

Stratenotes

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning • August 2013 • Volume 21, Issue 8

On Being 35

Don & Jean reflect on KUCRL's first 35 years

As I think about 35 years, four words come to my mind. I know there are a lot more, but in these four I'll just try to encapsulate as I think back on 35 years what seem to be significant dots on the canvas.

First of all is the word *support*. I can't begin to tell you how much it has meant to me that you chose Carol for the honor that you did tonight. I just can't put into words what an enormous support and partner she is to me personally and to all of us by extension. Additionally, the support of my family has meant the world.

Extending that notion of support, we have been so fortunate at the Center to have a support team that is second to none. The accountants and the secretaries, just every member of the team. They are so mission driven. They care as deeply about the work that is happening on the front lines as all of us do. They don't get the credit that they deserve, but they are second to none.

A second word that comes to my mind is *vision* and mission. During the first year of the Center, when we were the donkey and we saw all the thoroughbreds out there, we had some advice given to us by Dick Schiefelbusch and Ed Meyen, who were senior advisors to us. They said "you be crystal clear on the mission of what your center is going to be about and stay laser focused



Let me just say that this is a really special moment for me to be celebrating our 35th anniversary together.

I did not dream this dream at all. When I was a little girl, I dreamed of being a teacher. When other kids were playing house, I played being a teacher.

Then when I became a teenager, I saw the movie *David and Lisa* and I decided I really wanted to be a child psychologist. I kept with that dream. I went through college and I went to graduate school to become that.

Then when I was a graduate student, I had to have a minor so I minored in juvenile justice. My assignment was to be a probation officer at the juvenile court. I was assigned to a number of adolescents. I had to go watch them in school, and I had to get to know them. I realized these kids aren't going to school because they can't read and they can't write.

So a friend of mine and I, Jan Sheldon, started trying to figure out what can we do for these kids. They're so far behind, and they need to be brought up quickly. We started designing some programs, and that's when the *Sentence Writing Strategy* program was born, back in the early 1970s.

Back then, I never dreamed of the opportunity to be a part of a national effort to help thousands of kids one day.



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on it.” That was golden advice, and that advice has served us well. That vision has been to do the kind of work that would have a marked impact on the lives of kids.

The third word is *invent*. I just look around this room [addressing researchers]—the things that you have created and designed and invented have been transformative in the lives of people. What a legacy your inventions have left and how lives have been blessed as a result.

The fourth word that comes to my mind is *expand* and reach. That’s what the network has been. It has taken the germs of the things that have been invented and you’ve expanded those and you’ve enriched them. You’ve really made the connection that has made the difference in the lives of people. As Jean said, to have been associated with an effort, a movement, that has been a part of helping to enrich and enlighten and enhance the lives of others is a blessing beyond measure.

I consider it such a blessing to be a colleague and friend of each of you. Thank you so very much.

• *Transcribed from Don Deshler’s address to the 35th Anniversary Banquet during the 2013 International SIM™ Conference in July 2013.*

I never dreamed back in 1983 that we would meet with a group of our graduate students and staff members—there were about 13 people there—and we asked them to work with us to spread the word about strategic instruction. They agreed enthusiastically to do that.

I never dreamed that that group of 13 people would grow to be more than a thousand people and that that thousand people would turn over but we would continue to build that network and continue to replace those who left.

I ever dreamed, for example, that in our 35th year that we would certify a hundred new professional developers. I think that’s a wonderful accomplishment.

I certainly never believed that we would maintain all these relationships across the years, across decades really, and that I would be so happy to see all my good friends each summer and when I attended the update sessions.

I never dreamed of being a researcher, that’s for sure. What’s a researcher, right? I never dreamed that our collective body of research would rival any other body of research in the field of education today.

I never dreamed of writing books. In fact, when we mentioned to Gordon Alley that people were clamoring for us to write books and that we should have a book on each strategy, he said, “No way. We are not going to do that.”

Then back in 1983, when we went around to publishers and we asked them to publish our books. They said no, and we went away feeling very discouraged and upset. Basically, they told us our stuff was too complex. Teachers will never understand this. Teachers won’t be able to do it. I never dreamed that I would be a publisher. I never dreamed that we would start a business in Don’s garage, with Carol doing the shipping, and the kids help-

ing out, and in my TV room. I never dreamed that that business would last 30 years.

I never dreamed that our wonderful graduate students would graduate, go off into the world and be great leaders in their areas of the country and be fabulous writers, authors, researchers, grant writers. I’m so, so proud of them, of being associated with them, being able to work with them, and be colleagues with them.

I never dreamed that I would find a terrific colleague who would be a dynamic and inspirational speaker who would travel the nation and the world telling people about SIM and convincing them that they want to learn more about our work.

I didn’t dream that all of you would continue working with us for decades. I didn’t dream that you would retire from your jobs and then keep on working with us. I never dreamed that I would retire and keep on working.

Every day, I wake up and I continue to be committed to doing this work. I pledge to you that I will continue doing it as long as I can. I am just energized every day to be working with you and to hear from you, your success stories, your questions. That tells me that what I’m doing is worthwhile. I’m very grateful to all of you.

This life I’ve been living has been a fantastically wonderful dream. I didn’t dream it. Yes, I became a teacher. Yes, I became a psychologist. But it was limited thinking. I had no idea what a wonderful dream I could live. I thank you for it. You’ve helped it evolve over the years, and you have been so instrumental in my life.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

• *Transcribed from Jean Schumaker’s address to the 35th Anniversary Banquet during the 2013 International SIM™ Conference in July 2013.*

CAROL DESHLER

2013 GORDON R. ALLEY PARTNERSHIP AWARD



Gordon R. Alley, one of the founders of the Center, was a master at mentoring the young and inexperienced assistant professors who were assembled to conduct its first research studies. He generously shared his expertise and time to enable others to reach their goals and taught that *partnership* is vital to successfully conducting large-scale research and development efforts. Dr. Alley passed away in 1997. To honor his legacy and ensure that the trail he blazed never be forgotten, we give the Gordon R. Alley Partnership Award to others who contribute to the work of the Center in the same spirit.

Carol Deshler has been the ultimate partner and supporter of the work conducted by the Center. She was instrumental in pushing Don, an economics major, toward a career in education. After they graduated from college, the two of them moved

to Barrow, Alaska, where they taught Eskimo children and Don first became interested in finding answers to why some children struggled to learn. Later, when Edge Enterprises was just starting, Carol assembled and shipped Edge materials from the garage in their home. She has been a lifelong partner in raising a loving, caring, and successful family—four grown children, their spouses, and 13 grandchildren. Throughout, she has made room for all of us connected with SIM. We can think of no one more deserving of the Gordon R. Alley Partnership Award.

KUCRI³⁵

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STRATENOTES is published eight times from September through May and once every summer by the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning as part of Strateworks for the International Professional Development Network. Publication period 2012-2013; cost \$50.00. Permission to reproduce any or all parts of Stratenotes to support professional development activities is hereby given.

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Transition

• **Mike Hock's** address to the 35th Anniversary Banquet during the 2013 International SIM Conference in July 2013

Patty asked me to say a few words about Don phasing into retirement. I thought about the word retirement. Don's not going to retire. He is going to transition into something else. You'd better believe he'll be just as passionate, and he'll work just as hard. He'll be just as dedicated, and he'll have just as much impact as he's had in 35 years at the university of Kansas CRL.

• Think about the impact that Don has had on your lives—professionally, personally, with relationships with other people. Just take a minute and think about that.

Here's why I asked that question. Don is transitioning, but about seven years ago, he said, "I think I have two or three years left." And seven years later, he's still at the head of CRL.

I personally think he didn't think we were ready for the transition. I've watched him work extremely hard to make sure that the CRL and the legacy of the CRL, SIM, and the network continues. I think he feels that he's at a point now where we can take those reins. He wouldn't just walk away from the network, the CRL, and the work that's been done without that sense that we can pick up the ball and carry on.

I think he believes we're there, that we're ready. Remember, his

entire career has been about helping people become independent learners, strategic learners, self-advocates for what they believe in. And he's given us those tools.

So I'm going to ask you to ask yourself what you can do to sustain the legacy. Don is going to transition, and we can mourn that for about 30 seconds and then we need to think about what we are going to do to maintain the legacy that Don and Jean and Gordon Alley started 35 years ago.

Today, at the recognition ceremony, 105 people received their certification to go out and continue the work. We have an obligation to the 105 new SIM PDers to make sure that there are opportunities for them to continue our work beyond the near future.

I think we have about 18 months to really get ready for that transition. Carol would say 12 months. But I think we're ready. I think that's our charge: to keep the legacy alive. I'm going to work as hard as I can with the new co-director and other staff at the Center and with Patty and the network to make sure that all of the SIM PDers who have been in the network continue to do good work and that those 105 new people have something to do for the next 35 years.

SIM & KUCRL Online Resources

www.kucrl.org

Strategic Instruction Model

<http://kucrl.org/sim>

Content Literacy Continuum

<http://clc.kucrl.org>

SIM Workshops and Updates

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

KUCRL News

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

Publication List

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

KUCRL Divisions

Advanced Learning

Technologies

<http://www.altec.org>

Division of Adult Studies

<http://das.kucrl.org>

e-Learning Design Lab

<http://elearnndesign.org>

Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies

<http://health.kucrl.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>

Transition Coalition

<http://transitioncoalition.org>

Welcome, New Professional Developers!

Congratulations to the following SIM Professional Developers certified between Aug. 1, 2012, and July 31, 2013!

ARKANSAS

Content Enhancement: Tim Brister, Dee Davis, Debbie Fleming, Merica Howie, Glenda Jackson, Mary K. Meachem, Lesley Merritt, Nanette Nichols, Sherry Smith, and Tammy Winslow (PD Leader: Debbie Cooke)

CALIFORNIA

Learning Strategies: Trish Schreiber (PD Leader: Ann Hoffman); Colleen Jamison and Joy Ruppersburg (PD Leader: Cathy Spriggs)

COLOMBIA (BOGOTA)

Content Enhancement: Becky McKay and Stephanie Steckerl (PD Leader: Cathy Spriggs)

CONNECTICUT

Content Enhancement: Hilary Barhydt, Melissa Boyer, Brooke Crossman, Chris Ford, and Diane Lucarelli (PD Leaders: Helen Waldron and Rosemary Tralli)

Learning Strategies: Kristen Taverne Davidson, Diana Kelley, and Nancy Taylor (PD Leader: Rosemary Tralli)

FLORIDA

Content Enhancement: Keisha Albritton, Cindy Lanzer, Melissa Mulock, Anna Rooks, and Valerie Watson (PD Leader: Debbie Cooke); Julie Drewes (PD Leader: Patty Graner); Barbara Krakoer, Ami McCall, Fartun Mohamud, and Henry Schmitges (PD Leader: Jerri Neduchal)

Learning Strategies: Jennifer Lesh (PD Leader: Janet Atallah); Donna Marquis-Cox (PD Leader: Sharon Bittle)

ILLINOIS

Content Enhancement: Michael Franckowiak (PD Leader: Sue Woodruff)

Learning Strategies: Jill Nicholson (PD Leader: Sue Woodruff)

INDIANA

Content Enhancement: Deatrick Andrew, Heather Hower, and Abby Tigulis (PD Leader: Sue Woodruff)

IOWA

Content Enhancement: Judy Nissly, Deborah Rose, and Courtney Wolken (PD Leader: Ann Hoffman)

MARYLAND

Content Enhancement: Rosalind Battee, Cathy Booth, Karen Bouldin, Lorraine Carcoura, Kevin Connelly, Kim Eller, Susan Ellison, Melissa Fazzino, Erin Ferdinando, Mona Groff, Shawn Johnson, Katie Kolacki, Jen Long, and Susan Zimmer (PD Leader: Jim Knight)

MICHIGAN

Content Enhancement: Marty Cleveland, Jennifer Ferguson, Kristin Graham, Eileen Maday, Tim McCastle, Sylvia Miller, Cheryl Mosebach, Kim Nguyen, Rhonda Sturgeon, Heidi Tyner, and Renee Visser (PD Leader: Sue Woodruff)

Learning Strategies: Sherrie Cole-Whitaker and Christine Tease (PD Leader: Sue Woodruff)

MINNESOTA

Content Enhancement: Joy Christenson and Diane Fenton (PD Leader: Shari Schindele)

Learning Strategies: Tanya Tacker (PD Leader: Barb Vallejo)

NORTH CAROLINA

Content Enhancement: Marianne Haulk and Debbie Higginbotham (PD Leader: Jerri Neduchal)

OHIO

Learning Strategies: Chris Ceraolo and Marie Markward (PD Leader: Sue Woodruff)

ONTARIO

Content Enhancement: Cathy Michell and Tina MacCauley-Gray (PD Leader: Jim Knight)

TEXAS

Content Enhancement: Mary Bach, B. Renee Duncan, Zoe Jones, Leticia Maynard, Judy Uzzell, and Kim Watts (PD Leaders: Bev Colombo and Susan D'Aniello)

Learning Strategies: Gina Alligood, Becky Barrett, Greer DelRio, Julia A. Eyer, Amy Havard, David Seiler, and Laura Travalini (PD Leaders: Bev Colombo and Susan D'Aniello)

VIRGINIA

Content Enhancement: Gail Webb (PD Leader: Diane Gillam); Jean'Yea Daniels Horton, Suzanna Mejia, and Christina Porter Bane (PD Leader: Shari Schindele)

Learning Strategies: Jennifer Alderson, Bonnie Conway, Julie Dauksys, and Sandi Witt (PD Leader: Helen Barrier); Cathleen Beachboard (PD Leader: Sue Woodruff)

WASHINGTON

Content Enhancement: Betsy C. Broom, Jennifer R. Hernandez, Pamela Legg, Chad Quesnell, Tanya Randolph, and Lisa Tyler (PD Leader: Jean Piazza)

Learning Strategies: Jane Coward (PD Leader: Jean Piazza)

KUCRL CALENDAR

Dec. 5–6, 2013

Ohio Update
Toledo, Ohio

Jan. 13–Feb. 2, 2014

Virtual Update for SIM Professional
Developers

Jan. 28–30, 2014

Florida Update

Feb. 25–26, 2014

Southeast Update Conference
for SIM Professional Developers
Charleston, S.C.

April 21–May 12, 2014

Virtual Update for SIM Professional
Developers

May 28–30, 2014

Learning Strategies and Content
Enhancement for Preservice
Educators
Lawrence, Kan.

June 9–10, 2014

Iowa Update

June 16–18, 2014

SIM Writing Strategies: Meeting
the Standards (Including the
Common Core): Sentence
Writing and the Conventions
Lawrence, Kan.

June 18–20, 2014

SIM Writing Strategies: Meeting
the Standards (Including the
Common Core): Paragraphs and
Themes
Lawrence, Kan.

July 16–18, 2014

International SIM Conference
Lawrence, Kan.

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STRATENOTES Volume 21, Issue #8

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