

# Stratenotes

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## Technology and professional development

Technology takes center stage for several conference sessions this summer, from computer-supported professional development and teaching to the smooth integration of technology into your everyday work. Recent discussions on SIMTRAINER-L underscore how important the successful use of technology is in our work today. See Terry Freese's tips for adapting a computer-based strategy program for group instruction (page 6) and Kathy Gast's quest for an affordable distance-learning solution (page 2).

Join these and similar conversations on SIMTRAINER-L, the e-mail discussion forum for SIM Professional Developers. (If you are not a member, e-mail [simpd@ku.edu](mailto:simpd@ku.edu) to sign up.) Be sure, too, to join us July 13-16 in Lawrence, Kan., for the 2010 International SIM® Conference. Here are a few of the technology-rich sessions you will not want to miss:

**Computer-Based Strategic Tutoring PD: Building Capacity with Directors, Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Peers, & Volunteers (Preconference).** During this hands-on session, participants will become familiar with the content of the beginner-

level and advanced-level Strategic Tutoring CDs as well as the Strategic Tutoring Center CD. Additionally, participants will explore how they can provide professional develop-

ment to others in an effort to build tutoring capacity.

**GIST 2.0.** Offered as both an intensive preconference workshop and a regular conference session, the

### Making a Case for Adolescent Literacy Research



U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) visited the Center for Research on Learning on June 3 to learn more about our work to improve adolescent literacy. Here, Sen. Roberts (right) examines a Content Enhancement Routine manual while Don Deshler, KU-CRL director, describes our work.

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GIST 2.0 presentations will introduce the software's new and upgraded features. Participants will learn how to work GIST's new course system builder to design well-connected, organized, comprehensive teaching content.

*Science and Social Studies Essential Understandings SMARTsheets and Literature Literacy SMARTsheets (Preconference).* These two preconference workshops will examine SMARTsheets, which are content-specific graphic organizer-like devices. (More information about SMARTsheets at [www.MakesSenseStrategies.com](http://www.MakesSenseStrategies.com).)

*Shields Up! Speaking with Power.* This presentation will focus on an overview of the Speaking with Power series of interactive multimedia (IM) programs for teaching at-risk students in sixth- through ninth-grade oral communication strategies to help them meet standards in English/Language Arts.

*Stratopedia for Professional Developers (Preconference).* This workshop is for anyone interested in integrating the Stratopedia online toolkit and related social media technology into professional development and instructional coaching. The session will include an introduction to the Stratopedia toolkit and the research and philosophies driving their development; an in-depth exploration of Depot, Dossier, Coaching Calendar, and Learning Labs; guided technical training and one-on-one support; and best practices for using these tools as part of professional development.

- For a complete list of 2010 conference sessions and descriptions, visit the conference web site: <http://sim2010.kucrl.org>.

## 2010 International SIM® Conference:

July 14-16, 2010

**Preconference:** July 13, 2010

Oread Hotel • Lawrence, Kan.

## Technology & distance learning

Kathy Gast, an independent SIM® Professional Developer from Georgia, posed the following question on SIMTRAINER-L, the e-mail discussion list for SIM Professional Developers:

I was wondering if anyone could advise me about how to possibly do some follow-up sessions using some form of easy, inexpensive, long-distance "learning" site or equipment...I need something that has audio, can present a PowerPoint simultaneous to my talking, and either audio from participants to ask questions or (as I had experienced with "Elluminate") the capability to have participants type in a question or comment.

Kathy has been asked to conduct professional development sessions at a small, private school and then follow up using long-distance technology options. As always, SIMTRAINER-L members came through with several good suggestions, including Adobe Connect, suggested by Sheri Fiskum. Adobe Connect is the solution we use at the Center. Aaron Sumner, the Center's director of technology for research and development, described the benefits he sees in using the service—including the ability to set up an unlimited number of "virtual rooms" for events, each of which can hold at least 100 people.

"The biggest reason we went with Adobe Connect, though, is that it requires no extra software or Java to make it work—it just uses Flash,

which is on something like 95% of computers, or you can download a free iPhone/iPad client for computers that are famous for not having Flash installed on them," Aaron says.

Melinda Burchard recommended that the school with which Kathy is working investigate whether it could form a partnership or collaboration with a nearby university to use its equipment, possibly including Elluminate (a service that provides web-based solutions such as eLearning and web conferencing.)

"If one person in the school has a good relationship with one person in the university, there may be a way to collaborate with the university for a temporary use of Elluminate," she wrote.

Other possibilities suggested by list members:

- Google Chat, <http://www.google.com/talk> (suggested by Janet Raney)
- MeBeam.com, <http://www.mebeam.com> (suggested by Helen Barrier)
- GotoMeeting, <http://www.gotomeeting.com> (suggested by Kendall McLeod)
- Learn Central, <http://www.learn-central.org/group/3432/host-your-own-webinars> (suggested by Sue Land)
- Do you have additional suggestions for Kathy? Join the discussion on SIMTRAINER-L. If you are not already a member of the list, e-mail your request to be added to [simpd@ku.edu](mailto:simpd@ku.edu).

# SIM TREK

## Voyage to School Change

Prepare to immerse yourself in learning. The first day of the 2010 International SIM® Conference features “strands”—intense, daylong sessions that allow you to think deeply about the Strategic Instruction Model®, the needs of educators today, and your role in bringing about lasting school change.

Below are descriptions for this year’s strand options and a web address for an online survey asking you which strands hold the most interest for you. **THIS SURVEY IS VERY IMPORTANT.** The sizes of rooms available for us to use during the conference vary from occupancy rates of less than 40 to a maximum of 250. We will use the results of the strand survey to determine room assignments. The strands that have the greatest interest—as reflected in the survey results—will be assigned to larger rooms.

This does not mean that you are locked in to a choice you make on the survey. We just ask that you think carefully before making your choice on the survey and understand that these choices do affect accommodations during the conference. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU PARTICIPATE IN THIS SURVEY.**

### STRAND DESCRIPTIONS

**Strand: Strengthen Your SIM Core.** Leadership lessons for professional development: How do you, as a professional developer, cultivate the next generation to know more than just the specific steps of a strategy or routine? Rote learning of and use of SIM just aren’t enough. Boldly go deeper into exploring knowledge, techniques, activities, and tools to strengthen you and your work as a SIM Professional Developer.

**Strand: SIM as a Change Agent: CLC, RTI, and Tiered Instructional Support.** There is a new sense of urgency across the nation for educators to find ways to create changes in schools that will result in high performance by all students. Yet, with all the focus on change, progress sometimes seems miniscule. Why do some schools generate drastic improvements, while others do not? Join this session to discuss the various ways that SIM can make a dramatic impact in schools by offering a tiered instructional approach through the Content Literacy Continuum®. This approach addresses many of the needs schools face today, including issues surrounding RTI. The session will focus on five critical components needed to create significant change in your school.

### Keynote speaker



Timothy Shanahan

We are fortunate to have as our keynote speaker Timothy Shanahan, professor of urban education at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Shanahan possesses a wealth of expertise in reading instruction and has written or edited 200 publications on the topic. Learn more about Dr. Shanahan and his work at his blog, [www.shanahanonliteracy.com](http://www.shanahanonliteracy.com).

**Strand: SIM and Literacy.** Live long and prosper: SIM and improving adolescent literacy outcomes: This

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strand presents the continuing voyages of the research base related to the starship SIM. Its ongoing mission: to explore further Tim Shanahan's keynote address; to seek out new connections between literacy instruction and the strange new worlds of schools implementing the Content Literacy Continuum®; to boldly help secondary school practitioners link professional development, adolescent literacy research, and SIM as no one has done before.

***Strand: Crafting an Integrated Response to Student Needs with***

***Learning Strategies.*** This strand will focus on how Learning Strategies can provide an integrated response to students' needs within an RTI, tiered support, or CLC® framework. We will discuss the latest research and thinking about Learning Strategies—what's new, what we have learned, and how we are implementing in different ways. Topics may include the Xtreme and Fusion reading programs, Level 2 or embedding strategies in general education classes, prerequisite strategies, determining a scope and sequence within a district,

teaching Learning Strategies to different student populations, and other cutting-edge topics. Join us to learn about the latest developments and to engage in lively discussions!

#### **STRAND SURVEY**

Use the following web address to connect to the online survey regarding this year's conference strands (type the address without spaces).

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY NOW, IF POSSIBLE, AND NO LATER THAN JUNE 25.**

<http://surveymonkey.com/s/StrandRanking>

## **Affinity groups: Another way to learn & share**

Affinity groups, a popular feature of the 2009 International SIM® Conference, will return again this year. We will reserve time on Friday morning for small groups of professional developers to discuss topics of personal interest. Last year, groups used the time to discuss such issues as becoming independent professional developers, preservice, and RTI. Some project teams or individuals from the same district met as affinity groups to plan how to use what they had learned during the conference in the coming school year. For a taste of how the 2009 affinity groups worked, visit <http://sim2009.kucrl.org/affinity-groups/>. Click on any affinity group title to learn more about that group and view a video summary of the group's discussion.

We will have sign up sheets near the registration table for you to propose an affinity group topic or join a group that has already formed. The following affinity group topics have been proposed so far:

***Designing a Tool to Assess School Capacity for Change.*** When a school makes a decision to improve literacy outcomes for students, it is crucial to understand the capacity of the

school to make change occur. Before they start the work, reformers must have in place a pre-implementation tool to assess the school's capacity to navigate this change process. Gathering this information has been difficult in the past. In this affinity group, KU-CRL doctoral fellow Susanne James will lead group members in an examination of one such measure of change that has been developed from a synthesis of the literature and analysis of other screening tools. Susanne will garner feedback on the feasibility of this new measure.

***Fusion Reading for Professional Developers.*** Interest in Fusion Reading is growing nationally, and SIM Professional Developers are being asked to support implementation of Fusion Reading in schools. How do we best respond to this need? What support, materials, and preparation do SIM Professional Developers need to successfully launch Fusion Reading? This affinity group will discuss these questions as well as specific criteria that might "endorse" SIM Professional Developers to teach and coach the Fusion Reading program. Participants will be asked to help conceptualize the professional

development model and activities used to support implementation of Fusion Reading at the school and classroom level. In addition, Mike Hock and Irma Brasseur-Hock will share insights learned during the first Fusion Professional Development Academy recently held in Iowa.

***Research on Integration of Games into Instruction.*** Staff of KU-CRL's ALTEC division will lead a discussion about integrating games and technology into instruction and will share recent research conducted in this area.

***Sound Effects.*** During this affinity group, participants will view a new intervention, called Sound Effects, for adolescents who have weak word recognition skills. Using a color-coded graphic organizer, this instructional approach teaches students to quickly and accurately recognize common English syllables and differentiate between easily confused medial vowels. Sound Effects is intended as a tier three (or CLC's level 4) intervention. KU-CRL doctoral fellow Carrie Mark will give a brief orientation to the Sound Effects instructional tools and solicit feedback from group participants.

**Student Motivation: The Final Frontier.** Dan Pollitt, a KU-CRL doctoral fellow, will present preliminary research that hopes to help answer the question, “How can we motivate adolescent learners?” After a review of motivation practices, participants in this affinity group will share their ideas for creating a walk-through tool of classroom motivation. So bring your cloaking device while we’re transported away with the help of current researchers in the areas of motivation, self-efficacy, self-regulation, and epistemological beliefs.

**A Trip to the Content Enhancement Holodeck: Planning Professional Development with Sets of Integrated Enhancement Devices.** The focus of this affinity group is to develop criteria for using integrated sets of Content Enhancement devices and other instructional supports as a central part of initial Content Enhancement professional development. Participants will review models of sets and will develop recommendations for distribution of sets and procedures related to how they might be used in professional development. Bring examples of materials you have developed that illustrate the integrated use of Content Enhancements across an entire unit.

**We Have the Data. Now What?** Attention school leaders! Your knowledge and expertise is essential to creating a process to guide leadership teams in making informed decisions before and during implementation of the CLC framework. Leslie Novosel, KU-CRL doctoral fellow, is interested in knowing what decision-making processes are in use, as well as what needs to be put in place, to assist in gauging a schools’ readiness for change, monitor program implementation, and determine teacher/student outcomes.

## ACCOMMODATIONS



The 2010 conference will take place in Lawrence’s newest hotel, the Oread. Located on the edge of campus, the 10-story hotel promises stunning views of the university and downtown Lawrence. From its rooftop restaurant to its subterranean dance club, the hotel features a variety of places to meet up with friends, including lounges, multiple restaurants, bars, patios, and an observation deck.

To book your room at the Oread, call 877.263.6347 or 785.843.1200. Use our group name: SIM Conference. The group rate is \$119.

One of the features of the Oread is its on-site Lemon Bliss Spa. The spa will have special offers for conference participants during the week, including 10 percent off any service when you present your conference nametag. We will give the spa a list of conference participants. To take advantage of this special offer, mention that you are with the SIM conference when you make your appointment and show your nametag when you arrive.

Lemon Bliss Spa regular hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., but appointments may be scheduled outside of these hours. For a menu of spa services, visit the hotel web site at <http://www.theoread.com>. Click on “Play” and then “Spa.” See the right column to download a list of spa services and prices (pdf).

# Tip: Teaching with technology

Recently on SIMTRAINER-L, Jean Schumaker shared these teaching tips from Terry Freese, a SIM Professional Developer and teacher in Missouri. Terry has adapted instruction using the Commas Strategies CD program for small groups of students when computers are not available for all students. (Research on the program was conducted with students working independently at their computers. "It's nice to hear that the program works well in another way," Jean writes.)

The Commas Strategies CD program, available from Edge Enterprises (<http://www.edgeenterprisesinc.com>), is a computerized program for teaching strategies associated with comma rules. For her adaption, Terry assembles individual packets of printouts for each student and then uses a Smartboard for whole-class (eight to 10 students) and small-group instruction. Terry's class consists mainly of seventh- and eighth-graders, with one fifth-grader. Students stand and gather around the Smartboard, where they take turns with practice examples and interactive parts of the program. Everyone

gets a chance to participate.

"What I have noticed is that when doing it this way, as opposed to the student alone at the computer, when it is time to take a quiz or fill out a written sheet, they seem to be much better prepared to do it the first time... with that direct teacher involvement and participation. We make it fun!" Terry wrote in an e-mail to Jean.

Terry's group instruction includes all of the steps associated with the program. For example, Say It (verbal practice) lessons are completed according to program directions. The only exception is instead of working alone, students say the information together, and then take turns saying it individually.

"I also have a slate for the Smartboard that we can use, but I have found that standing up and using the hands and arms on the Smartboard gets more blood to the brain," Terry wrote. "At least, that's what I tell them, and they do seem to prefer it!"

Want to know more? The comma CD program Terry is using will be featured—along with computerized programs for teaching strategies

associated with capitalization and other punctuation rules—during this summer's preconference:

**Preconference: Computerized Writing Strategy Instruction.** Some students just do not have the prerequisite skills for the *Error Monitoring Strategy*, and others have not learned the complex rules for capitalization and punctuation required on their state competency exams and college entrance exams. This session will focus on three computerized programs for teaching strategies associated with capitalization rules, comma rules, and other punctuation rules. Participants will learn about the strategies themselves and will try out the programs on their computers. (Please remember to bring a laptop if you have one!) Participants also will learn how to provide workshops on the programs and instruct teachers on their roles in using the computerized instruction format. Participants will receive three CDs and handouts. (8 a.m.-noon Tuesday, July 13)

See our conference web site for a complete list of preconference sessions: <http://sim2010.kucrl.org>.

## <http://sim2010.kucrl.org>—SIM TREK: Voyage to School Change

The conference web site (<http://sim2010.kucrl.org>) is the place to begin conversations and professional learning now, before we get together face to face in July. During the next few weeks leading up to the big show, visit the site often to get answers to any questions you have before you arrive in Lawrence. As many of you know, we changed the conference format last year so that we now spend almost the

entire first day in a "strand" focusing on a specific topic. Because of this change, you will need to make an important choice on the first morning of the conference: Which strand will be of most benefit to you and your work? The information available ahead of time on the web site will help you make this choice, and you will be glad you took the time to study it before the conference starts.

The site features many ways for you to communicate with each other and with us. On the right side of the page, you'll see a column labeled "SIM 2010 Interactive." This column explains all of the ways you can get in touch and keep in touch about the conference.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity, especially if this is your first time at a SIM conference.



## CONFERENCE NOTES

### Attention, First Timers!

We will offer an orientation session for all first-time conference participants at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, at the conference hotel. We'll answer your questions, and you'll have the opportunity to meet researchers and staff from the Center for Research on Learning. Watch the conference web site for further details.

### One-on-one

Schedule a meeting during the conference with any researcher or staff member at the Center for Research on Learning. E-mail Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu) or use the contact form on the conference web site. Let Mona know which staff member you want to meet with and what topic you want to discuss.

### Twitter:

#### @StrateTweets

Follow conference plans, provide feedback, and make suggestions for the 2010 SIM Conference using Twitter. Use the hashtag **#SIM2010** to tag your tweets.

### Suggest an affinity group

Got a topic you want to discuss during Friday morning's affinity groups? E-mail Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu) to let her know. (See page 4 for more information about affinity groups.)

## CALENDAR 2009-2010

### June 9-10, 2010

Iowa SIM Update, Des Moines, Iowa  
Contact: Kara Krohn, kara.krohn@iowa.gov

### June 15-18, 2010

SIM Reading and Writing Strategies  
Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://kucrl.org/classes>

### June 15-18, 2010

More SIM Strategies, Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://kucrl.org/classes>

### June 21-25, 2010

Institute for Potential SIM Professional Developers in Learning Strategies  
Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://kucrl.org/classes>

### June 21-25, 2010

Institute for Potential SIM Professional Developers in Content Enhancement, Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://kucrl.org/classes>

### June 21-25, 2010

Florida Potential Professional Developer Institutes for Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement, Orlando, Fla.  
Contacts: Mary Ann Ahearn, ahearnm@nefec.org, and Valerie Watson, watsonv@nefec.org  
Non-Florida residents register through KU-CRL.

### June 22-25, 2010

Introduction to Teaching with Content Enhancement  
Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://kucrl.org/classes>

### June 23-25, 2010

SIM for Administrators  
Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://kucrl.org/classes>

### July 13-16, 2010

International SIM Conference and Preconference, Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://sim2010.kucrl.org>

### Aug. 9-11, 2010

Instructional Coaching Institute, Level 1, Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://instructionalcoach.org>

### Aug. 12-14, 2010

Instructional Coaching Institute, Level 2, Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://instructionalcoach.org>

### Oct. 4-6, 2010

Instructional Coaching Institute, Level 1, Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://instructionalcoach.org>

### Oct. 7-9, 2010

Instructional Coaching Institute, Level 2, Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://instructionalcoach.org>

### Oct. 11-13, 2010

Instructional Coaching Conference  
Lawrence, Kan.  
<http://instructionalcoach.org>

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Strategic Instruction Model®

@Stratepedia

Stratepedia Technology Group

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### 2010 International SIM® Conference Tentative Schedule

July 14-16, 2010 • Oread Hotel • Lawrence, Kan.

#### Tuesday, July 13, 2010

6 p.m. Orientation for first-time participants

#### Wednesday, July 14, 2010

7:15 a.m. Registration  
 8 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Welcome  
 8:45 a.m.-10 a.m. Keynote: Timothy Shanahan  
 10:15 a.m.-Noon Strand breakout sessions  
 Noon-1:15 p.m. Lunch on your own  
 1:15 p.m.-4 p.m. Strand breakout sessions, cont.  
 4:15 p.m.-5 p.m. Certificate ceremony  
 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Social

#### Thursday, July 15, 2010

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

#### Friday, July 16, 2010

8 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Poster session  
 8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Welcome  
 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. General session  
 10:15 a.m.-Noon Affinity groups, "Grab & Go" lunch  
 Noon-12:30 p.m. Closing session

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### STRATENOTES Volume 18, Issue #8

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