

StrateNotes

December 2002
Volume 11, Issue 3

Calendar

January 22-24, 2003
SIM Update for Florida
Trainers
Adams Mark Orlando
Orlando, Florida

January 31-February 1,
2003
West Region SIM
Update
Tropicana Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada

February 12-14, 2003
Preservice SIM Update
Maho Bay, St. John
Island

February 20-22, 2003
Northeast Region SIM
Update
Wyndham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

March 6-8, 2003
Southeast Region SIM
Update
Holiday Inn Historic
District
Charleston, South
Carolina

March 31-April 1, 2003
Iowa SIM Update
Johnston, Iowa

May 27-31, 2003
Teaching Content for All
workshop for college/
university faculty
Lawrence, Kansas

**More calendar
on page 2**

During the closing session of the 2002 International SIM Trainers' Conference, participants were asked a tough question: Based on what you've learned this week, where are we and where do we go from here?

Led by CRL's Barbara Ehren and Keith Lenz, participants discussed how the

sessions presented during the conference fit with today's Strategic Instruction Model and Content Literacy Continuum. Then, they identified gaps and outlined work that needs to be done by the CRL Institute for Effective Instruction and the SIM Network to move to the next generation of SIM.

This issue of *Stratenotes* looks at the creative and information results of their work.

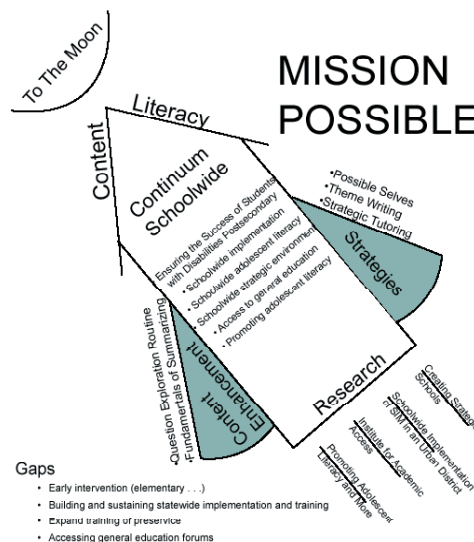
Where do we go from here?

—CRL Staff

Inside...

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Participants worked in groups for the bulk of the closing session. They were told to develop some kind of visual organizer that represented their understanding of how the pieces fit together. When they came back together, each group had one minute to explain.



◀ Rocketship

Where are we going? To the moon! Propelled by research and stabilized by Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement Routines, this graphic depicts SIM rising to the challenge of schoolwide improvement. The group saw the Content Literacy Continuum as a key force in helping students reach their academic goals.

More calendar

July 14, 2003

(Monday)

Preconference Workshop
Sheraton Hotel
Overland Park, Kansas

July 14-17, 2003

(Monday evening through
Thursday afternoon)

International SIM Conference
Sheraton Hotel
Overland Park, Kansas

Teacher award

Applications are being accepted for the 2003 Shaklee Teacher Award.

The award from the Shaklee Institute for Improving Special Education recognizes outstanding teachers of children with disabilities around the United States.

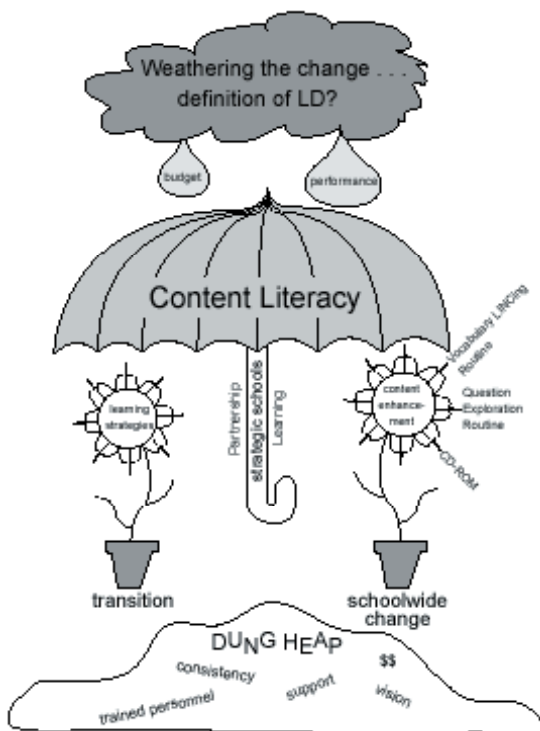
Each year, 10 recipients each receive \$1,000 in cash and an all-expense paid trip to Wichita, Kansas, to participate in the Shaklee Summer Session.

Applications must be postmarked by February 3, 2003. For more information, call 800-835-1043, e-mail ksoule@heartspring.org, or visit www.shakleeinstitute.org.

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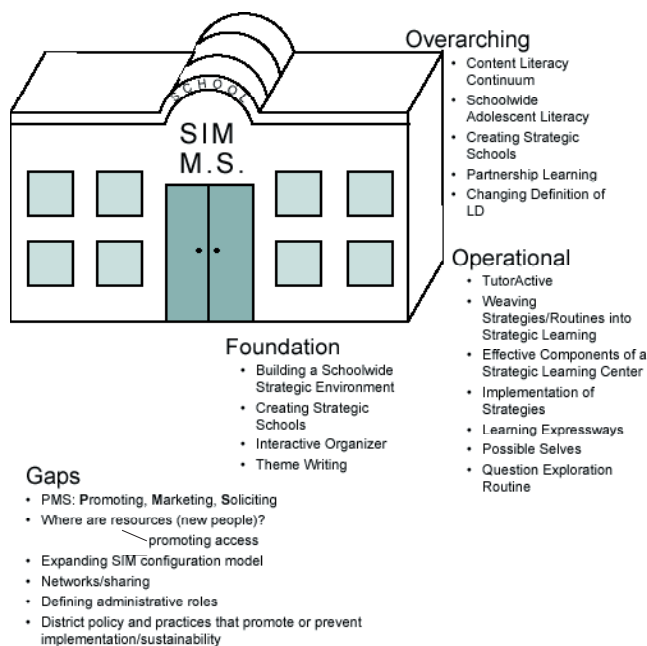


Umbrella

This group saw the changing definition of learning disabilities as a potentially dark cloud, with budget and performance as huge, rainy drops. The Content Literacy Continuum, supported by strategic schools and Partnership Learning, provides protection for successfully weathering the change. When conditions are right—when the necessary supports are in place—we grow sunflowers, said the group. Schoolwide change and Content Enhancement Routines comprise one pot, and transition and Learning Strategies grow in the other. Feeding the whole is a fertilizer made of a select mix of trained personnel, consistency, support, vision, and money.

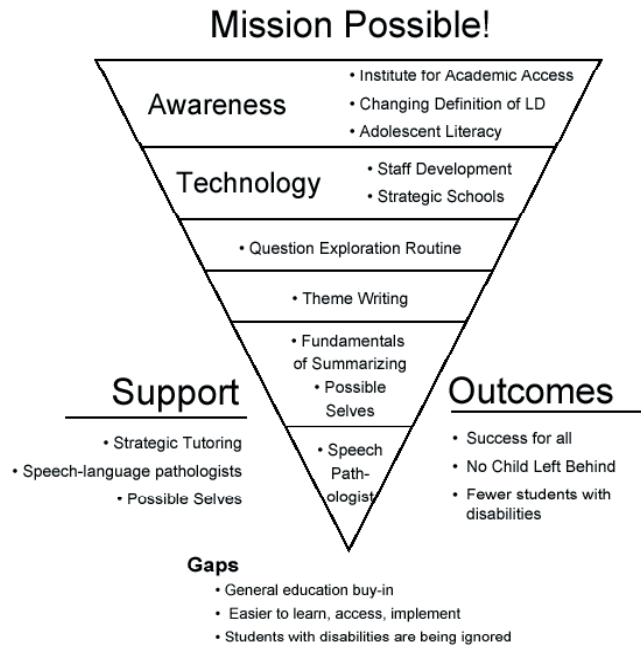
Schoolhouse

This group organized conference sessions into three segments corresponding to the parts of a school building. The building foundation rests on solid blocks such as building a schoolwide strategic environment. The operational segment includes specific programs and components for students, such as *Learning Expressways* and the *Question Exploration Routine*. Overarching it all are the big picture components including the Content Literacy Continuum, Partnership Learning, and the changing definition of learning disabilities.



Triangle ▶

Inspired by the structure of the Content Literacy Continuum, the triangle organizes everything participants learned during the conference. This group noted that integrated throughout the conference sessions were supports such as *Strategic Tutoring* and *Possible Selves*. In addition, the focus on success for all students permeated sessions.



Who is using Content Enhancement?

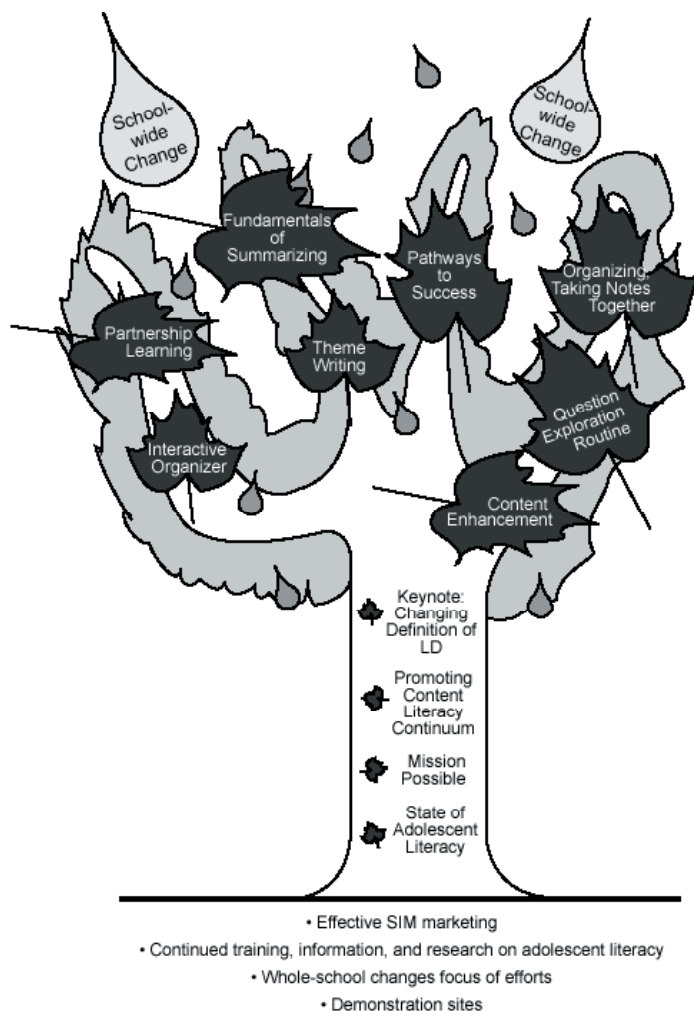
We recently took a look at the number of sales of Content Enhancement manuals in the United States during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The following are the top 10 states in terms of the number of manuals purchased. Kansas was excluded from the study.

1. Louisiana
2. Florida
3. Virginia
4. New York
5. Illinois
6. Kentucky
7. Michigan
8. Pennsylvania
9. Texas
10. Georgia

Content Enhancement videotape series

The following videos are available:

- **Unit Organizer Routine:** The *Unit Organizer Routine* demonstrates how teachers can “frame” a unit and then organize information into lessons. Narrator: Rosemary Tralli. Length of video: 12:40
- **Lesson Organizer Routine:** The *Lesson Organizer Routine* is used to plan lessons and introduce and connect ideas to the unit and the course. Narrator: Rosemary Tralli. Length of video: 20:00
- **Concept Anchoring Routine:** The *Concept Anchoring Routine* focuses on how teachers can help students understand key concepts. Narrator: Rosemary Tralli. Length of video: 14:21
- **Concept Mastery Routine:** The *Concept Mastery Routine* focuses on how teachers can help students define, summarize, and explain a major concept and where it fits within a larger body of knowledge. Narrator: Keith Lenz. Length of video: 18:00



This group looked at education and the state of adolescent literacy with the hope of growing a strong, healthy tree. They believe this is a mission that is possible. The branches of the tree represent support pieces that help professional developers and teachers. The rain—implementing schoolwide change—helps educators pull together an action plan to grow this very healthy tree.

Literacy

- Promoting adolescent literacy

Student Motivation

- Student motivation and goal setting
- Learning Expressways

Skills Acquisition

- Fundamentals of Summarizing
- Notetaking
- Following Instructions Together
- Question Exploration Routine
- Organizing, Taking Notes Together

Technology

- Technology Lab

Training Issues

- Facilitating school-wide change
- Schoolwide implementation of SIM
- Training SIM in a large district
- Presenting Content Enhancement
- Partnership Learning
- Postsecondary success
- Access to general education
- Creating strategic schools

Gaps

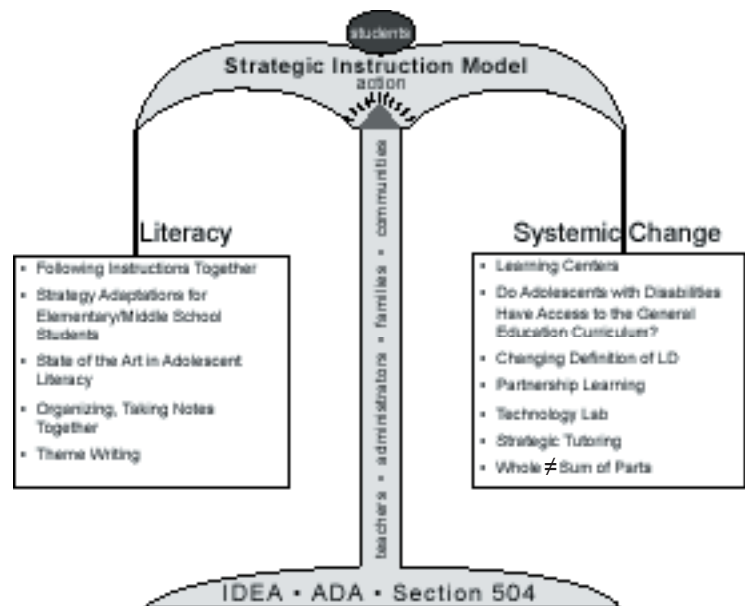
- Local support (back home)
- More problem-solving sessions (facilitated or not)
- College-level introduction to Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement
- More group reflection time
- Down time to process with others

‘Left-Brained’ Group ▲

The “Left-Brained” group, instead of drawing a picture, organized their observations about the conference into five categories: Literacy, Student Motivation, Skills Acquisition, Technology, and Training Issues.

Scales of Justice ▶

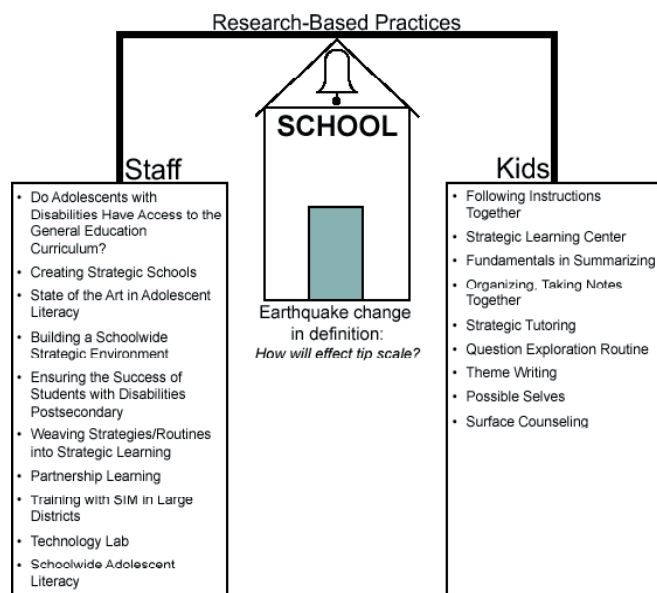
This group depicted the Strategic Instruction Model and its components as a perfect balance between literacy and systemic change.



Gaps

- Higher-level leadership
 - State
 - Institutional
- Fundamental change in the way teachers teach in general education
- More trainers
- State-level networks
- Sustainability
- Teacher training in data-driven instruction
- Ability to differentiate instruction based on data that is provided
- General education policy makers
- Preservice SIM: More faculty support
- Long-term effects of SIM instruction
- Time and resources: Skill to create and support change

Note: Thank you to CRL's graphic designer, **David Gnojek**, for translating session participants' sticky notes and wall charts into graphics for publication in Stratenotes.



NEXT: Off to see the Wizard

◀ Scales & Schoolhouse

Like the Scales of Justice group, the Scales and Schoolhouse group sees a balance within SIM. On one side are supports for staff, and on the other are programs for students. In the middle with the potential to upset the balance is the changing definition of LD.

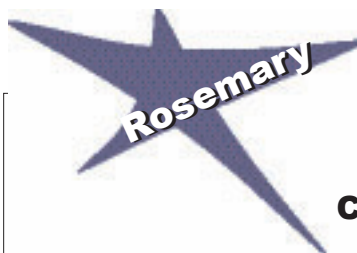
Gaps

All of the groups were asked to consider gaps—work that CRL and the SIM Network still need to do to move to the next generation of SIM. Common themes emerged:

- Early intervention
- Building and sustaining statewide implementation and training
- Incorporating general education perspectives and implementing in general education settings
- Expanding college-level introductions to Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement Routines
- Research on long-term effects of SIM instruction
- High level support and leadership at the state and institutional levels
- Expanded state-level SIM Networks

The CRL History Project

Throughout the coming year, we will celebrate CRL's 25th anniversary as well as the hard work, dedication, and continued support of the members of the SIM Network. This "snapshot" continues a series in which we feature the personal stories of individual SIM professional developers. Read more in the CRL History Project on our web site: www.ku-crl.org/history.



SIMstar snapshot: Crossing boundaries

Rosemary Tralli, SIM Professional Developer since 1988, has witnessed the explosive growth of SIM in Connecticut.

"Within three or four years, we moved toward incorporating general education teachers because the special education people were saying 'we need all teachers to learn this. We also need it to not just be high school teachers. We need it to be elementary school teachers and middle school teachers.' We ended up having a whole state-level initiative that to this day is still in existence and still growing."

SIMquoteable: *"One of the things that really made sense to me from the beginning was that SIM was meant to empower students. What I try to emphasize is that SIM is a way for us to help facilitate the process of learning, but we really give it over to the kids."*

Catch the Olympic Spirit!

Call for Presentations

International SIM Professional Developers' Conference

July 14-17, 2003 • Overland Park, Kansas

Preparations are under way for the 2003 International SIM Professional Developers' Conference. In conjunction with this special celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Center for Research on Learning, we offer this challenge: Develop and propose a presentation in keeping with this year's Olympic theme—*Got the silver... Going for gold*—which reflects not only CRL's long, successful history, but also our plans to continue and to improve for many years to come. Examples of theme-related session titles (courtesy of Barbara Ehren): "The Longjump into SIM," "Clearing the Hurdles of Adolescent Literacy."



In addition, the conference will continue to emphasize a thread begun during last year's conference with its focus on schoolwide SIM. This year's emphasis will be on schoolwide SIM *and* districtwide SIM—SIM programs that are being implemented and making a difference at the school or district level. (You can see descriptions of last year's conference sessions on the CRL web site, www.ku-crl.org/2002con/sessions.html).

We offer three ways for you to share your ideas during the international conference: one-hour presentations, poster session, or kaleidoscope session. If you would like to present, please complete the application form on the back of this page and return it by **March 1, 2003**, to KU-CRL, Attn: International Conference, Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 1122 West Campus Road Room 517, Lawrence, KS 66045-3101.

Important Instructions:

Videotapes

For the past several years, CRL has videotaped conference sessions and offered the tapes for sale after the conference as a service to participants who have been unable to attend because of schedule conflicts or to other interested individuals not in attendance at the conference. Please note that this Call for Presentations includes a request for permission to videotape your session for this purpose.

General

- If you need CRL to supply any equipment for your presentation, you **must** notify us now so we can arrange to have this equipment available. Please be specific with your requests.
- Please give us a phone number or e-mail address at which we can contact you in case we have any questions.
- You must provide a description of your session of no more than 150 words *at the time you submit your proposal*.

Handouts

- You must send CRL a copy of your handouts by **June 13, 2003**, or, if you duplicate your own handouts, you must bring a copy labeled "CRL Files" to the conference and hand it in during registration. These will be kept on file at CRL and used in conjunction with videotape orders.
- If you use a PowerPoint presentation, you must provide a copy of a handout of the slides, three slides to a page, to be distributed to participants and to keep on file at CRL. We will make copies for your session or you may bring your own copies. If we are to make your copies, please send us one copy by **June 13, 2003**.

Continued on next page

**Catch the Olympic Spirit! Call for Presentations
2003 International SIM Professional Developers' Conference**

See previous page for important instructions!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please specify which days you will attend:

☐ Tuesday, July 15

☐ Wednesday, July 16

☐ Thursday, July 17

If you know you will arrive late (after 8 a.m. July 15) or leave early (before 2 p.m. July 17), please let us know now so we can schedule your presentation for a time when you will be in attendance.

Presentation

Title: _____

Circle equipment requested:

Overhead projector LCD projector

Computer (Mac or PC--please specify) TV

VCR Internet Flip chart

I will bring my own PC or Mac (please specify)

Description *No more than 150 words; attach a separate page.*

How much time do you need for this presentation?

Is this session related to the schoolwide/districtwide
SIM conference thread? _____ yes _____ no

I agree to allow CRL to videotape my presentation
for later use. _____ yes _____ no

Signature: _____

*(See previous page for important information regarding
conference videotapes.)*

Kaleidoscope Session

(Tuesday, July 15, afternoon)

Title: _____

Circle equipment requested:

Overhead projector LCD projector

Computer (Mac or PC--please specify) TV

VCR Internet Flip chart

I will bring my own PC or Mac (please specify)

Description *No more than 150 words; attach a separate page.*

I agree to allow CRL to videotape my presentation
for later use. _____ yes _____ no

Signature: _____

*(See previous page for important information regarding
conference videotapes.)*

Poster Session

(Wednesday, July 16, morning)

Title: _____

Circle equipment requested:

Overhead projector LCD projector

Computer (Mac or PC--please specify) TV

VCR Internet Flip chart

I will bring my own PC or Mac (please specify)

Description *No more than 150 words; attach a separate page.*

I agree to allow CRL to videotape my presentation
for later use. _____ yes _____ no

Signature: _____

*(See previous page for important information regarding
conference videotapes.)*

Other

Strategies, routines, or topics I would like to have
included on the conference agenda:

Checklist

- ☐ Have you provided complete name, phone, and e-mail information?
- ☐ Have you included a description of your proposed presentation, kaleidoscope session, or poster session?
- ☐ Have you specified the equipment you need CRL to provide for your session?
- ☐ Have you noted the deadlines?
—**March 1, 2003**, for submitting the Call for Presentations application
—**June 13, 2003**, for providing all handouts for CRL to copy for your session.

Conference speakers

We are pleased to announce our special speakers for the 2003 International SIM Conference.

Rick Snyder, distinguished professor of psychology at the University of Kansas, will kick off the conference on Monday, July 14, with a presentation on "hope." He will be featured during the "Opening Ceremonies," a dessert social from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

David Rose, co-executive director of the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), will present the keynote address on Tuesday morning, July 15. He will talk about the principles of universal design and ways to maximize student outcomes by designing materials with sufficient scaffolding and supports.

David is one of the pioneers of the

concept of universal design, a set of principles for designing instruction and materials that optimizes their usability for all learners.

David and CAST have a long history of collaborating with CRL researchers. CRL currently has a joint contract with CAST to integrate SIM Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement Routines within a science text chapter. The project will build on CAST's expertise to put the information into a digital format.

Conference Hotel

This year's conference will be held at the new Sheraton Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas. Rates for rooms are \$119 for single occupancy and \$129 for double, triple, or quadruple occupancy.



In addition to regular sleeping rooms, a few suites are available at a higher price. You may call the Sheraton's reservations center toll-free at 866-837-4214. Specify that you are with the Center for Research on Learning. A block of rooms will be held until 5 p.m. (Central) June 20, 2003.

See page 6 for a Call for Presentations. In addition, the registration forms for the conference and preconference workshops as well as complete conference information is available on the CRL web site.

FIRST CLASS

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