

# Stratenotes

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning • Summer 2008 • Volume 16, Issue 9

## A Pearly Glow

*Good friends, professional learning, celebrations fill 2008 conference schedule*

With nearly 400 participants and close to 50 sessions, the 2008 International SIM Conference was by far the biggest and best yet.

Because the size of this year's conference necessitated moving out of Lawrence, participants gathered at the Kansas City Marriott on the always delightful Country Club Plaza. Special events and reunions filled the week as we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Center for Research on Learning.

SIM Professional Developers revealed their true creativity during a (Non)Talent Show, which despite the name amused and entertained the crowd assembled at the end of a long day of hard thinking. Photos from the conference, including a few from the (Non)Talent Show can be found in the gallery on pages 10 and 11.

The week's celebration culminated in a pearl anniversary banquet, where Don Deshler and Jean Schumaker received special gifts for their vision and leadership over the past three decades. Jean also gave a stirring tribute to the work of the Network and

to its growth—from little more than a dozen members in 1983 to more than 2,000 today. The evening ended with a rousing video commemoration, which you can view in the media archives section of our web site:

<http://media.kucrl.org/archives/category/sim/2008-sim-conference>

You also can hear reflections on the conference in a video posted on Hello, the Stratepedia blog:

<http://blog.stratepedia.org/2008/07/28/flip-visits-kansas-city>

Read on for more highlights of the conference, starting with an announcement of the 2008 award recipients.

### **Barbara Ehren SIM Leadership Award**

Barbara, professor and director of the doctoral program in communication sciences and disorders at the University of Central Florida, became hooked on the Strategic Instruction Model™ in the early 1980s, when the notion of strategic instruction was



*Patty Graner & Andres Henriquez*

innovative. Since then, her influence within the network and in schools across the country has been astonishing. Read more on page 4.

### **Joyce Rademacher SIM Leadership Award**

Joyce, professor of special education at Texas Woman's University, has quietly and persistently led the network and the Center toward greater appreciation of quality in education since joining the Center in 1988. Her extensive knowledge, sensitivity to the needs of students, and deep

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Recipients of the SIM Impact Award and CRL staff, from left: Don Deshler, Janet Egidi, Sylvia Kahn, Elizabeth Ingram, Ardella Dailey, Debbie Wong, Patty Graner, Cathy Spriggs, Rosalind Davenport, Laurie McLachlan-Fry, and Nanette Gray.

concern for individuals and education make her a respected and vital member of the network. Read more on page 5.

### Andres Henriquez

#### Gordon R. Alley Partnership Award

In recent years, adolescent literacy has catapulted to prominence in the consciousness of educators, researchers, and policy makers across the country. In large measure, this newfound focus can be traced to the unflagging efforts of Andres Henriquez, director of the Advancing Literacy Initiative for Carnegie Corporation of New York.

#### Alameda Unified School District SIM Impact Award

Alameda Unified School District has committed to at least five years of implementing SIM in all of its middle and high schools. It launched its SIM expansion with a professional development session for 90 teachers and administrators. The district has kept the ball rolling throughout the past year with monthly coaching and monthly support meetings, and several Alameda teachers are on track to become certified SIM Professional Developers. District administrators have made it clear that this is no “flavor of the month” program.

Video tributes and profiles of each

award recipient are available online at our Web site:

[www.kucrl.org/conferences/sim](http://www.kucrl.org/conferences/sim)

### Keynote speakers

Two keynote speakers broadened our thinking and inspired us to continue to pursue our goals.

- Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar, the Jean and Charles Walgreen Jr. Chair of Reading and Literacy and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor at the University of Michigan, tackled the question of whether those involved in strategy instruction are frustrating students’ efforts to learn from text by focusing on skills rather than building knowledge. Basing her examples on reciprocal teaching, she discussed many issues related to adolescent literacy in her address, *Changes in the Face of Reading Comprehension Instruction: Responding to E.D. Hirsch’s Charge*.
- Michael Fullan, professor emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, drew from his work in achieving successful large-scale reform to enlighten us to the *Six Secrets of Change in Action*. His entertaining keynote struck just the right notes among conference participants.

Videos of both keynote addresses—

as well as many other conference sessions—are available for purchase. See the order form on page 8.

### New materials

Several sessions featured new materials and interventions under development.

- The *Word Mapping Strategy*, presented by Monica Harris of Western Michigan University. This intervention guides students in breaking words into their morphemic parts (prefix, suffix, root); attaching meaning to each part; predicting the meaning of the whole word based on the meaning of each part; and checking a dictionary. *Word Mapping* is published by Edge Enterprises:

[www.edgeenterprisesinc.com](http://www.edgeenterprisesinc.com)



Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar



Michael Fullan

- *STRUCTURE Your Reading*, presented by Barbara Ehren, University of Central Florida, Orlando. In this strategic reading approach, students learn what they need to do before, during, and after reading to improve their reading comprehension. It is designed for a variety of implementation

scenarios, including collaboration among reading and content teachers and among general and special educators. This session launched the publication of the guidebook by Student Success Initiatives:

<http://studentsuccessinitiatives.com>  
e-mail: student.success.initiatives@gmail.com

- *EDIT Strategy*, presented by Charles Hughes, Pennsylvania State University. This strategy, which is still under development, helps students edit writing projects generated on a word processor. The strategy is a blended update of the *Error Monitoring Strategy* and the *InSPECT Spell Checker Strategy*.
- *Main Idea Strategy*, presented by Dan Boudah, East Carolina University. This new strategy—designed for elementary, secondary, or adult literacy students—addresses the challenge of understanding the

main idea in reading materials, especially when students must “read between the lines.” More information is available by e-mailing the author at dboudah@nc.rr.com. Additional information can be found at the following site:

[www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

(search for Main Idea Strategy)

- *PROVE Strategy*, presented by David Scanlon of the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. The *PROVE Strategy* is a process students use to identify their knowledge or belief, provide supporting evidence, and consider alternative perspectives. For more information, see the following article:

Scanlon, D. (2002) PROVE-ing What You Know: Using a learning strategy in an inclusive class. *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, 34(4), 48-54.

## Conference by the numbers

Total # attending: .....375

### Top 5 states\*

Virginia .....35  
California.....26  
Michigan.....22  
Texas.....22  
Louisiana .....18

*\*Totals include all participants for each state and are not limited to SIM Professional Developers.*

## SIM Online Resources

### Subscribe to SIMTRAINER-L

e-mail [jtollefson@ku.edu](mailto:jtollefson@ku.edu)

### SIMville Sign-On

User name: Network

Password: strategic

### Stratopedia

<http://stratopedia.org>

Hello: The Stratopedia Blog • Learning Labs Depot • Dossier

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

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Lawrence, KS 66045-3101  
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## CALENDAR

### October 6-8, 2008

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

### October 10-11, 2008

CAL-SIM  
Courtyard Marriott, Oakland/  
Emeryville  
Contact: Rosalind Davenport  
(rdavenport@alameda.k12.  
ca.us)

### January 2009

Florida Update  
Details TBA

### January 8-10, 2009

Northeast Regional Update  
Hilton Alexandria Old Town  
Contact: Joan Fletcher  
(jfletcher@winningwaysinc.  
com)

### February 6-7, 2009

West Regional Update  
Tropicana, Las Vegas, Nev.  
Contact: Susan Miller  
(millersp@unlv.nevada.edu)

### February 26-28, 2009

Southeast Regional Update  
Holiday Inn Historic District,  
Charleston, S.C.  
Contact: Jerri Neduchal  
(jerrinsinc@aol.com)

# SIM LEADERSHIP AWARD

The SIM Leadership Award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and excellent service to the Strategic Instruction Model™ by helping educators become strategic teachers and, as a result, students become strategic learners. Recipients are standout leaders in the SIM International Professional Development Network, sharing their energy and knowledge and inspiring their colleagues to greater achievements. We recognize their achievements, their courage despite adversity, and their unwavering belief in the power of individuals to join together to make a difference in the lives of students.

## BARBARA EHREN

Professor and Director of the Doctoral Program  
in Communication Sciences and Disorders  
University of Central Florida

In Florida, new groups of SIM Professional Developers adopt “bird” names—herons, flamingos—when they attend potential professional developer institutes. Barbara Ehren, who became hooked on the Strategic Instruction Model™ long before the first institute in the state, says she belongs to the pterodactyl group.

Barb’s introduction to SIM came when a young colleague at Florida Atlantic University, Keith Lenz, asked her to review the nascent *Paraphrasing Strategy*. At that time—the early 1980s—the notion of strategic instruction was innovative.

“I was quite taken with it then, as I am still,” Barb says.

Barb collaborated with Keith to bring Learning Strategies to Florida, an initiative the state adopted and continues to support today.

“Her influence in Florida was really terrific,” says Patty Graner, who found SIM well-established when she moved to the state in 1986. The next year, Patty had the opportunity to work with Barb on a language-sensitive SIM project.

“She helped me learn a lot about SIM,” says Patty, who is now director of professional development at the Center for Research on Learning. “She’s shaped my thinking tremendously.”

Anyone who has met Barb or is familiar with her work will readily associate one word with her: language. Barb has



applied a language lens to SIM, prompting the Center’s researchers to consider the language underpinnings of strategic instruction and how research in this area can inform further development of the Strategic Instruction Model. Her accomplishments include the development of *STRUCTURE Your Reading*, a new strategic reading approach.

“If anyone has kept our focus on language within the Center, it has been Barb,” says Don Deshler, director of the Center. “We have needed those constant reminders, and she has done it in such a delightful range of ways: with humor, with directives, with excitement, and with passion.”

The work that Barb considers her most important in connection with the Center is the development of the Content Literacy Continuum™, including defining the role of speech-language pathologists at Level 5.



"The history of the field of speech-language pathology has been more of a focus on skill development," she says. Her work merging strategic instruction and research on language impairments brings to light the need for strategies, not just skills, for these students.

As professor and director of the doctoral program in communication sciences and disorders at the University of Central Florida, Barb and her doctoral students will continue to pursue these ideas and themes, investigating discipline-specific literacies and the degree to which language plays a role in adolescents being able to use specific strategies for specific disciplines.

Barb's energy and enthusiasm and the glitter of her jewelry and outfits reflect a bright personality that draws people in.

"She injects fun into any activity that you're involved with," says Patty.

Her sparkling presence stands her in good stead when faced with difficult situations, such as the time she transformed a room full of skeptical administrators and teachers into willing followers ready to learn more about SIM.

"She met those New Yorkers eye to eye, and at the end of the day, she had them eating out of her hand," Don says.

Countless people have been exposed to Barb's magic through the dozens of professional development sessions, potential professional development institutes, and preservice workshops she has conducted. She has worked in nearly every state and devoted a great deal of time to bring the speech-language pathology community to strategic instruction.

"She works tirelessly," says Patty. "She enjoys the work, and I think her heart is with SIM.

## JOYCE RADEMACHER

Professor of Special Education  
Texas Woman's University



Joyce Rademacher's brand of leadership is quiet, but persistent. She insists on the importance of quality in education, she believes in the power of students and teachers to build learning communities together, and she steadfastly seeks effective ways to ensure that classroom teachers have access to the best instructional practices identified in research.

The Center for Research on Learning and the SIM Network have benefited greatly from her insights.

Joyce came to the Center in 1988, after years of experience as a teacher and principal. She first worked with Keith Lenz on a grant to bring Learning Strategies to the attention of university faculty throughout the country. During that time, she decided to pursue her doctorate at KU, and in her dissertation research, she looked at assignments through the eyes of both students and teachers.

"I had done focus groups with students and with teachers to look at the characteristics of what kids perceived to be really good assignments and what teachers thought were good motivating assignments," she says.

The result was the *Quality Assignment Routine*, which not only helps teachers plan assignments based on characteristics her research identified

but also incorporates two strategies: one to help students obtain the information they need to do a good job on the assignment, and the other to prompt students to check their work.

"Joyce called our attention to the importance of quality," says Don Deshler, director of the Center. "While it is important to have students move up on their progress chart and reach certain quantitative goals, she reminded us of the importance of having that journey be a quality journey."

Another SIM product—*Focusing Together*, part of the Community Building Series—grew out of Joyce's interest in helping teachers and students work together to build a learning community. She believes that involving students in creating a learning environment rather than imposing a very controlling situation on them, benefits everyone.

"She's identified a need in the area of behavior management, how to help organize a classroom so you can do strategy instruction and so it's a little bit less chaotic," says Barb Duchardt, associate professor at Northwestern State University. "I've seen that as filling a piece of the puzzle."

Another concern Joyce shares with many in education involves communication and effective teaching practices.

"We need to really bridge the gap between what happens at the university and what happens in the schools," she says.

As professor of special education at Texas Woman's University, she takes steps to close that gap

*Continued on page 7*

# Stories of success & innovation underscore importance of three decades of SIM work

When we started thinking about the Center's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we asked you to share your best success stories. Many of you did (thank you!), and we sprinkled a few of the stories throughout the conference to illustrate the good work this network has undertaken.

## Zech

We heard about Zech, a young man with severe dyslexia who was a few credits shy of graduating from high school but could not read. Working with SIM Professional Developer Paula Hamp of Sioux City, Iowa, Zech learned the *Word Identification* and *Self-Questioning* strategies, he learned to read, he graduated from the University of Massachusetts

(where he was named Hockey's 1st Team All-Academic), and he now



Luanne Todd introduces Andrew Franz

plays professional hockey.

## Andrew Franz

Andrew Franz, as a middle schooler, could not complete simple chores in a timely manner. SIM Professional Developer Luanne Todd of Golden, Colo., helped him master the *Assignment Completion Strategy* and use of the *Quality Quest Planner*. One day, according to his mother, Andrew had an "epiphany"—he took out the garbage without her reminder. Now a student at the University of Alabama, Andrew continues to use a modified form of the strategy to keep on top of assignments and commitments. When he graduates from college, he will be commissioned as an officer in

the U.S. Air Force. His academic success has made him a top candidate for a highly competitive position of pilot or navigator within the Air Force.

## Stephen Hanson

SIM Professional Developer Janet Atallah of Lake Worth, Fla., shared the story of Stephen Hanson, who once struggled with writing coherent sentences and hesitated to take classes that required essays and long written responses on tests. He feared he would not be accepted by the colleges to which he applied. Stephen credits Sue Caplia, a teacher and



Janet Atallah shares the story of Stephen Hanson and Sue Caplia

SIM Professional Developer (Boca Raton, Fla.), with leading him to a "bank of skills to survive in life." Once he conquered simple sentences, mastery of the remaining sentence



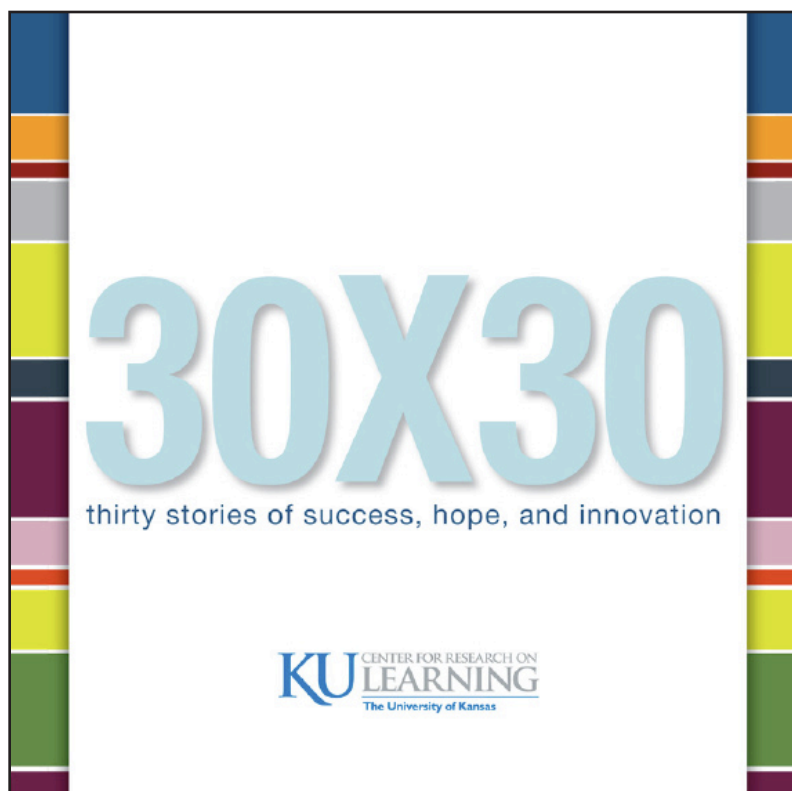
Paula Hamp tells Zech's story

types came quickly. Stephen now teaches the same Learning Strategies classes he attended as a student, and this summer, he completed a SIM Potential Professional Developer Institute.

These stories—and others you sent to us this year—put a personal face on the work we do. We've collected your stories in a new book: *30 x 30: Thirty Stories of Success, Hope, and Innovation*.

For each story in the book, we've tried to make connections between the research that supports our SIM interventions and the people who ultimately benefit from our interventions.

To purchase your copy of *30 x 30: Thirty Stories of Success, Hope,*



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*Joyce, continued from page 5*

every day through her teaching and collaboration with other faculty members. She also continues to lead—along with Barb Duchardt—the preservice institutes she originally helped develop in the late 1980s and to take on additional assignments from the Center when needed.

“She’s right there when you ask her to share her knowledge, to work with people,” says Patty, director of professional development. “She teaches me something every time I get to work with her.”

Joyce’s extensive knowledge, sensitivity to the needs of students, and deep concern for individuals and education combine to make her a respected and vital member of the SIM Network.

“In all of the years I’ve known her, she has been my model for a leader,” says Barb. “She respects the people that she works with, she encourages people to be their best and to do their best, and she wants people to be successful.”





## 2008 Conference Session DVD Order Form

DVDs of several of this year's conference sessions are available for purchase at a **cost of \$10 per session**. Please use this form to order.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Check here if you need videotapes instead of DVDs.

☐ Kaleidoscope Session

☐ Poster Session

☐ A. And Now for the Rest of the Story:  
Strategic Enhancers! *Keith Lenz and Janis Bulgren*

☐ B. Content Enhancement Supplements *Bev Colombo*

☐ C. Content Literacy Continuum: A Primer  
*Suzanne Robinson*

☐ D. Content Literacy Continuum Update  
*Suzanne Robinson*

☐ E. Do These 'Go' With My Pearls? CLC  
Complementary Interventions to Meet the  
Needs of All Learners *Patty Graner, and Michael  
Faggella-Luby*

☐ F. Edge Enterprises: SIM Technology, *Paula  
Lancaster and Jean Schumaker*

☐ G. The EDIT Strategy, *Charles Hughes*

☐ H. e-Learning Programs for Content  
Enhancement Routines – Impact and  
Application, *Joe Fisher*

☐ I. Embedded and Emerging Strategies at Level  
I of the Content Literacy Continuum™, *Janis  
Bulgren and Keith Lenz*

☐ J. Free Online Tools for  
Curriculum Integration, *Doug Adams*

☐ K. From Oyster to Strands of Pearls: Putting  
the Past in Perspective as We Look to the Future,  
*Don Deshler*

☐ L. Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and  
Summarizing, *Jim Knight and Jean Schumaker*

☐ M. Fusion Reading™: A Comprehensive  
Adolescent Reading Program, *Mike Hock and Irma  
Brasseur*

☐ N. Future of GIST, *Trent Steffen, Keith Lenz,  
Sherri Wagner, and Peter Lenz*

☐ O. Getting More from the Stratopedia  
Learning Labs, *Aaron Sumner and Amber Hoffman*

☐ P. GIST and Co-Creating in the Classroom,  
*Trent Steffen, Keith Lenz, and Peter Lenz*

- ❑ **Q. High-Quality Content Enhancement Implementation**, Janis Bulgren and Keith Lenz
- ❑ **R. Implementing SIM in Higher Education Courses**, Barbara Duchardt
- ❑ **S. Increasing the Social IQ of Youth Using Technology**, Sue Vernon
- ❑ **T. Inference Strategy**, Nanette Fritschmann
- ❑ **U. Keynote: Changes in the Face of Reading Comprehension Instruction: Responding to E.D. Hirsch's Charge**, Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar
- ❑ **V. Keynote: The Six Secrets of Change in Action**, Michael Fullan
- ❑ **W. KU-CRL and Teachescape: Matched Pearls**, Bev Colombo, Patty Graner, Cathy Spriggs, Sue Woodruff, and Saudhi Vargas
- ❑ **X. Literacy Pearls Are Not All Alike: Differential Discipline-Specific Requirements**, Don Deshler and Barbara Ehren
- ❑ **Y. The Main Idea Strategy: Improving Reading Comprehension Through Inferential Thinking**, Dan Boudah
- ❑ **Z. Makes Sense Strategies**, Ed Ellis
- ❑ **AA. Making Content Enhancement Make a Difference: Let's Find all the Pieces to the Puzzle**, Janis Bulgren and Keith Lenz
- ❑ **BB. MATRIX Math: Motivating Middle-School Students with Games**, Melanie Bacon
- ❑ **CC Mini-Pearls: Session I**, Hilly Bernard, Lalitha Ramanujan, Chris Romero
- ❑ **DD. Mini-Pearls: Session II**, Devona Dunekack, Lynn Barnes, and Darin Minarik
- ❑ **EE. Neatest Things: Content Enhancement**, Gail Cheever, Patricia Ward, and Bruce Noah

- ❑ **FF Neatest Things: Learning Strategies**, Bev Downey, Tricia Bronger, Kara Krohn, Mary Wiesen, and Karen Koskovich
- ❑ **GG. Pathways to SIM in Florida** Anna O'Connor and Mary E. Little
- ❑ **HH. Professional Developers and Administrators: Pearls of a Successful Project**, Ken Geisek and Mary Black
- ❑ **II. The PROVE Strategy: For Identifying, Explaining, and Defending Knowledge**, David Scanlon
- ❑ **JJ. SLPs in Virginia: Making a Difference in Secondary Schools Across the Content Literacy Continuum™** Susan Trumbo and Vaneta McAlexander
- ❑ **KK. STRUCTURE Your Reading**, Barbara Ehren
- ❑ **MM. Using Question Exploration as a Scaffold for Essay Writing**, Janis Bulgren
- ❑ **NN. Using Stratepedia Depot for Content Enhancement Support**, Aaron Sumner and Amber Hoffman
- ❑ **OO/PP. The Word Mapping Strategy**, Monica Harris
- ❑ **QQ. Workshop: Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar**
- ❑ **RR. Workshop: Michael Fullan**
- ❑ **SS. Xtreme Reading™**, Jean Schumaker; Mike Hock, Don Deshler, and Suzanne Robinson

Number of sessions selected @ \$10 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Order: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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## Stratereaders

Stratereaders, the interactive, virtual book club, is gearing up for another fantastic year. The club focuses on the current literature addressing our changing world, implications for education, professional development, leadership, and educational reform. Books are selected from recommendations made by CRL staff and book club members.

**WHO:** SIM Professional Developers, SIM educators, book study groups, and anyone interested in reading and contributing.

**WHEN:** The club reads a new book every two months from September through May.

**HOW:** Log on to [www.stratepedia.org](http://www.stratepedia.org), then click on Stratereaders to contribute your thoughts and ideas. A conference call will be held at the end of each reading period to discuss the featured book. Watch your e-mail (SIMTRAINER-L listserve) for information about participating in each call.

### 2008-2009

#### BOOK SELECTIONS

**September-October:** *The 6 Secrets of Change: What the Best Leaders Do To Help Their Organizations Survive and Thrive* by Michael Fullan

**November-January:** *Influencer: The Power to Change Anything* by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, David Maxfield, and Ron McMillan

**February-March:** *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by Malcolm Gladwell

**April-May:** *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High* by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan, and Al Switzler

## SCENES FROM THE CONFERENCE



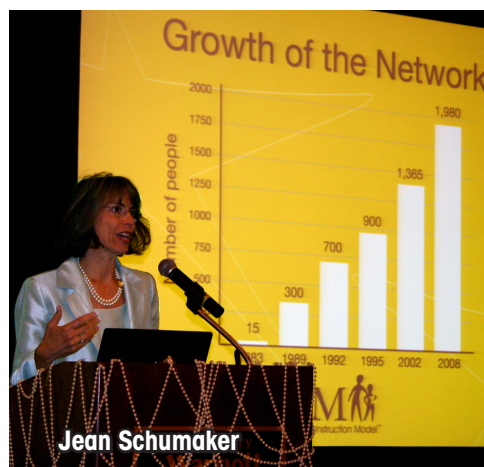
Welcome Session



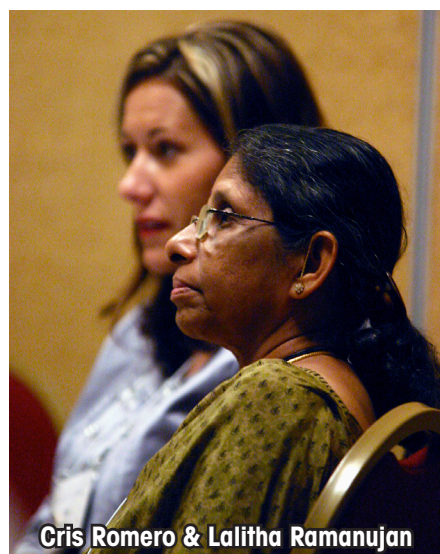
Vicki Ricketts, Fashion Consultant



Sylvia Kahn & Cathy Spriggs



Jean Schumaker



Cris Romero & Lalitha Ramanujan



Monica Harris



Marty Hougren



Paula Lancaster





**Patty Graner & Mona Tipton**



**Joquetta Dove**



**Flor Vidal, Mary Salazar,  
Sandra Pacheco, & Edi Brannon**



**Shari Schindele, Ann Hoffman,  
Conn Thomas, & Diane Larson**



**Joe Fisher**



**"SIM Sidekicks," led by Gail Cheever**



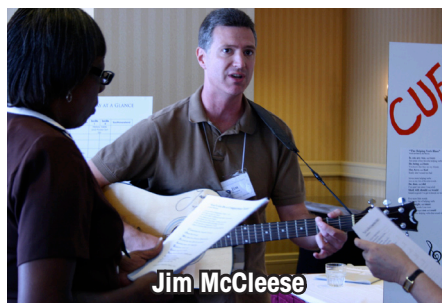
**Mary Swift**



**Janet Roth & Joyce Rademacher**



**Janis Bulgren**



**Jim McCleese**



**Mary Ellen O'Hare**



**Don Deshler & the "SIM Sidekicks"**



**Keith Lenz**



## INSIDE:

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The 2008 International SIM Conference was the biggest and best yet. See highlights, page 1.

- **Leaders among us:**

Barbara Ehren and Joyce Rademacher received this year's SIM Leadership Award, page 4.

- **Success & hope:**

Thirty stories drive home importance of SIM to struggling learners and schools, page 6.

## 2008-2009 Strateworks Renewal

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