

Stratenotes

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning • March 2009 • Volume 17, Issue 6



KU-CRL Staff

In August, the Center for Research on Learning launched a new initiative to foster innovation, learning, dialogue, and excitement about making a difference in students' lives. The initiative, CRL Learns, was conceived as an opportunity for members of KU's School of Education to meet nationally recognized experts and consultants, to learn about and discuss cutting-edge research, to develop new research skills, and to engage in dialogue about books and publications that are shaping the future of education.

You can join your CRL colleagues in these pursuits virtually, even when you can't be present physically. We have designed an interactive web site to encourage wide access to CRL Learns presentations and continuing conversations about topics explored during CRL Learns events.

We built into the site several features that will allow you to be part of CRL Learns events, as long as you have access to a computer and the Internet. We videotape each event in the CRL Learns series, when feasible, and post the resulting video to the web site as soon as possible after the event concludes. We also post any handouts or other materials provided by the speaker.

To encourage discussions about CRL Learns topics, we used blog software as the foundation for the site. The software's built-in communication features allow visitors to easily post questions or thoughts and respond to others' comments.

FOUR TYPES OF EVENTS

We offer four types of learning opportunities in our CRL Learns series: guest lectures, book studies, research capacity building workshops, and "workout" sessions that allow researchers to solicit feedback on new projects.

Guest Lectures



CRL sponsors several presentations each year by leaders in education and related fields. Since August, under the CRL Learns banner, we have brought in Stephanie Hirsh, executive director of the National Staff Development Council, and Mark Conley of the University of

Memphis. Video of Conley's presentation is available on the CRL Learns site along with downloads of recommended reading related to his February presentation on cognitive strategy development and instruction.

In April, Randy Sprick, with whom the Center has had a long and productive working relationship, will visit the Center again as one of our spring CRL Learns guest lecturers. He will be followed in May by Hank Levin, the William H. Kilpatrick Professor of Economics and Education at Columbia University in New York City. For both of these guest lectures, we expect to post videos of their presentations within a week after their visits.

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CALENDAR

May 26-30, 2009

SIM Learning Strategies
Institute for Preservice
Educators
Lawrence, Kan.
Contact: Mona Tipton
(mkatz@ku.edu)

May 26-30, 2009

Teaching Content to All:
Content Enhancement for
Preservice Educators
Lawrence, Kan.
Contact: Mona Tipton
(mkatz@ku.edu)

June 16-19, 2009

SIM Strategies for Reading
and Writing
Lawrence, Kan.
Contact: Mona Tipton
(mkatz@ku.edu)

June 16-19, 2009

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

June 22-26, 2009

Institute for Potential SIM
Professional Developers
in Learning Strategies and
Content Enhancement
Lawrence, Kan.
Contact: Mona Tipton
(mkatz@ku.edu)

June 23-26, 2009

SIM Institute: Introduction
to Teaching with Content
Enhancement
Lawrence, Kan.
Contact: Mona Tipton
(mkatz@ku.edu)

New! June 23-25, 2009

SIM for Administrators
Lawrence, Kan.
Space limited; Contact: Mona
Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

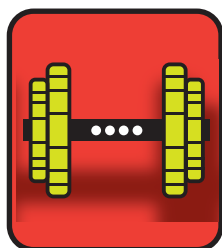
*More calendar,
page 8*

Book Study



The book study component of CRL Learns allows us to take time as a group to discuss current literature of special interest to educators and the work we do. Our first book discussion, in October, focused on Michael Fullan's *Six Secrets of Change*. As a supplement to the discussion, we posted video clips of Fullan discussing the six secrets during his keynote address to the 2008 International SIM Conference. In February, we discussed Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink*, and a short video recaps that conversation for those who were unable to attend.

CRL Workout

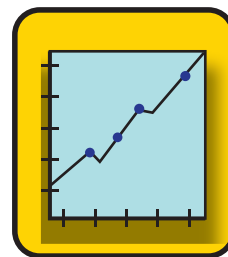


CRL Workout is an opportunity for researchers to share new projects in their early stages and for audience members to offer suggestions for those projects. Researchers describe their work during the first 20 minutes of the session. For the next 40 minutes, audience members respond to the ideas that have been presented, pose

questions, and offer suggestions.

The first session in the CRL Workout series will be April 10, when Jim Knight presents the Big Four, a set of tools coaches can use as they work with teachers. The tools fall into four main categories: classroom management, content planning, instruction, and assessment for learning.

Capacity Building



We developed the Capacity Building component of our CRL Learns initiative to improve our ability to conduct research of the highest caliber.

Toward this goal, we ask experts in research design and statistics to conduct workshops intended to improve our skills in critical areas so we remain a competitive research center

KU associate professor Bruce Frey and his colleagues in the School of Education's Psychology and Research in Education Department have conducted several Capacity Building workshops for CRL staff. The videos from each of these sessions are online at <http://crllearns.kucrl.org>.

KEEPING UP

We have three CRL Learns events sched-

GETTING TO KNOW RSS

Instead of visiting several web sites to view updated information, you can use RSS (Really Simple Syndication) to direct the information to one, personalized site or application.

Amber Nutt and Aaron Sumner have created some terrific resources explaining how to use RSS. Visit Hello, the Stratepedia blog, and search for posts related to RSS, RSS feeds, or RSS readers. Here are a couple of links to get you started:

- **Saving Time with RSS Readers**
<http://blog.stratepedia.org/2008/04/23/saving-time-with-rss-readers/>
- **RSS is a Little Like Radio**
<http://blog.stratepedia.org/2008/10/07/rss-is-a-little-like-radio/>
- **Hello, the Stratepedia Blog**
<http://blog.stratepedia.org>



UPCOMING EVENTS

27 March: *Capacity Building*: Bruce Frey
 10 April: *CRL Workout*: Jim Knight-The Big Four
 23 April: *Guest Lectures*: Randy Sprick
 4 May: *Guest Lecture*: Hank Levin

NEWS

Blink video online

The video of the *Blink* book study is now online!

Mark Conley Video Online

The video from Mark Conley's presentation is now online. [Click here to view it!](#)

Stephanie Hirsh materials online

The slides used in Stephanie Hirsh's CRL Learns presentation are now online.

Fullan book study materials online

The video and notes from the book study on Michael Fullan's *Six Secrets of Change* are now online.

Peyton/Frey video posted

The video clips and PowerPoint presentation from Vicki Peyton and Bruce Frey's talk entitled: *Dick and Jane Build a Nest: An Introduction to Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM)* have been posted online.

visit <http://crllearns.kucrl.org>

uled for the remainder of Spring 2009. A calendar on the CRL Learns home page lists each scheduled event, with links to more information. In addition, a news section on the home page lets you know when we have posted videos or scheduled new events.

We built CRL Learns on a foun-

dation of blogging software, which allows us to offer interactivity and discussion about events. To join or start a discussion, look for the "Post a Comment" section at the bottom of every event and news page. When you post a comment, you can opt to be notified of any follow-up com-

ments by e-mail so you know what others are saying about the topic.

The most recent comments posted to the site appear in the Recent Discussion section near the bottom of the CRL Learns home page. We also offer an RSS feed so you can follow all CRL Learns comments in your RSS reader. To subscribe to the feed, click on the "Follow the comments with RSS" link at the end of the Recent Discussion section. (See *Getting to Know RSS* on page 2.)

CRL Learns sessions are open to anyone affiliated with the Center. If you're in Lawrence during one of the live presentations, please join us. Even if you're not here, you can participate virtually by starting or joining in discussions related to any past or scheduled event. You can even use the comments function to pose questions you'd like to see the speaker address, and we will endeavor to have someone at the live presentation ask the question for you.

After each event, video will be added to the CRL Learns site within a week, in most cases.

We invite your feedback on our CRL Learns initiative, including whether the current format is beneficial for you and topics you would like to see covered during future CRL Learns sessions.

Other SIM Online Resources

SIMville Sign-On

User name: Network
 Password: strategic

Stratopedia

<http://stratopedia.org>

Stratereaders

part of Stratopedia

CRL on the Web

<http://www.kucrl.org>

CRL Learns

<http://crllearns.kucrl.org>

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Stratedirectory Online

In the last issue of *Stratenotes*, we previewed *Stratedirectory Online*, our newest offering for SIM Professional Developers. After several weeks of successful testing, we are ready to open the online directory to the SIM Network. In April, you will receive an e-mail message from simpd@ku.edu containing your initial password and login name. In most cases, your login name will be your e-mail address. You will be prompted to change your password the first time you log in to the system.

If you do not have an e-mail address on file with us, watch your mailbox for a postcard giving you instructions for joining *Stratedirectory Online*.

We will be sending these messages in four batches throughout the month, allowing time between batches to fix any bugs or problems encountered as each new group joins the directory.

Now that you're in

When you have successfully logged in and changed your password, you will be able to review and change your own profile; control how much—if any—of your personal information can be viewed by other professional developers; and look up information about your colleagues, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses. For a detailed look at *Stratedirectory Online* features, see the February issue of *Stratenotes* (available online in the *Stratenotes* Archives section of SIMville if you have misplaced your paper copy; [SIMVILLE > GENERAL INFORMATION > STRATENOTES ARCHIVES](#)).

Your profile allows you to review information pulled from our official records, including whether you are

considered an active or inactive member of the SIM Professional Development Network. Remember that you must meet two requirements to be considered active: You must have attended a regional update or international conference in the past two years, and you must have a current *Strateworks* membership. The *Strateworks* membership form is available online at <http://www.kucrl.org/simville/forms/strateworks/>.

Stratedirectory Online allows you to search for information in two ways:

Quick Name Search: Use this search method when you are looking for a specific individual. Type that person's name in the search box and a list of SIM Professional Developers with matching names will appear along with the individual's city and state, phone number, and e-mail address. If you need more than a phone number or e-mail address, you may click on the individual's name to view her or his profile.

Advanced Search: Use this method when you want to identify a subset of SIM Professional Developers, such as all those who are active in the state

of Louisiana or those who are expert in the *Theme Writing Strategy*. The *Advanced Search* page presents a number of search options in the form of checkboxes.

You can limit your search results by selecting among these boxes. If you select two or more boxes, your results will include only those individuals who match all of your search criteria. For example, if you check the *Theme Writing* and *Concept Mastery* boxes, *Stratedirectory Online* will display only those SIM Professional Developers who have indicated on their profiles that they are experts in both *Theme Writing* and *Concept Mastery*. Those who are experts in only one of



More to come

The changes you are about to see in *Stratedirectory* lay the groundwork for future greening of SIM. For more than a year, *Stratenotes* has been posted to SIMville as a pdf file about the same time as we mail the paper copy. In the next year or so, you'll be able to opt to receive only the pdf file through e-mail instead of receiving the paper copy through the mail. You will select those options when you update your information through *Stratedirectory Online*. The same option likely will be available for *Strategram*, eventually. For both newsletters, we foresee phasing out paper copies entirely within the next few years.

the interventions will not be listed in the search results.

Controlling your information

You may edit your name, e-mail address, phone number, and mailing address. You may list multiple mailing addresses and phone numbers, and you may choose to make any or all of them public by checking the “Make this address (or phone number) visible in Stratedirectory” box when you select to edit your profile information. If you do not check this box, your address or phone number will be visible only to you and KU-CRL staff. You also may designate a primary address and phone number. Similar to the “preferred mailing address” option on the old paper directory form, your primary address or phone number lets others know how best to contact you.

You also control information about your professional experience, such as your position title and listings of certification, licensure, and endorsements. The work experience section allows you to specify the professional categories that describe you (middle school teacher, instructional coach), student populations and settings with which you have experience, and the SIM interventions in which you are an expert.

To make changes to any of this information, look for the Edit button near your name and next to each main category of information. A Delete button next to your address or phone number allows you to delete just that information.

2009 International SIM® Conference

July 15-17, 2009

Preconference: July 14, 2009

Holiday Inn and Convention Center
Lawrence, Kansas

KU-CRL Staff

Our vision for this year’s conference: Everyone in attendance will engage in a partnership of learning and end the week equipped with new knowledge and new skills to tackle today’s education challenges.

In February, Patty Graner and Mona Tipton participated in a global online conference that addressed some of the ideas we have been kicking around as we consider how to design our conference to make our vision a reality. We invite you to watch a video from that online conference that captures many of the rationales we are considering as we change our structure to encourage more interaction, conversation, and collaboration: <http://aacecommunity.ning.com/video/the-conference-paradigm>.

The two men featured in the video—Kevin Burden of the University of Hull and Simon Atkinson of Massey University—discuss the drawbacks of traditional conference formats and mull a radically different model in which people collectively produce something tangible that all can feel good about.

We intend to incorporate some of these ideas in the 2009 International SIM® Conference in the following ways:

- Don Deshler will lay the foundation for our work in his July 15 keynote address, “Rethinking SIM,

Literacy, and Professional Development.”

- After the keynote, participants will divide into five special interest groups, or strands, to explore in depth the issues raised during Don’s address.
- On the final day of the conference (Friday, July 17), we will convene “affinity groups” to discuss how we can use what we’ve learned during this week. Groups will work together to develop action plans.

Between the first and last days, we will return to a more traditional format for one day. On Thursday, July 16, we will offer sessions on new strategies or routines; reading programs such as Fusion Reading™, Xtreme Reading™, and STRUCTURE Your Reading; and technology. Day 2 also offers several opportunities for you to learn from fellow professional developers in our “Enlightening Round” or “Mini Pearl” formats.

More about strands

We’re designing this strand structure in part to respond to your requests for more time to immerse yourselves in SIM learning opportunities. Thus, participating in one strand for the bulk of the first day should help you acquire deep and explicit knowledge that you will find useful in your work. **However,**

you are free to move from strand to strand at any time. We want you to make decisions about where you need to be and what you need to learn based on your individual needs. We anticipate organizing the day around the following five strands:

SIM and Literacy: Sessions in this strand will focus on how the rest of the world is thinking about and addressing literacy and on how our SIM work fits in this global picture. Our latest research on adolescent literacy has yielded some very interesting findings, and sessions in this strand will touch on the evolving relationship between SIM and literacy.

SIM as a Change Agent: What can you do to bring about profound, lasting improvements in the schools or school systems with which you work? This strand will explore the role of the Content Literacy Continuum®, including presentations from those working in current CLC projects. Sessions will include a look at how SIM and other interventions or innovations can merge in a school or district.

Instructional Coaching: This strand will present the “Big 4”—classroom management, content planning, instruction, and assessment for learning. You’ll leave these sessions with a bag full of tools designed to support your work as a professional developer or instructional coach.

Making Content Enhancement Make a Difference: This strand will consider all things Content Enhancement, from current research on the explicit use of Content Enhancement Rou-

tines to supports that enhance the use of those routines.

Professional Development: Strengthen Your Core: Strong core knowledge is vital to SIM professional development work. This strand will reinforce the knowledge that each professional developer should have, including research, history, tools, and ideas for growing as a professional developer.

Day 1 will end with the annual poster session followed by a social—two more ways you can keep the conversations going with your fellow professional developers.

Conference hotel

This year, the conference will return to the Lawrence Holiday Inn and Convention Center, the only space in town large enough to handle the demands of our conference. The hotel has just finished a complete renovation, and we are impressed by the improvements made to the guest rooms and conference rooms. In addition to touring the hotel, we’ve eaten in its spacious restaurant several times and can vouch for the tastiness of the meals we chose as well as for the friendliness and promptness of service. We think you’ll be pleased with our return to the Holiday Inn.

We will use five or six of the hotel’s conference rooms for breakout sessions. Two other conference rooms will be set up for special purposes: A book store and technology lab will occupy one, and the other will be available for informal meetings and networking.

2009 International SIM® Conference Preliminary Schedule

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

7:30 a.m.
Registration
8 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
Welcome
8:45 a.m.-10 a.m.
Keynote: Rethinking SIM, Literacy, and Professional Development
10:15 a.m.-Noon
Strand breakout sessions
Noon-1:30 p.m.
Lunch on your own
1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.
Strand breakout sessions
4 p.m.-5 p.m.
Poster session
5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Social

Thursday, July 16, 2009

7:30 a.m.-8 a.m.
Registration
8 a.m.-9 a.m.
Welcome, SIM awards program
9:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Breakout sessions
11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Lunch on your own
Noon-12:45 p.m.
Certificate ceremony
1 p.m.-4:45 p.m.
Breakout sessions

Friday, July 17, 2009

8:30 a.m.-9 a.m.
Welcome
9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Affinity group work
11 a.m.-Noon
Affinity group results
Noon-12:30 p.m.
Closing session

Complete, up-to-date
conference information
and registration forms:

www.kucrl.org/conferences/sim

2009 International SIM® Conference

Preconference Sessions July 14, 2009

For descriptions of the preconference sessions and to download a registration form, visit our Web site:

www.kucrl.org/conferences/sim

**All preconference sessions:
Minimum 7 participants; maximum 40.**

Laptop computers will not be provided during preconference sessions. Participants should bring their own.

Building Proficiency in Content Enhancement with GIST: The Basics: 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$70 (does not include the GIST software) or \$130 (includes the GIST software) (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

Computerized Writing Strategy Instruction (*Jean Schumaker and Lisa Walsh, Edge Enterprises*): 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$100 (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

Fusion Reading™: An Overview of a Comprehensive Evidence-Based High School Reading Program (*Mike Hock, Irma Brasseur, and Don Deshler, KU-CRL*): 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$70 (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

Instructional Coaching (*Jim Knight, KU-CRL*): 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$100 (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

Integrating and Enjoying SIM in Higher Education (*Barbara Duchardt, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La.; Dee Berlinghoff, Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, N.Y.; and Joyce Rademacher, Texas Woman's Uni-*

versity, Denton, Texas): 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$70 (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

Master Google Chef (*Melanie Bacon, ALTEC/KU-CRL*): 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$70 (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

Partnership Learning: An Update (*Jim Knight, KU-CRL*): 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$70 (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

The Strategic Tutoring Professional Development CD Program (*Paula Lancaster, Grand Valley State University, Michigan*): 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$100 (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

The Ultimate Teacher Toolbox: Free Web-Based Resources for Teachers! (*Amber Rowland, ALTEC/KU-CRL*): 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$70 (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

Using GIST as a Tool in Presentations: Advanced: 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Registration fee: \$70 (does not include the GIST software) or \$130 (includes the GIST software) (after June 15, add \$25 late fee).

NEW IN 2009: SIM® FOR ADMINISTRATORS

8 a.m. June 23 to noon June 25
University of Kansas, Lawrence Kan.
\$500; after May 24, add \$25 (\$525)
Registration is limited to 20 people
Download registration form:

<http://www.kucrl.org/institutes>

This institute is offered for administrators who want to know more about the Strategic Instruction Model® (SIM), how it is implemented, and the administrative support and accountability pieces necessary to ensure implementation. Led by Rosalind Davenport, a SIM Professional Developer and former school and district administrator, the institute will focus on the Content Literacy Continuum® (CLC), leadership, change, and SIM Content Enhancement (CE) Routines and Learning Strategies.

For more information, visit <http://www.kucrl.org/institutes>.

Stratereaders

Stratereaders, the interactive, virtual book club, focuses on literature addressing our changing world, implications for education, professional development, leadership, and educational reform. **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.stratopedia.org, then click on Stratereaders. 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.

APRIL-MAY BOOK SELECTION

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

INSIDE:

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Join your CRL colleagues in a new initiative that fosters innovation, learning, and dialogue, 1.

- **Stratedirectory Online**

After several weeks of successful testing, the new online directory is ready for business, 4.

- **A new conference vision**

Plans are taking shape for the International SIM Conference, 5.

Calendar, cont.

August 10-12, 2009

Instructional Coaching Institute Level 1
Lawrence, Kan.

Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

August 12-15, 2009

Instructional Coaching Institute Level 2
Lawrence, Kan.

Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

October 5-7, 2009

Instructional Coaching Institute Level 1
Lawrence, Kan.

Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

October 8-10, 2009

Instructional Coaching Institute Level 2
Lawrence, Kan.

Contact: Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu)

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The University of Kansas

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