and start to create a world that is peaceful and sustainable. But even the best tightrope walkers and fence straddlers are bound to reap frightening consequences sooner or later. The smart thing for us to do would be to learn to stand on solid ground as we work to co-create a better world for all of us.

This is why learning how to think and act globally is so important and why the missions of the Global Learning Center and groups like it are crucial. Those of us who understand this keep marching forward as best we can from the places where we stand.

We become sustaining members of the Global Learning Center and attend and support its programs. We invite well-known and very capable speakers like Dr. Victor Sidel to our community to share their perspectives. We lend our support to coalitions that are combined to create events like the Global Learning Conference that takes place at the Wichita State University Hughes Metroplex in less than a month. (See article beginning on page 1.)

We read extensively and share what we read with one another. We sponsor and engage in dialogues, debates, and town hall meetings. We write and call our congressional delegates. We attend rallies and protests. We write letters to editors. In short... we do our part to try and perpetuate ideas and insights that can lead us toward mutually assured empowerment rather than destruction.

We each become a global noble... which does rhyme... and which also makes sense. If we are truly noble, we show high moral qualities and we are bound by the noblesse oblige which dictates that we should behave according to those qualities... and by doing so, reduce or eliminate our global trouble.

### Global Learning Conference 2003

(continued from page 1)

A lunchtime discussion panel on global workforce development will be held on Friday including Ron Engelbrecht, VP and GM of LSI Logic; Dr. Janet Harrah, Director of the Center for Economic Development and Business Research; Dr. Glyn Rimmington, the Boeing Distinguished Professor of Global Learning and a representative of labor. Dale Goter from KPTS will convene the panel.

Friday morning will start with a live fiddling performance by the Professor of Violin, John Harrison and Niall Keegan from the University of Limerick, who will come to us via Internet2.

Faculty will present academic papers on aspects of global learning as part of their annual reports on course redevelopment projects. These presentations will include the opportunity for the audience to interact with faculty and students from some of the 19 cooperating institutions overseas.

The day will culminate with an invited presentation on the need for global workforce development in Boeing by Bob Waner, VP of Commercial Aircraft, Boeing, Wichita and the presentation of annual awards for excellence in global learning.

Thanks to Kan-Ed and Kan-Ren, the conference will be televised and made available to all Kansas schools via video streaming.

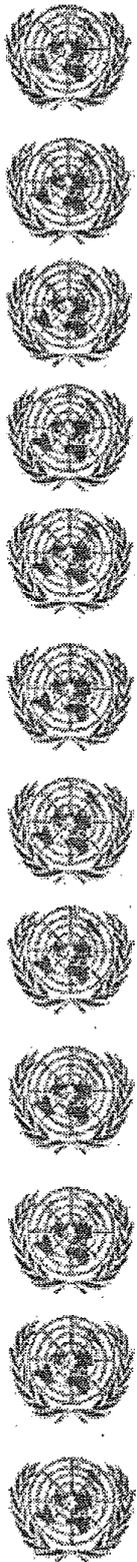
More than 400 delegates are expected this year and as many as 1,700 or more for Dr. Ballard's featured presentation.

For more information about the program and to register online, see [gl.wichita.edu](http://gl.wichita.edu).

Sponsors for the conference include: WSU, CISCO Systems, The Clark Investment Group, International Business Studies Student's Association, Boeing, the Jason Project, Excel/Cargill, LSI Logic, Silicon Graphics, NexLearn, Kan-Ed, Kan-Ren, Great Plains Network, KPTS, the Global Learning Center and Grow Kansas.

**Visit the Global Learning Center on the Web!**

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# UNITED NATIONS DAY

## BANQUET

SUNDAY NOV 2

OLIVE TREE BANQUET HALL

29<sup>TH</sup> AND ROCK ROAD

6:00 PM

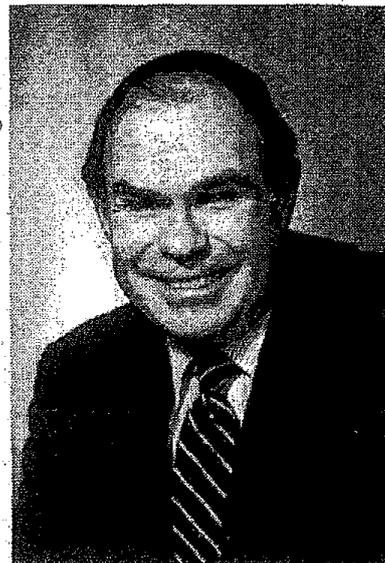
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Distinguished University Professor of Social Medicine  
Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York

Dr. Sidel is past president of the American Public Health Association,  
consultant to the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

Dr. Sidel was a co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility and  
the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. IPPNW  
received the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. He has served as  
President of PSR and IPPNW.,



Tickets \$25, \$35 (non-members) in advance or \$30 and \$40 at the door.

Order tickets for the UN Day Banquet and a 2004 membership in the Global Learning Center

\_\_\_ \$100 (2 tickets plus family membership) \_\_\_ \$55 (1 ticket plus individual membership)

\_\_\_ \$70 2 banquet tickets \_\_\_ \$50 2 tickets (member) \_\_\_ \$35 1 ticket \_\_\_ \$25 1 ticket (member)

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**Make reservations by Wednesday, October 29th!**

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WSU Hughes Metropolitan Complex at the corner of Oliver  
 and 29th Street North. The conference is open to the public  
 and is a must for employers, educators, legislators, students  
 and other members of the community who wish to learn more  
 about Global Learning and Global Workforce Development.

**For more information visit: [gl.wichita.edu](http://gl.wichita.edu).**

## JOIN GLC NOW AND SAVE 3 WAYS!

Become a member of The Global Learning Center today and  
 save 3 ways. First, you get your membership at the 2003  
 membership prices which are increasing on January 1, 2004.  
 Second, you get all the privileges and savings that go with  
 your membership from now until the end of 2004 (that's 15  
 months for the price of 12). Third, get to use your member  
 discount at the upcoming United Nations Day Banquet... that's  
 \$10 for single members & \$10 each for family members.

### THREE GREAT REASONS TO JOIN NOW!

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**FALL Issue, 2003**