Year in Review
New online tools, revised procedures

As we wrap up another year, let's take a few minutes to look back at some of the changes we've made this year to help the SIM International Professional Development Network run more smoothly, communicate more effectively, and have more fun with our work.

Learning Strategies Potential Professional Developer Application

During the 2011 SIM Professional Development Leader work session, we focused on the application and process for Learning Strategies Potential Professional Developer Institutes. As a result, the updated application for the Learning Strategies PPDI now includes three noteworthy changes.

1. Applicants will be accepted who demonstrate proficiency in **at least** two of the eight-stage strategies and **no more than** two of the lesson-based strategies.
2. An applicant's video model must be from an eight-stage strategy.
3. Applicants must video record their model and view it using the Model Video checklist. As part of the application process, applicants must include a copy of their check-list and their reflections. The video was required in the past, but often a SIM Professional Developer would observe and apply the checklist. At this time, videos are required so that applicants can view their own progress and determine their focus for change and improvement.

For a list of planned Potential Professional Developer Institutes, visit the events calendar on the KUCRL website, http://kucrl.org.

Online Professional Development Reporting

We have developed an online alternative to the Post Professional Development Report Form. The online form allows you to submit information about any SIM professional development session you have conducted.

To complete the form, you will need to have ready the contact information for the agency sponsoring the session (if applicable) and the names and email addresses of all participants. This information allows us to verify an educator's SIM experience, if needed, and allows the educator to purchase replacements for manuals that have been lost or stolen.

In addition, the information you provide may be used in compiling statistics for grant applications to continue our research. Your name and contact information will not be associated with these data. The data from your professional development sessions is vitally important to KUCRL, and we encourage every one of you to submit this information either online or using the paper form.

The online questionnaire is available at http://surveymonkey.com/s/PostPDDataSubmissionSurvey.

If you have any questions or experience any problems with the questionnaire, contact Peony Allen (peonya@ku.edu, 785.864.0535).

Stratedirectory Online

The move to an online directory of SIM Professional Developers is a couple of years old, but now is a great time to revisit and update your information—name, addresses, contact information, and expertise—if anything has changed.

The profile page of the directory also gives you valuable information about your activities within the network. You can check to see whether you are considered active or inactive,

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SIM
Strategic Instruction Model®

the last SIM conference you attended, the expiration date for your *Strateworks* membership (and whether you receive a paper or electronic copy of *Stratenotes*), your SIM certifications, and the email address you use to subscribe to SIMTRAINER-L.

The directory is available at http://directory.kucrl.org. You will need your user name and password to log in to your profile.

e-Stratenotes

You now have the option of receiving *Stratenotes* electronically, as a pdf sent by email. The electronic version is full color and arrives days before the printed copies. Get your SIM news first and opt to receive *e-Stratenotes!*

Facebook and Twitter

SIM is on Facebook and Twitter. On Facebook, we post information and pictures from our activities. We hope that you will "like" us if you belong to Facebook. http://www.facebook.com/KUCRL.SIM

Follow us on Twitter (@StrateTweets) for announcements and links to interesting and relevant education articles on the web. It's also a way to get in touch with us. We monitor the account every weekday, so don't hesitate to talk to us on Twitter.

The Future

Rest assured that we won't stop with these innovations. We already have some top-secret plans in the works to improve the SIM and CLC websites in both appearance and ease of use. Plus, look for this year's SIM conference website to have a new look and new features. Keep an eye on Facebook, Twitter, SIMTRAINER-L, and (of course) *Stratenotes* for announcements.

SIM & Common Core State Standards

Common Core State Standards, adopted by all but a few states, have become a big topic of conversation in the education world. The standards weave reading and writing expectations throughout the curriculum, in all subjects at all grade levels.

We are offering two classes in the spring to help classroom teachers understand connections between SIM and the Common Core State Standards and, ultimately, to better enable students to meet the increased reading and writing demands they face. Both classes will be held April 16-19 in Lawrence, Kan.

SIM Reading and Writing Strategies and the Common Core State Standards is for middle school and high school teachers who are charged with providing powerful reading and writing strategies that support the Common Core State Standards and promote student success. The class will introduce participants to the foundations of SIM and will teach *Proficiency in the Sentence Writing Strategy, the LINCS Vocabulary Strategy, the Inference Strategy,* and *Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing.* Participants will have time to plan how to use the strategies with their students.

SIM Content Enhancement Routines and the Common Core State Standards will introduce teachers to a selection of routines from the Content Enhancement Series. Participants will learn about and plan how to implement the following routines in their own classrooms: *Course Organizer Routine, Unit Organizer Routine, Concept Mastery Routine,* and *Question Exploration Routine.* Teachers who use these routines will better prepare their students to meet the literacy and higher-order thinking demands they face in the classroom.

For more information about these classes and a complete schedule of 2012 SIM classes, visit the events calendar at http://kucrl.org/classes or contact Mona Tipton (monatipton@ku.edu, 785.864.0626).

Please share this information with interested teachers.

A Moment in SIM History

Continuing our periodic look back at the first issues of *Stratenotes,* here's an announcement from the November 1992 issue (Vol. 1, No. 3):

"Jan Roth has been hired to field and sort training questions and problems. Jan has agreed to *facilitate* not *coordinate* communication with the training Network. Jan Roth has excellent management skills and has worked for the past 10 years on and off for the KU-IRLD... Jan will handle telephone calls, correspondence, and logistics related to scheduling training sessions."

The issue also announced the coming of age—computer age—of the Center with the development of the *Strateline!* computerized bulletin board service. Anyone remember that?

ENCOMPASS
Celebrating & exploring SIM connections

Julie Tollefson
KUCRL

Next summer, we will celebrate Strategic Instruction Model connections to the wider world of education during Encompass, the 2012 International SIM Conference.

The two keynote speakers we have booked for the conference are both familiar faces to the SIM Network.

Ed Ellis, professor of special education and multiple abilities at the University of Alabama, is the author of the *Clarifying Routine, Framing Routine, LINCS Vocabulary Strategy, Vocabulary LINCing Routine,* and *SLANT: A Starter Strategy for Class Participation.* He is also president of Makes Sense Strategies LLC (http://www.graphicorganizers.com).

Jim Knight, director of the Kansas Coaching Project and a research associate at KUCRL, is an author of the *Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing* manual. He is well known for his work involving instructional coaching and is the author of several books on the subject, including *Instructional Coaching: A Partnership Approach to Improving Instruction* and *Unmistakable Impact: A Partnership Approach for Dramatically Improving Instruction.* You can learn more about instructional coaching at the Kansas Coaching Project website, http://instructionalcoach.org, and at Jim's Instructional Coaching Group website, http://instructionalcoaching.com.

Our keynote speakers could not be better examples of how our work has embraced and complemented new methods and new theories. Both Ellis and Knight are firmly grounded in the research from which SIM emerged. Their research paths, though, have taken them in new directions and to new discoveries, and they have enriched SIM by sharing their work with the Center and the SIM Network.

In a sense, this cycle of development and growth resembles a student's use of a compass in math class. One piece of the compass remains fixed (embedded in SIM research) but a hinge allows the other piece to move farther out, enscribing everwidening circles. As our understanding of issues in education and adolescent literacy grows, we open the hinge to encompass ever-widening circles of knowledge and solutions.

We hope you'll join us next summer to expand your circle of knowledge with these two terrific keynote speakers.

Jim Knight

Ed Ellis

Twitter: @StrateTweets
Follow 2012 International SIM Conference plans on Twitter and contribute to the conversation using the hashtag **#SIMCON12.**

New schedule in 2012

As you're making your plans to attend the 2012 International SIM Conference, note that our schedule is significantly different from past years. Our goal is to create a schedule that is conducive to your full participation in conference events.

The conference will begin at noon on Tuesday, July 10, with our first keynote followed by an afternoon of breakout sessions. The conference will continue on Wednesday, July 11, with our second keynote leading off the day. The strand format will be back, with strands tentatively planned for Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning (July 12). The conference will wrap up with breakout sessions followed by Don Deshler's traditional closing address on Thursday afternoon. Preconference workshops are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday morning.

We hope the new schedule will ease some of the travel and lodging issues associated with attending the conference, allowing you to fly in Monday evening or Tuesday morning and stay for the entire conference.

2012 International SIM Conference
Tentative Schedule
July 10-12, 2012 • Oread Hotel • Lawrence, Kan.

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

7:30 a.m.	Registration
8 a.m.-11 a.m.	Preconference
Noon-1:30 p..m.	Opening session, keynote
1:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.	Breakout sessions

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

7:30 a.m.	Registration
8 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Welcome
8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Keynote
9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Strands
12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.	Breakout sessions
3 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	Poster session
4 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Certificate ceremony
4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Social

Thursday, July 12, 2012

9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Strands
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Box lunch
12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.	Breakout sessions
2 p.m.-3 p.m.	Closing address by Don Deshler

SIM & CRL Online Resources

www.kucrl.org

Strategic Instruction Model
http://kucrl.org/sim

Content Literacy Continuum
http://clc.kucrl.org

Stratepedia
http://stratepedia.org

SIM Workshops and Updates
http://www.kucrl.org/classes

SIMville
User name: Network
Password: strategic

CRL News
http://www.kucrl.org/news

CRL Learns
http://crllearns.kucrl.org

CRL Project Profiles
http://www.kucrl.org/profiles

CRL Multimedia Archives
http://media.kucrl.org

CRL Publication List
http://www.kucrl.org/research

CRL Divisions

Advanced Learning Technologies
http://www.altec.org

Division of Adult Studies
http://das.kucrl.org

e-Learning Design Lab
http://elearndesign.org

Institute for Research on Adolescent Learning
http://iral.kucrl.org

Kansas Coaching Project
http://instructionalcoach.org

Professional Development Research Institute
http://pdri.kucrl.org

CRL LEARNS

We had a terrific lineup of CRL Learns presentations during the fall semester. Videos from many of them are available on the CRL Learns website (http://crllearns.kucrl.org).

Physical Activity Across the Curriculum (PAAC)

Leon Greene, associate professor in the University of Kansas School of Education, discussed the results of a project intended to incorporate physical activity into regular lessons for second- through fifth-graders. The program is aimed at diminishing childhood obesity by emphasizing physical activity that is accumulated through the school day, taught by classroom teachers, and delivered through standard academic lessons.

Rewriting "So Much Reform": Trying to Understand the Present State of Urban School Reform

Charles M. Payne, the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, reflected on what he has learned since publication of his *So Much Reform, So Little Change: The Persistence of Failure in Urban Schools.* This presentation is not available on our public website. If you would like to view the video, contact Julie Tollefson (jtollefson@ku.edu) for access information.

From Knowledgeable to Knowledge-Able: New Learning Environments for New Media Environments

Michael Wesch, associate professor of cultural anthropology and 2011-2012 Coffman Chair for Distinguished Teaching Scholars at Kansas State University, shared his thinking on the impact of new media on society and culture. Wesch is the creator of two popular YouTube videos: "The Machine is Us/ing Us" and "A Vision of Students Today."

Enhancing STEM Education with Video Games

Matt Marino, assistant professor of special education at Washington State University, described how the award-winning video game "You Make Me Sick!" enhances science instruction and assessment for all students, including those with learning disabilities and at-risk populations. The presentation included a discussion of issues teachers should consider as they evaluate video games for their science classrooms.

We are working on the spring lineup now. Details will be available on the CRL Learns website, http://crllearns.kucrl.org.

Virtual conference deadlines

We have scheduled two virtual conferences in the coming months, and the deadlines for registration are coming up. The cost is $375. However, you will not have the travel and lodging costs associated with attending a face-to-face conference.

Feb. 6-26, 2012, SIM Virtual Conference

The registration deadline for the February virtual conference is Jan. 20, 2012. Materials will be mailed to participants the week of Jan. 30, and you will be expected to complete all activities and evaluations for your conference sessions by Feb. 29 to receive credit for attending an update. You also must participate in one of the concluding webinars on March 1 or March 2.

April 23-May 13, 2012, SIM Virtual Conference

The registration deadline for the April-May virtual conference is April 6, 2012. Materials will be mailed to participants the week of April 16, and you will be expected to complete all activities and evaluations for your conference sessions by May 16 to receive credit for attending an update. You also must participate in one of the concluding webinars on May 17 or May 18.

**Space is limited.
Register early.**

KUCRL CALENDAR 2011-2012

Jan. 17-19, 2012
Instructional Coaching Institute Level 1: Progress Through Partnership
Lawrence, Kan.

Feb. 6-26, 2012
Virtual Update Conference for SIM Professional Developers

Feb. 27-28, 2012
Southeast Update for SIM Professional Developers
Charleston, S.C.

Feb. 27-28, 2012
Creating an Impact School
Lawrence, Kan.

March 19-20, 2012
Workshops that Make an Impact
Lawrence, Kan.

April 9-10, 2012
Translating the Common Core Standards into Practice
Lawrence, Kan.

April 16-19, 2012
SIM Reading and Writing Strategies and the Common Core State Standards
Lawrence, Kan.

April 16-19, 2012
SIM Content Enhancement Routines and the Common Core State Standards
Lawrence, Kan.

April 23-May 13, 2012
Virtual Update Conference for SIM Professional Developers

More information and complete calendar at http://kucrl.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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