



# STRATENOTES

An International Newsletter for SIM Trainers

Volume 5, Issue 9 Summer 1997

## 1997 national conference

This issue of Stratenotes takes a look back at the 1997 National SIM Trainers' Conference. You'll find summaries of some of the sessions and other highlights of the conference throughout this issue.

We recognized several milestones during the 11th annual conference, which revolved around the theme "Enlighten the World." Pins were given to the following people, who were attending their 10th conference: Carla Soronen, Becky Wetzel, Tony Van Reusen, and Bev Colombo. Five-year pins were given to Larry Bemish, Irma Brasseur, Midge Dublinske, Laurie Feinberg, Kathy Flock, Barbara Glaeser, Linda Hickey, Pat Monson, Ann Valus, and Barbara Vallejo.

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## Active Participation

A number of presentations emphasized the importance of actively engaging students or workshop participants in the learning process. **Bev Colombo** led session participants through a number of activities, including forming an opinion line. This activity required participants to take a stand on an issue and arrange themselves in a line according to how strongly they felt about the issue. Bev then folded the line in half so the participants with the strongest opposing viewpoints faced each other and discussed their positions. Afterwards, participants were given the opportunity to change their place in the opinion line based on their discussions.

Bev, who adapted some of her material from the work of the conference's keynote speaker, **Anita Archer**, offered the following hints for successfully using active participation:

- Use active participation regularly. Make it a constant part of your repertoire.
- Try one type of active participation at a time to avoid confusion.
- Plan carefully. Bev recommended writing in your manual the kind of active responses you plan to seek at each point, especially the first few times you do it.

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## Motivation

**Don Deshler**, **Ed Ellis**, and **Mike Hock** joined forces for a discussion of motivation. Don gave an overview, based on the work of keynote speaker **Michael Pressley**, of factors that undermine motivation in children.

Most children begin school with high expectations for success, he said, yet some lose that over time as practices such as pitting children against each other in competition for grades wear them down.

Don offered the following suggestions for increasing motivation:

- reward personal improvement, not just the product
- make academic tasks more interesting
- maintain high but doable expectations
- praise students
- implement strategies for academic success
- recognize the importance of the teacher serving as a mentor
- help students shift the attribution for their success from luck to effort
- explore Possible Selves

Mike presented more information about the last point, the Possible Selves motivational program. He discussed the benefits of encouraging students to envision their hopes, expectations, and fears for the future. Most learners have these visions, he said, but some of the students we work with don't know

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## Active Participation

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- Develop your own, age-appropriate style.
- Allow time for thinking.
- Provide variety.

Bev's presentation fit nicely with a special session Anita presented on adding zip to presentations. Anita demonstrated many more ways to involve students in learning, which result in numerous benefits for both teachers and students.

**Jim Knight** presented a half-day workshop on Partnership Learning, a way for educators to present information so participants are equal partners in the learning process. Jim described six partnership strategies or tools that can be used to increase the effectiveness of learning sessions:

- **Question recipes** are simple questions staff developers can use to open up conversation to all session participants.
- **Cooperative learning** involves learners working in groups to teach themselves the content being covered.
- **Thinking devices** are objects (film clips, photographs, vignettes, a literary work, a song) presented for a group of learners to critically analyze through dialogue.
- **Discussion devices** are carefully structured team learning activities designed to enable learners to reflect on how they can apply content being covered to

their careers or personal lives.

- **Experiential learning** allows learners to experience the precise phenomenon they are exploring. Facilitators employ experiential learning to create experiences that enable learners to act out the behaviors, strategies, or other content being learned.
- **Effective stories** are entertaining and engaging, and they give learners a concrete context in which to place abstract ideas. Stories make ideas real.

Look for more information about active participation in future issues of *Stratenotes* and *Strategram*.

## Motivation

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how to achieve their visions. The Possible Selves program aims to help clarify for students how to reach goals and avoid feared futures. Possible Selves is described in detail in *Strategram*, Volume 9, Issue 4, which was published in June 1997.

Ed offered additional incites into the elements required to maintain healthy motivation, emphasizing three: a sense of personal potency, authentic learning opportunities, and a safe environment for risk taking.

Personal potency is related to a sense of belonging, of being needed and valued, of making a contribution, and of having control over your own destiny.

"When you think about what much of high school and middle school experience is, it's really about power and whether teachers are in power or whether kids are

in power," he said.

Students at that age are trying to exercise some control over their own destiny, even to the point of failing on purpose because they don't want to take the risk of trying and failing accidentally.

"A lot of the danger you see kids involved in is just trying to take control of their situation. And what do we do to kids? We take that control away," he said.

Authentic learning means providing opportunities for students to become involved in projects and other learning experiences that have more authentic outcomes than some traditional approaches to education have offered.

"So much of what we do is artificial to kids," Ed said. "It's very much setting up the school game. So what we're teaching kids to do is school compliance. As long as the learning experience is not

authentic to the student, we've got some really major motivation problems."

Ed cited encouraging examples of teachers moving away from traditional tests, shifting student evaluation to portfolios and rubric-based criteria. In these classrooms, the emphasis shifts from absolute right or absolute wrong to an overall view of the

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Contributors: Donald D. Deshler  
Jean B. Schumaker  
B. Keith Lenz  
Janet B. Roth  
Editor: Julie Tollefson



## Snapshot

Conference attendance: 112  
82 trainers from 25 states  
30 KU-CRL staff members

States ranked by number of participants:  
1. Iowa  
2. Kansas  
3. Texas

## Learning Community

A special Building a Learning Community session brought interested people together to look closely at StrateNet, the features it offers now, and the kind of virtual community tool our training community would like for it to be in the future.

As a group, session participants described the ideal virtual community as

- supportive
- a place to ask and answer questions
- a place that provides recognition
- a place to cheer on the efforts of other community members
- user friendly
- a means of staying in touch with each other and with news from the field
- diverse in terms of ideas and people
- a place for networking and exchange
- a repository of new and existing information

With these thoughts in mind, we discussed how StrateNet can evolve to meet the needs of our thriving group. Participants offered a variety of suggestions for content and capabilities that would be valuable to the community.

- Participants would like the ability to order materials through StrateNet. We are investigating the possibilities of doing this in the future.
- Several members agreed

StrateNet should be a vehicle for lending support after training. It should be a place for teachers to make a connection to trainers when they are looking for advice or have problems with a strategy.

- StrateNet should be a virtual library where all community members can find a wealth of information related to the Strategic Instruction Model. Among the items suggested for depositing in this library are lesson plans, concept diagrams, unit organizers, and anchoring diagrams. We are beginning this process by placing articles from back issues of *Strategram* in a special *Strategram* Archives section of StrateNet.
- The group also agreed that providing an index and keyword search function for the StrateNet archives will be vital when trainers or teachers seek specific information.

We're taking this list and beginning to revamp the content of StrateNet. As we progress, we hope more of you will offer suggestions and opinions about the usefulness of this tool for you as a member of the learning community. Please e-mail your comments to Julie Tollefson ([jtollefson@stratenet.sped.ukans.edu](mailto:jtollefson@stratenet.sped.ukans.edu)) or send them through StrateNet (use the Directory feature for easy addressing) or mail them to Julie at the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning, 3061 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045.

## Awards

During the conference, we recognized several people for their valuable contributions.

The Gordon R. Alley Partnership Award is given each year to individuals who have been long-term partners with the staff of the Center for Research on Learning and whose contributions have enabled KU-CRL to fulfill its mission. Three people were honored with this award for 1997:

- **Nancy Peterson**, chair of special education, University of Kansas. Nancy has been extremely supportive of CRL interests and needs and has consistently advocated for the space and resource needs of CRL within and external to the university.
- **Jean Petersen**, national executive director, Learning Disabilities Association of America. Jean has given CRL meeting space at LDA conferences at no charge, has encouraged CRL to use the LDA clearinghouse for dissemination purposes, and has influenced LDA's congressional lobbyists to advocate for more LD research money at CRL's request.
- **Phil McKnight**, curriculum and instruction professor, University of Kansas. Phil has been a strong advocate of CRL on campus and has greatly facilitated the research and programs of doctoral students from CRL. Phil is one of the authors of *The Survey Routine*.

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## Awards

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The SIM Leadership Award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional leadership by helping educators become strategic teachers and, as a result, students become strategic learners. Four trainers received the honor this year:

- **Elaine Fine**, associate professor at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. Among her many accomplishments, Elaine has implemented extensive training programs in 30 public school districts in New Jersey for teachers from elementary school to high school.
- **Tony Van Reusen**, associate professor at the

## 1997 National SIM Trainers' Conference

### Next year

Make plans now to attend a SIM event during the coming year.

The next National SIM Trainers' Update Conference will be July 9-11, 1998. We are planning many special activities to mark the 20th anniversary of the Center for Research on Learning.

Help us celebrate this milestone in SIM history.

The Northeast Region SIM Trainers' Update Meeting will be November 7-8, 1997, at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

The Far West and Midwest regions will join for a single update meeting this year, scheduled for February 20-21, 1998, at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Southeast Region plans an update meeting for March 5-7, 1998, in Charleston, South Carolina.

- The team of **Carla Soronen**, administrative assistant in special education, Las Virgenes USD, Calabasa, Calif., and **Becky Wetzel**, director, Programs and Assessments, Simi Valley USD, Simi Valley, Calif.

University of Texas at San Antonio. Tony is one of the founders of the SIM Trainers' Network and has helped develop and field test many of the original task-specific learning strategies. He developed the original Education Planning Strategy and revised it to the current Self-Advocacy Strategy.

Together, Carla and Becky have trained hundreds, maybe thousands, of California teachers. They are founding members of the SIM-CA state support organization in California.

Congratulations to all of the 1997 award winners and our heartfelt thanks for their many efforts and hard work in support of our mutual goals.

Continued

## Motivation

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student's understanding across a continuum. At the top of the continuum is a very sophisticated understanding and the bottom is very superficial and erroneous. Every student falls somewhere along the continuum. The result is a more authentic learning experience and a more authentic assessment.

In discussing the third element, a safe environment for risk taking, Ed described a social studies classroom he had visited in which students freely discussed the content, providing incites and differing points of view in a calm give-and-take. He was so impressed by one student's contributions that he followed the student to his next class. There, Ed found the student silent and

withdrawn for the entire period. The difference, Ed said, is that the social studies teacher provided a safe environment for risk taking that was lacking in the other class.

## Conference

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Elaine Fine, Pat Klesack, Marsha LaFollette, Rebecca Martinez, Kim Toebe, Helen Waldron, and JoAnne Wilson attended for the first time.

Engaging keynote addresses were given by Anita Archer, "Enlighten the World: Brighten Your Light," and Michael Pressley, "The Case for Balancing Reading Instruction for Weaker Readers."

Many thanks to the following people for presenting breakout

sessions or displaying posters in the poster session: Anita Archer, Helen Barrier, Gail Cheever, Bev Colombo, Ed Ellis, Ann Hoffman, Debbie Jackson, Lesley Jeko, Geoff Knight, Cam Knight, Dave Knight, Jane Mangum, Diana McKenzie, Tatiana Nasser, Jerri Neduchal, Judy O'Malley, Ed Pieper, Michael Pressley, Joyce Rademacher, Ann Sweeney, Conn Thomas, Tony Van Reusen, Sue Vernon, and Darlette Winck-Hall. Also, thanks to the staff members of the Center for Research on Learning and Edge Enterprises for their presentations and efforts to ensure the success of the conference.

Look for more information about the conference, including pictures, to appear on our Web site soon. The address is [www.ku-crl.org](http://www.ku-crl.org).





Haven't signed on to StrateNet recently and wonder what you've been missing? Here's a sample:

- A trainer requested suggestions for classroom teachers who want to incorporate the Paragraph Writing Strategy into their curriculum but are overwhelmed with the controlled practice/advanced practice scoring. In response, KU-CRL staff member Jim Knight wrote, "When I had a lot of scoring to do, I awarded two points for topic sentences, two points for each of the detail sentences, and two points for the clincher sentence. Each sentence had to meet the criteria spelled

## Stratellite video features Survey Routine, SCORE

The newest Stratellite Connection videotape, program 8, is now available.

In this tape, Carmen Cantrell presents the newly published Survey Routine in Peggy Couch's 7th grade Social Studies class. The video also features a classroom presentation of the SCORE Skills and teacher and student interviews. "Sheriff" Kim Short's COPS Crew present the COPS Rap, and Jean Holland presents the Verb Boogie. The narration for the video was shot in Jean Schumaker's backyard on a hot Kansas summer day. Running time is just more than an hour.

A limited number of free copies of this video are still available. Complete the order form at right to receive your copy.

out in the Paragraph Writing manual. If students had difficulty with this method, I would then score their assignments with the original scoring sheet."

- David Scanlon mined the knowledge of our training community for the names of notable women with learning disabilities. Here's what he found: "Our own CRL doc students weighed in with Cher (did you all learn that in one of Don's classes?). A few folks substituted other disabilities. But the most elaborate responses came from Mickey Hay and Vicki Day—you might say they had a 'Hay Day' responding (all right, maybe YOU wouldn't). Thanks to all for your help." Here are the names David received:

- Terry Bowersock, entrepreneur of the year, co-author of "Phonic Mapping for Dyslexics," motivational speaker
- Lindsey Wagner, "Bionic Woman," won an Emmy for this role
- Nikki Satyshur, outstanding high school student from St.

- Pauls School for Girls, all metro all-star field hockey, A.L.S. all-star field hockey
- Nancy Lelewer Sonnabend, outstanding researcher in the field of learning disabilities, associate in neurology, Harvard Medical School, author of "Something's Not Right: One Family's Struggle with Learning Disabilities"
- Norla D. Chee, award-winning poet and author
- Sylvia Law, professor at the London School of Economics
- P. Buckley Moss, artist

If you have something to add to one of these discussions, or you would like to start a discussion of your own, sign on to StrateNet and post your messages to the Open Forum or send an e-mail message to all StrateNet users using the Directory feature for easy addressing. If you need help signing on to StrateNet, contact Andy Barker at KU-CRL. He can be reached by e-mail at [abarker@ukans.edu](mailto:abarker@ukans.edu), by phone at (785) 864-0673, or by U.S. mail at the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning, 3061 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045.

## Video Request Form

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

If all the free videos have been distributed, I am willing to pay \$15 for a copy: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a copy of the following Stratellite Connection programs: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
(Circle the video(s) you want. Please enclose a check for \$15 for each copy of program 1, 2, or 3 ordered.)

Mail your completed form to Stratellite Connection, KU-CRL, 3061 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045.



# Trainers complete certification requirements

The following trainers have been certified within this past year.

*Arizona:* Dave Roels, Elizabeth Young  
*Connecticut:* Lisa Wheeler, Theresa Giannitti, Margaret Tylutki, Elizabeth Catorius, Helen Waldron  
*Florida:* Joyce Barclay, Donna Henderson, Kay Landingham, Emerrita Brochin, Deborah Jackson, Darlette Wink-Hall  
*Illinois:* Anita Friede, Linda Green  
*Iowa:* Linda Miller, Neta

Stevenson, Janis Smith  
*Kentucky:* Martha Gambrell  
*Massachusetts:* Karen Younginger  
*Michigan:* Joe Fisher  
*Missouri:* Janice Kelly, Carol Schatz  
*Montana:* Jo Jakupcak, Dewayne Padgett, Sandra Koness  
*New Jersey:* June Jennings  
*New York:* Felicia Viscome  
*North Carolina:* Barbara Carruthers  
*Oregon:* Rose Grabowski

*Pennsylvania:* Vlacia Campbell  
*Tennessee:* Susan Westbury  
*Texas:* Donald Collins, Nancy Danclovic, Pat German, Jan Kolk, Rebecca Martinez, Mary Higgs  
*Virginia:* Teresa Lee, Myla Burgess  
*West Virginia:* Nancy Burton

Congratulations to this excellent group of SIM Trainers.

## Potential trainers complete workshop

Our community gained many new members this summer as 28 people completed Potential Trainer workshops.

Those attending the Kansas session were Lana Anderson, Kate Axlund, Jan Butz, Paula Cooke, Linda Corey, Kimberly Resa Cotton, Jim Gmur, JoAnn Klocke, Linda Kohut, Karen Koskovich, Marc Markell, LaVone Mongeon, Karen Mortimer, Joni Poff, Susan Probst, Sharon Segerhammar, Toni Van Cleave, and Donna Wood. Fran Clark trained this session with the assistance of

Addison Watanabe, Barbara Glaeser, Mike Hock, and Jim Knight.

Conn Thomas trained the Maryland group, consisting of Doris Barnes, Joyce Hlass, Anne Hartig, Janette DeFelice, Peggy Reuschling, and Kirsten Lee Merashoff.

In Connecticut, Vicki Day and Rosemary Tralli trained Sharon Eddy, Sonya Kunkel, Catherine MacDonald, and Kc Nelson-Oliveria.

Please join us in welcoming the 1997 class of potential trainers to our network.

## NE update meeting

The Northeast Regional SIM Trainers' Update Meeting will be Nov. 7-8, 1997, at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Conference coordinators are Jean Mooney and Anthony Bashir.

The conference hotel, the Sheraton Tara in Newton, Massachusetts, will provide a special rate for participants of \$96 (single or double) plus 9.7 percent tax. Room reservations should be made directly with the Sheraton Tara, (800) 843-8272 or (617) 969-3010. A block of rooms is reserved for the Boston College/University of Kansas event.

Contact Jan Roth at (785) 864-4780 to register for the meeting.

## Iowa to host SIM update meeting in October; all trainers welcome

The State of Iowa will host a trainers' update meeting October 16-17, 1997, at the Johnston Lions Club in Johnston, Iowa.

Trainers interested in attending should register with Fran Long, meeting coordinator, at Heartland AEA, 6500 Corporate Drive, Johnston, IA 50131-1603 by October 6, 1997.

Keith Lenz and Jim Knight from the Center for Research on Learning will present the program on Partnership Learning and the newest

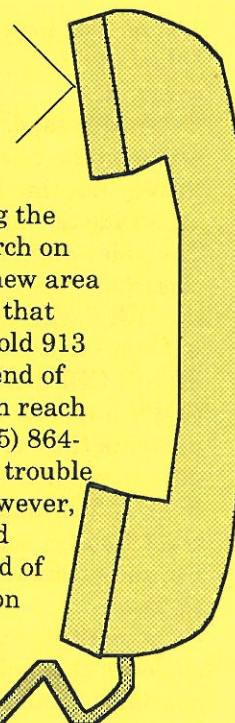
Content Enhancement Routines: Clarifying Routine, Survey Routine, Concept Comparison, SMARTER, and Course Organizer.

The meeting will begin on October 16 with registration at 8:30 a.m. and conclude on October 17 by 3:30 p.m.

Trainers from any state may attend this update meeting by registering with Fran Long and paying the registration fee. Contact Fran at (515) 270-9030 for more details.

## Have you heard?

Most of northern Kansas, including the Center for Research on Learning, has a new area code. Please note that 785 replaced the old 913 area code at the end of July. You now can reach the Center at (785) 864-4780. If you have trouble remembering, however, either code should work until the end of the grace period on October 1, 1998.





# Renew your *Strateworks* subscription for 1997-1998

It's time to renew your subscription to *Strateworks* for 1997-1998, if you haven't already. *Strateworks* is a collection of tools designed to promote communication within the SIM Network. For an annual fee of \$35, you receive the following benefits:

- *Stratenotes*—a newsletter designed to present ideas on current trends in education relevant to strategic instruction as well as information about new material releases and training sessions (published nine times a year).
- *Strategram*—a publication aimed at practicing teachers

that contains hands-on classroom implementation ideas (published six times a year).

- *StrateNet*—an electronic communications network that enables SIM Trainers to communicate with each other and with the Center for Research on Learning and to receive "hot-off-the-press" information electronically.
- *Stratellite Connection*—videotaped programs designed to show actual teaching demonstrations and to hear from SIM Trainers and CRL staff. (A limited number of free copies are available for

study groups and active network trainers. Others can be purchased for \$15.00.)

- *StrateDirectory*—a listing of all trainers who complete the Directory Information Form. The form is available at update training meetings and in the back of the 1997 *StrateDirectory*.

To maintain your subscription to *Strateworks*, complete the form below and mail it and your check for \$35 to Strateworks, KU-Center for Research on Learning, 3061 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045

## Strateworks Renewal Form: 1997-1998

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

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate at which address you prefer to receive mail: \_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_ work

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me the software and instructions for using StrateNet.  
My computer is a ☐ Macintosh ☐ IBM compatible.

Send \$35 with the completed form to

Strateworks  
KU-Center for Research on Learning  
3061 Dole  
Lawrence, KS 66045

***Make check payable to Strateworks-KU-CRL***



## 1997-98 Calendar of Events

October 16-17, 1997—Iowa SIM Trainers' Update Meeting, Johnston, IA

November 7-8, 1997—Northeast Regional Update Conference, Boston, MA

February 20-21, 1998—Far West and Midwest Regional Update Conference, Las Vegas, NV

March 5-7, 1998—Southeast Regional Update Conference, Charleston, S.C.

July 9-11, 1998—National SIM Trainers' Conference

Stratenotes

Summer 1997

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***Iowa and Northeast Region meeting information***

## New manual available

The Clarifying Routine is the newest Content Enhancement manual available from Edge Enterprises. Look for more information about this manual in the next issue of *Stratenotes*.

University of Kansas

**STRATENOTES Volume 5-Issue #9**

CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON LEARNING

Institute for Research in Learning Disabilities

3061 Dole Center

Lawrence, Kansas 66045

**FIRST CLASS**