

Ingenuity blows away foul weather in Georgia

Jane Basler, SIM Professional Developer and graduation coach at North Forsyth High School in Cumming, Ga., may be able to claim the title for most unusual professional development workshop of the year. She sent us this note on March 16:

I'm not sure if SIM has an award for the most unusual PD experience, but I think I'm in the running for the award if we have one.

Yesterday, I held PD sessions for *Test-Taking* and *Essay Test-Taking*. The morning *Test-Taking* session went off without a glitch. We knew that severe weather was heading our way in the

afternoon, so we had a working lunch and started early with the afternoon session on *Essay Test-Taking*, hoping to beat the storm.

The day before, a tornado hit downtown Atlanta for the first time and did extensive damage. While we are about 45 minutes north of Atlanta, many of the teachers were nervous about the afternoon session when we realized the storm had gathered intensity. Nevertheless, they all agreed to stay.

Unfortunately, the storm arrived faster than anticipated. After several phone calls from nervous family

members about multiple funnel clouds heading our way, 10 adults went into a girls' bathroom at my high school. One of my students was in the classroom as well working on an online class during the sessions, so we brought him into the bathroom with us, which I'm sure was not what he had anticipated for a Saturday afternoon experience.

On the way to the bathroom, I asked the teachers if they wanted to keep working on the strategy since we couldn't leave the building. Rather than waste the time just staring at each other, everyone agreed, so we all went back for our materials and a chair.

I've never held a PD without a whiteboard of some kind, but we managed using the PowerPoint handout and the manual. My student even participated at times during the describe stage. We were doing okay until the power went out. Not to be daunted, we continued when the emergency lights came on. We'd stop every so often and listen to the rain, hail, and wind.

I reached a point when I realized that I really needed a whiteboard to



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demonstrate the scoring process. So, we improvised. I went back to my classroom and gathered dry erase markers. We found out that they work on mirrors and can be erased although they do leave a smear. We continued with the scoring part of the session using the bathroom mirrors as whiteboards. Right as we finished the strategy, the storm ended, so everyone could travel home safely.

I have never held a PD on a strategy that I haven't taught before; I took a chance with the *Essay Test-Taking*. Consequently, I was unsure about the session anyway, but I hadn't anticipated such an unusual experience. Kudos to the nine teachers who kept working on the strategy during the storm. But, I'm wondering if this was a sign that I shouldn't conduct a PD when I haven't taught the strategy!



Think you can top Jane's story? Send your most unusual—but still successful—professional development story to jtollefson@ku.edu or share it on SIMTRAINER-L.

Celebrate success

In summer 2008, the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning will celebrate its 30th anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, we hope to put together a collection of stories that illustrates how the Strategic Instruction Model has made a difference for students. We envision both a book-type publication and a companion web site. We welcome your participation in this project. **Please send your stories suggestions to Julie Tollefson, jtollefson@ku.edu.**

StrateDirectory additions

Bell, Janis

Independent SIM Professional Developer

Contact: H & W: 1546 Oakshire Lane, Manasquan, NJ 08736; 732-528-6631
E: janwbell@aol.com **Cert:** LSPD, CEPD
Setting: SUB **Interventions:** SLANT
THINK LEARN FIRST LVS SW ID SQ VI

Giannitti, Theresa

Resource Teacher, High School

Contact: H: 53 Wedgewood Drive, Wethersfield, CT 06109; 860-563-2349
W: Hall High School, 975 North Main St., West Hartford, CT 06117;

860-232-4561 E: terri_giannitti@whps.org **Fax:** 860-224-7741 **Cert:** LSPD, CEPD **Setting:** SUB **Interventions:** TT
LVS FIRST SW PW EM ID PP VI VLR

Morin, Victoria

Professor

Contact: W: Troy University, Dothan Campus, PO Box 8368, Dothan, AL 36304; 334-983-6556 X351 E: vmorin@troy.edu **Cert:** LSPD-PRE, CEPD-PRE
Setting: SUB RURAL **Interventions:** TT
SLANT PA FIRST LVS SW PW EM IS TW ID
SQ CO UO LO CM CA CC

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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.-4:45 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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

It's not too late to present a poster or "neatest thing" tip during the 2008 International SIM Conference. Complete and return this form **as soon as possible** 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.

☐ NEATEST THING SESSION

Title: _____

☐ Content Enhancement ☐ Learning Strategies

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

Equipment requested: ☐ Electrical outlet ☐ Easel ☐ TV ☐ VCR
☐ Flip Chart ☐ Internet Access

More conference information:

www.kucrl.org/conferences/sim

CALENDAR

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

Registration Closed!
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)

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)

*More calendar,
page 5*

Pearl anniversary opportunities

The 2008 International SIM Conference promises to be the best yet, with two terrific keynote speakers and a three-day celebration of the Center's 30th anniversary. Use the form below to volunteer to bring SIM or CRL memorabilia for a historical display, to model your favorite professional development costume or prop in a SIM fashion show, or to take the stage for a (non)talent show.

☐ I will bring the following items to contribute to the historical display:

☐ I want to participate in the SIM fashion show.

My costume or prop: _____

How I use my costume or prop in SIM professional development: _____

☐ Yes, sign me up for the (non)talent show! Brief description of planned skit or performance: _____

Complete and mail **as soon as possible** to Mona Tipton, KU-CRL,
1122 West Campus Road, Room 527, Lawrence, KS 66044
or e-mail to Mona at mkatz@ku.edu.

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

LITERACY

Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar is the Jean and Charles Walgreen Jr. Chair of Reading and Literacy and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor 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 a number of national panels and organizations and 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

EDUCATIONAL 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 training, consulting, and evaluation of change projects around the world.

Michael and his colleagues 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.



Calendar, cont.

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

800.810.3708

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)

November 5-6, 2008

Canadian Update

Prairie Spirit School Division
Conference Centre, Warman,
Saskatchewan

Contact: Deb Bidulka

(deb.bidulka@spiritsd.ca)

Subscribe to SIMTRAINER-L

e-mail jtollefson@ku.edu

SIMville Sign-On

User name: Network

Password: strategic

2008 International SIM Conference

Preconference Registration Form

July 14-15, 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 information** unless you prefer land mail: ☐ e-mail is fine ☐ postal service

Emergency contact name and phone number: _____

☐ I will bring my own laptop computer to the preconference.

☐ **Applying an RTI Framework to Adolescent-Age Students: \$110** \$ _____
For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$10** late fee. \$ _____

☐ **Building Proficiency in Content Enhancement with GIST: The Basics: \$150** \$ _____
For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$10** late fee. \$ _____

☐ **CLC Development in Your Future: \$75** \$ _____
For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$10** late fee. \$ _____

☐ **Instructional Coaching: \$105** \$ _____
For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$10** late fee. \$ _____

☐ **Partnership Learning: An Update: \$95** \$ _____
For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$10** late fee. \$ _____

☐ **Strategic Tutoring Staff Development CDs: \$100** \$ _____
For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$10** late fee. \$ _____

☐ **Using Community Building and Cooperative Thinking Strategies Multimedia CD Programs: \$150** \$ _____
For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$10** late fee. \$ _____

☐ **Using GIST as a Tool in Presentations: Advanced: \$150** \$ _____
For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$10** late fee. \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

☐ **Make check payable to KU-CRL**
OR

☐ **Credit Card # (VISA or MasterCard)** _____ Expiration Date: _____

☐ Personal Card ☐ Name of Institution: _____

Signature Authorization: _____

OR

☐ **PO#:** _____

Institution issuing PO: _____

Cancellation Policy: If you cannot attend the preconference session(s), 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.

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 information** unless you prefer land mail: ☐ e-mail is fine ☐ postal service

Emergency contact name and phone number: _____

How many previous International SIM Conferences have you attended? _____

☐ This is my first International SIM Conference as a professional developer

I give permission for KU-CRL to include my name, address, phone number, and e-mail address in a listing to be distributed to conference participants: ☐ yes ☐ no

Certified SIM Professional Developer and Apprentices Registration Fee: \$225

For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **\$25** late fee. **Total Enclosed: \$** _____

Non-Professional Developers

We have a limited number of spaces available for individuals who are not certified SIM Professional Developers to attend the conference. The registration fee for non-Professional Developers is **\$300**, if registration is received before April 15, 2008. After April 15, a \$35 late fee will be assessed. **For registration forms and more information, contact Patty Graner (pgraner@ku.edu) or Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu).**

☐ **Make check payable to KU-CRL** **OR** ☐ **PO#** _____

OR

☐ **Credit Card # (VISA or MasterCard)** _____ Expiration Date: _____

☐ Personal Card **or** ☐ Name of Institution: _____

Signature Authorization: _____

*Mail or fax completed registration to KU-CRL, Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 1122 West Campus Rd., Rm. 517
Lawrence, KS 66045-3101 • Fax: 785.864.5728*

Cancellation Policy

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Events & Materials

Your conference registration fee includes the following:

- 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.

INSIDE:

- **Tornado? No problem:**

SIM Professional Developer Jane Basler of Georgia doesn't let a little threatening weather stop professional development, page 1.

- **Conference time:**

With the international conference just a few months away, we still need poster presenters, (non)talent show talent, and "neatest thing" tips, pages 3-4.

Announcements

- It's time to **register for the Potential Professional Developers Institutes** in Learning Strategies or Content Enhancement. If you know of any good candidates who would like to attend these institutes in Lawrence this summer, have them contact Mona Tipton right away: mkatz@ku.edu.
- The Iowa Update Conference (June 10-11) is sold out. **Registration is closed.**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lawrence, Kansas 66045-3101
1122 West Campus Road, Room 517
Joseph R. Pearson Hall

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The University of Kansas

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