The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning • January 2008 • Volume 16, Issue 4

30 Years in Context

Conference to examine challenges, successes...& the future

Julie Tollefson & Don Deshler KU-CRL

The numbers are gratifying and optimistic. More than 1,800 of you believe so strongly in the value of the Strategic Instruction ModelTM that you have dedicated considerable time and effort to become certified SIM Professional Developers. Almost half of you are active: You maintain current Strateworks memberships. You build your knowledge and skills by attending an update every two years. You work with teachers, schools, districts, and states to place the proven, research-based methods of SIM in the hands of the teachers and students who need them. Why are these numbers important? Let's say, conservatively, that 300 of you attend our 30th Anniversary Conference in July. If each person finds just one worthwhile gem-a new instructional method, a new learning activity, a new approach to a thorny problem—and then shares that gem with just 100 teachers during the next 12 months, 30,000 teachers will have a new tool to support their efforts in the classroom. If each of those teachers, in using the new tool, makes a difference in the academic achievement of 35 students, we're talking 1 million students whose educational trajectory has shifted as a result of the three days 300 of you spend in fellowship with like-minded individuals. Now, imagine all 1,800-plus of you actively promoting SIM and multiply the effect by 30 years. The picture is staggeringly hopeful.

The realities and challenges of the classroom have changed over the past 30 years, but the Center's dedication to finding solutions has not. We began as an organization focused on struggling adolescent learners in secondary schools. In large measure, that's still what we do today. Two of our main lines of research have resulted in methods and interventions that complement each other as they address the needs of students who have failed to acquire skills and strategies at the same rate as their peers: Learning Strategy interventions have been designed to change students as learners by teaching them how to learn. Content Enhancement Routines have been designed to change how teachers think about, select, and present critical subject matter to students.

New pressures on schools, such as

the adequate yearly progress requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and the serious literacy needs of many adolescents, have pushed us to broaden our thinking. Each new discovery shapes the future direction of the Center and results in new products and materials. In recent years, our research has clearly underscored the vital role of high-quality instruction in improving student achievement. We have identified an "instructional core" consisting of five elements that work together in a dynamic and powerful interrelationship. Because we see strengthening the instructional core as essential to improving student outcomes, many of the sessions planned for the 2008 conference will emphasize underlying factors that can optimize its effectiveness.

One such factor, we have learned, is that tiered and carefully differentiated instruction is essential for student success. Some students will thrive in the general education classroom, while others will need more intensive and explicit instruction. Thoughtful consideration must be given to how a school's instructional program will support widely diver-

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gent needs. Likewise, in our work with schools, we must be able to help school leaders understand how SIM fits into a tiered system of differentiated instruction. Guidance in this area will be one of the underlying messages delivered during the conference. We will review research and developments of the last few years new strategies, new routines, school change efforts, and the five-level Content Literacy ContinuumTM—but we also will take a new look at our older materials in light of current thinking. In short, we will examine the last 30 years of research, development, interventions, and materials in the context of the needs of schools and learners today.

A second aspect of strengthening the instructional core that will receive special attention during the conference is the importance of careful integration of interventions. Because of the broad array of student needs and the complexity of the problems presented by struggling adolescent learners, no single program or approach can meet all needs. In adopting the multiple programs that may be needed, however, schools must deliberately act to eliminate or ameliorate the circumstances that contribute to fragmented learning and instruction in secondary schools. The best combination of programs considers both the unique needs of students and the realities of their schools. We grapple with such issues in our SIM and CLC work. Often, the schools with which we work already have other programs in place that meet some of their needs. One of our tasks is to offer leaders guidance in how to integrate existing programs and ours in seamless service to students. To help you prepare for these conversations, we will explore how SIM and other programs complement each other and illustrate how school systems can draw on the strengths

of multiple initiatives in a cohesive manner.

Pearl, the traditional 30th anniversary gift, is an apt symbol for this celebratory year. For three decades, the Center has been the oyster—bumpy, slippery, and not so attractive at times, but producing some true gems for the world of education. Our "irritants" the core around which pearls form are perhaps better described as opportunities: Opportunities to help students write complete sentences, coherent paragraphs, and wellthought-out essays. Opportunities to design tools to help teachers plan effective courses, units, and lessons. Opportunities to bring entire classes together in community building and collaboration. Opportunities to rally districts and states toward common goals of high-quality teaching and improved academic outcomes for all students. Opportunities to build the best professional development network dedicated to improving the achievement of struggling students and the skills of their teachers. The strands of pearls that have grown around these opportunities—each strategy, each routine, each component of SIM and CLC, and the 1,800 SIM Professional Developers—now circle the globe. We challenge you to crack open another oyster by attending the 30th Anniversary Conference, where you'll find new pearls for your jewelry box and renewed enthusiasm for the important work you do.

For more information about the Center's research on elements necessary for school change—including a deeper exploration of the importance of the instructional core—see A Closer Look: Closing the Performance Gap, by Don Deshler, in the January 2005 issue of Stratenotes (Vol. 13, No. 4). This issue is available in the Stratenotes archives on SIMville (look under SIM: General Information, open only to active SIM Professional Developers).

Tentative Conference Schedule

Tuesday, July 15

6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Registration & Refreshments

Wednesday, July 16

8 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Welcome & Conference Overview

9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Keynote Address: Annemarie Palincsar

> 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions

11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

> 1 p.m.-2 p.m. Poster Session

1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Social & (Non)Talent Show

Thursday, July 17

7:30 a.m.-8 a.m. Registration

8 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Welcome

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Keynote Address: Michael Fullan

> 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions

> 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

1:15 p.m.-5 p.m. Breakout Sessions

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Cash Bar

6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. 30th Anniversary Banquet

Friday, July 18

8 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Kaleidoscope Session

9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions

Noon-12:30 p.m. Closing Session

KU-CRL Pearl Anniversary SIM Conference: July 16-18, 2008

Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza • 4445 Main, Kansas City, MO

Make your reservations early. Call 816.531.3000 or 800.810.3708

Online reservations: Use the link from the KU-CRL international conference web page: www.kucrl.org/conferences/sim

Two fabulous keynotes

Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar/UTFRACY

Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar is the Jean and Charles Walgreen Jr. Chair of Reading and Literacy, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, and a teacher educator in educational studies at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the design of learning environments that support self-



regulation in learning activity, especially for children who experience difficulty learning in school.

Annemarie completed her doctorate at the Center for the Study of Reading at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. She has served as a member of the National Academy's Research Council on the Prevention of Reading Difficulty in Young Children, the OERI/RAND Reading Study Group, the National Research Council's Panel on Teacher Preparation, the National Education Goals Panel, and the National Advisory Board to Children's Television Workshop. She is co-editor of the journal *Cognition and Instruction* and is a member of the National Academy of Education

Among her recent publications is *Informed Choices* for Struggling Adolescent Readers: A Research-Based Guide to Instructional Programs and Practices (2007, Deshler, Palincsar, Biancarosa, & Nair). This book reviews many issues, including myths and misperceptions, associated with adolescent literacy and describes the instructional approach and research base of 48 currently available programs.

Michael Fullan/FDUCATIONAL CHANGE

Michael Fullan, professor emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, is an international leader on educational change. He has developed a number of partnerships designed to bring about major school improvements and is engaged in train-



ing, consulting, and evaluation of change projects around the world.

Michael and his colleagues have worked extensively with Microsoft's Partners in Learning (PiL) initiative. As part of their work with this initiative, they have written annotated summaries of what they consider to be the 20 best books on leadership and change, and they have named 10 top web sites for tools, instruments, and ideas for improving change leadership. Both the annotations and the web links are available at www.michaelfullan.ca.

Michael now serves as special advisor to the Premier and Minister of Education in Ontario. His book, *Leading in a Culture of Change*, was awarded the 2002 Book of the Year Award by the National Staff Development Council. In *Turnaround Leadership*, he shows how leaders can convert even the worst situation into an opportunity to rejuvenate their schools. Other books by Michael to watch for are *Six Secrets of Change* and *What's Worth Fighting for in the Principalship*. Both books are expected to be published by March.

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning Joseph R. Pearson Hall 1122 West Campus Road, Room 521 Lawrence, KS 66045-3101 Main Office: 785.864.4780 Order Desk: 785.864.0617 Fax: 785.864.5728

E-mail: crl@ku.edu

Contributors: Donald D. Deshler | Patricia Graner | Mona Tipton

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History, talent on display

As part of the celebration, we would like to create a display of memorabilia from the Center's 30 years of work. Consider whether you have an item (conference program, early strategy manuscripts) to loan to the collection. Other volunteer opportunities: Model your favorite professional development costume or prop in a SIM fashion show or take the stage for a (non) talent show skit during the Wednesday social.

To volunteer, contact Mona Tipton, mkatz@ ku.edu.

Other ways to participate

Use the form on page 9 to suggest topics for the poster, kaleidoscope, or "neatest things" sessions. The kaleidoscope session again will offer opportunities for you to present a professional development or classroom tip or to volunteer to report on a book chosen by Center staff for its importance to the work of the Network. The "neatest thing" sessions, new to the conference line-up last year, offer time for you to share some of the most effective things you do in Content Enhancement or Learning Strategies professional development workshops.

Strateworks Renewal

If you have let your *Strateworks* membership lapse, now is the time to rectify the situation. Use this form to renew and once again receive all the benefits of membership: *Stratenotes* and *Strategram* newsletters, SIM Network Directory, StratePubs, e-mail discussion lists, and more.

Name:			
Home Address:			
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■ Personal Card	■ Business Card		
If business, name of	institution:		
Expiration Date:			
Signature Authorizati	on:		

Mail completed form and your **payment of \$35** (U.S.) to KU-CRL Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 1122 West Campus Road, Room 517 Lawrence, KS 66045-3101

KU-CRL Pearl Anniversary PreconferenceJuly 14-15, 2008

Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza • 4445 Main, Kansas City, MO

Applying an RTI Framework to Adolescent-Age Students

Don Deshler and Daryl Mellard, University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning; Evelyn Johnson, Boise State University; and Barbara Ehren, University of Central Florida 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, July 14 Registration fee: \$110 (After April 15, add \$10 late fee)

Response-to-intervention research has focused on elementary school applications. In this session, we will review RTI models, important decisions for their application in a middle school, and directions for developing, implementing, and scaling up. The workshop fee includes a copy of the new book by Daryl Mellard and Evelyn Johnson, RTI: A Practitioner's Guide to Implementing Response to Intervention as well as electronic copies of the complete Learning Disabilities Resource Kit produced by the National Research Center on Learning Disabilities. (Do not make non-refundable travel plans until we have verified that we have enough participants to hold this preconference session. Minimum participants: 20; maximum: 50)

Building Proficiency in Content Enhancement with GIST: The Basics

Trent Steffen, Velvet Bridge 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 15 Registration fee: \$150 (After April 15, add \$10 late fee)

This preconference workshop

will explore the integration of many current and new content enhancement devices using the commercial version of GIST. We will review the relationships among different content enhancement devices and then use GIST to link courses, units, and lessons with other instructional materials and Internet links as part of the planning and presentation process. Guided technical training, one-on-one support, and development practice will be provided. We recommend that you bring a laptop computer and headphones to facilitate a hands-on experience with the program. A limited number of computers will be available for those who are unable to bring their own. Fee includes the *GIST software*, user guide, and examples. (Do not make non-refundable travel plans until we have verified that we have enough participants to hold this preconference session. Minimum participants: 20; maximum: 40)

CLC Development in Your Future

Suzanne Robinson and Bev Colombo, Strategic Learning Center; Patty Graner, University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning; and current CLC leaders 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Monday, July 14 Registration fee: \$75 (After April 15, add \$10 late fee)

This preconference session is for SIM Professional Developers who are certified in both Content Enhancement and Learning Strategies or are close to being duly certified and who are interested in preparing to participate in the CLC Leadership Development College. This session will acquaint participants with the requirements for acceptance into the CLC Leadership Development College and guide each participant in developing an individualized action plan identifying steps that must be taken before participating in a CLC Leadership Development College and CLC project work. This session also will prepare participants to assess school readiness for CLC work. The workshop fee includes the CLC Guidebook and DVD. (Do not make non-refundable travel plans until we have verified that we have enough participants to hold this preconference session. Minimum participants: 10; maximum: 25)

Instructional Coaching

Jim Knight, University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 15 Registration fee: \$105 (After April 15, add \$10 late fee)

This preconference session will provide an overview of the approach to coaching described in Jim's book, *Instructional Coaching: A Partnership Approach to Improving Instruction*. Thus, the session will provide a definition of what coaches do, an overview of the components of coaching, and a review of the partnership approach, which is the theoretical basis behind this approach. The workshop fee includes *a copy of the*

Preconference Registration Form: Page 8

CALENDAR

February 4-6, 2008

Instructional Coaching Institute Level II Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

February 21-23, 2008

SIM Southeast Conference Francis Marion Hotel, Historic District, Charleston, SC Reservations: 843.722.0600 or 877.756.2121 by January 20, 2008 Contact: Jerri Neduchal (jerrinsisinc@aol.com)

May 27-31, 2008

SIM Learning Strategies for Preservice Educators Alumni Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

May 27-31, 2008

Teaching Content to All: Content Enhancement for Effective College Teaching Alumni Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

June 10-11, 2008

Iowa Update Conference Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines

June 18-21

SIM Reading and Writing Strategies Institute Burge Union, Lawrence, KS Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

June 18-21, 2008

More SIM Strategies Burge Union, Lawrence, KS Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

More calendar, page 10

book Instructional Coaching: A Partnership Approach to Improving Instruction. (Do not make non-refundable travel plans until we have verified that we have enough participants to hold this preconference session. Minimum participants: 15; maximum: 50)

Partnership Learning: An Update

Jim Knight, University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday July 15 Registration Fee: \$95 (After April 15, add

Registration Fee: \$95 (After April 15, add \$10 late fee)

During the past year, Jim Knight has read widely about presentation skills in preparation for writing his book on the Partnership Learning approach. During this preconference session, he'll summarize what he's learned from that reading while he and participants collectively revisit the partnership principles, the partnership learning structures, and the research that was conducted to validate this approach to leading workshops. In addition, Jim and participants will consider other topics, including effective slides, engaging delivery tactics, and community building strategies. Participants are advised to bring a particular presentation that they would like to develop or refine during the presentation. The registration fee includes a Partnership Learning notebook. (Do not make nonrefundable travel plans until we have verified that we have enough participants to hold this preconference session. Minimum participants: 15; maximum: 50)

Using Community Building and Cooperative Thinking Strategies Multimedia CD Programs

Sue Vernon, Edge Enterprises 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Monday, July 14 Registration Fee: \$150 (After April 15, add \$10 late fee)

This preconference workshop will explore the *Community Building* and *Cooperative Thinking Strategies* multimedia professional development programs. We rec-

ommend that you bring a laptop computer and headphones to facilitate a hands-on experience with the CD programs. A limited number of computers will be available for those who are unable to bring their own. The workshop fee includes a complete set of seven Community Building and Cooperative Thinking Strategies multimedia CD programs. (Do not make non-refundable travel plans until we have verified that we have enough participants to hold this preconference session. Minimum participants: 20; maximum: 40)

Using GIST as a Tool in Presentations: Advanced

Trent Steffen, Velvet Bridge 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 15 Registration fee: \$150 (After April 15, add \$10 late fee)

This advanced GIST workshop is designed for professional developers who already have some working knowledge of the GIST software. The workshop will cover the same topics as the Basic workshop, but will be more detailed. This workshop will provide more in-depth exploration of how to use GIST in presentations and in working with teachers. Guided technical training, one-on-one support, and development practice will be provided. We recommend that you bring a laptop computer and headphones to facilitate a hands-on experience with the program. A limited number of computers will be available for those who are unable to bring their own. The workshop fee includes the GIST software, user guide, and examples. (Do not make non-refundable travel plans until we have verified that we have enough participants to hold this preconference session. Minimum participants: 20; maximum: 40)



2008 International SIM Conference

SIM Professional Developer Registration Form

July 16-18, 2008 • Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza • Kansas City, Mo.

Name:	
Work Address:	
	Work Phone:
Home Address:	
	Home Phone:
E-Mail Address:	Preferred mailing address: □ home □ work
Summer E-mail Address: We e-mail important conference informa	ution unless you prefer land mail: 🔲 e-mail is fine 🔲 postal service
Emergency contact name and phone nu	mber:
	erences have you attended?
☐ This is my first International SIM Conferen	ce as a professional developer
distributed to conference participants: Certified SIM Professional Develo	name, address, phone number, and e-mail address in a listing to be yes no per and Apprentices Registration Fee: \$225 April 15, 2008, add \$25 late fee. Total Enclosed: \$
sional Developers to attend the coers is \$300, if registration is receive	tes available for individuals who are not certified SIM Profes- nference. The registration fee for non-Professional Develop- d before April 15, 2008. After April 15, a \$35 late fee will be and more information, contact Patty Graner (pgraner@ ku.edu).
 □ Make check payable to KU-CRL OR □ Credit Card # (VISA or MasterCard) □ Personal Card or □ Name 	Institute issuina PO:
Signature Authorization:	KU-CRL, Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 1122 West Campus Rd., Rm. 517

Cancellation Policy

If you cannot attend the conference, you must notify KU-CRL by July 2, 2008, to receive a full refund of your registration fee. Partial refunds may be made if your cancellation is received between July 2 and July 9, 2008. We will be unable to issue any refunds after July 9, 2008.

Events & Materials

Your conference registration fee includes the following:

Lawrence, KS 66045-3101 • Fax: 785.864.5728

- Refreshments (Tuesday evening)
- Social (Wednesday)
- 30th Anniversary Banquet (Thursday)
- Professional development materials

Refreshments during breaks will include coffee and tea; soda vending machines are available in the hotel.

Hotel & Transportation

See our web site, www.kucrl.org, for more information about the conference, including hotel and transportation details.

2008 International SIM Conference

Preconference Registration Form

July 14-15, 2008 • Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza • Kansas City, Mo.

Work Phone:	Name:			
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StrateNotes • Volume 16, No. 4 • January 2008 •

Conference Presentations



International SIM Conference • July 16-18, 2008 • Kansas City, Missouri

Complete and return by APRIL 4, 2008, to KU-CRL, Attn: Mona Tipton, Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 1122 West Campus Road Room 517, Lawrence, KS 66045-3101. You also may e-mail the information to mkatz@ku.edu.

We will notify you by May 1, 2008, if your proposal has been accepted.

Name:
Phone:
E-mail:
Permission to videotape: I agree to allow KU-CRL to videotape my presentation for later use. □ yes □ no Signature:
□ Poster Session
Title:
Description (No more than 150 words; attach a separate page.) Equipment requested: Electrical outlet Easel TV VCR Flip Chart Internet Access Please note: KU-CRL's ability to accommodate electronic equipment during the poster session is limited. If needed, please plan to bring a laptop computer with sufficient battery power for your presentation. KALEIDOSCOPE SESSION I have an idea for a kaleidoscope presentation. Title: Description (No more than 150 words; attach a separate page.) Check equipment requested: Electrical outlet Easel TV VCR Flip Chart Internet Access Please note: KU-CRL's ability to accommodate electronic equipment during the kaleidoscope session is limited. If needed, please plan to bring a laptop computer with sufficient battery power for your
presentation.
☐ I would be interested in providing a presentation on a selected book during the kaleidoscope session.
NEATEST THING SESSION Title:
☐ Content Enhancement ☐ Learning Strategies
Description (No more than 150 words; attach a separate page.)
Equipment requested: \Box Electrical outlet \Box Easel \Box TV \Box VCP \Box Elin Chart \Box Internet Access

INSIDE:

• 30 years in context:

The 2008 International SIM Conference will celebrate the Center's 30 years of work and re-examine past achievements in light of today's education demands, page 1.

· Learn something new:

Build a solid understanding of technology that can enhance your professional development work, of instructional coaching methods, and of response to intervention for adolescents. Our preconference sessions offer terrific opportunities to delve deep into these topics, page 5.

Calendar, cont.

June 23-27, 2008

SIM Potential Professional Developer Institutes for Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement University of Kansas, Lawrence Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

June 24-27, 2008

Introduction to Content Enhancement Burge Union, Lawrence, KS Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

July 14-15, 2008

SIM Preconference

July 16-18, 2008

International SIM Conference 30th Anniversary Celebration Kansas City Marriott on the Plaza, Kansas City, MO

Reservations: 816.531.3000

800.531.3000

Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

August 7-9, 2008

Instructional Coaching Level I
University of Kansas, Lawrence
Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

August 11-13, 2008

Instructional Coaching Level II Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

October 6-8, 2008

Instructional Coaching Level I
University of Kansas, Lawrence
Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

October 9-11, 2008

Instructional Coaching Level II Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

October 10-11, 2008

CAL-SIM

Hilton Garden Inn, Emeryville, Calif. Contact: Rosalind Davenport (rdavenport@alameda.k12.ca.us)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Joseph R. Pearson Hall
1722 West Campus Road, Room 517
Lawrence, Kansas 66045-3101

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