

Your strategy for the 21st: Don't miss SIM conference

The 1999 National SIM Trainers' Conference promises to be an exciting and informative event for all members of the SIM family.

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The conference theme, "Strategies for the 21st," reflects the 21st year of the Center for Research on Learning and the approach of the 21st Century. The conference will be July 8-10 at the Holidome in Lawrence, Kansas. Here's a sample of some of the sessions we plan to offer:

Calendar

July 8-10, 1999
National SIM Trainers' Conference
Holidome

Lawrence, Kansas

July 19-21, 1999
Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Workshop Level I
Lawrence, Kansas

July 19-23, 1999
Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Workshop Content Enhancement
Lawrence, Kansas

July 22-24, 1999
Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Workshop Level II
Lawrence, Kansas

July 26-30, 1999
Strategic Instruction Model Writing Strategies Workshop
Lawrence, Kansas

Featured sessions

Two general sessions will anchor the conference presentations: "Language-Sensitive SIM" on Thursday, July 8, and "Instruction of Students with Learning Disabilities: What Matters?" on Friday, July 9. After each general session, the presenter will lead a special workshop to take a closer look at related issues.

- **Language-Sensitive SIM:** Barbara Ehren, a SIM Trainer from the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, kicked off a two-year look at the various ways in which attention to the language variable can enhance the effectiveness of SIM Trainers in her February *Stratenotes* article, "Language-sensitive SIM: Part 1." In the article, Barbara stated that language ability should be considered up front as a factor in all strategies intervention. Our understanding of language and its disorders should guide our training and teaching approaches with both the Learning Strategies Curriculum and the Content Enhancement Series. In this session, Barbara will continue the discussion of how we can better address the underlying problems of students.
- **Instruction of Students with Learning Disabilities: What Matters?** Naomi Zigmond of the University of Pittsburgh will use personal experiences and research evidence in her exploration of the critical features of appropriate and effective instruction for students with learning disabilities. The

Trainer news

SIM Trainer **Charlie Hughes** of Pennsylvania State University recently received a \$600,000 five-year grant to provide strategies and Content Enhancement training in Pennsylvania. Training will start in August. SIM Trainers **Conn Thomas** and **Ann Hoffman** will help Charlie with the strategies training, and **Joe Fisher** and **Gwen Berry** will help with the Content Enhancement training. Training will be targeted at teachers and university professors.

Charlie also has been elected vice president of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Learning Disabilities.

Send your news to Julie Tollefson at the Center for Research on Learning, 3061 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045 or e-mail Julie at jtollefson@ukans.edu.

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Editor:

presentation will include a discussion of issues of who should deliver instruction to students with LD, where that instruction should take place, what should be taught, and how that instruction should be structured.

- **A slightly different focus:**

Two special sessions will take participants through the process of presenting a Content Enhancement Routine or a Learning Strategy. Participants will assume the roles of teachers attending a training session as the session leader

presents the strategy or routine exactly as he or she would present it to a group of teachers who were not SIM Trainers. Jerri Neduchal will take participants through the process with a couple of Learning Strategies, and Keith Lenz will do the same for the *Course Organizer Routine*.



New manuals 1999

We plan several sessions on three new manuals: the *Course Organizer Routine*, the *THINK Strategy*, and *Proficiency in Sentence Writing*. We also hope to present the *InSPECT Strategy*.

- **Course Organizer Routine:**

The new *Course Organizer Routine* answers the following critical questions: How do you select and share performance options? How do you create a course notebook, bulletin board, and portfolio? How do you develop and share content and process standards? This new version of the *Course Organizer Routine* has a different look from earlier versions and will include additional components that should be addressed when launching a new course. The routine spends much more time focusing on the process of setting up community within the classroom. This session will provide a training overview of all *Course*

Organizer components and introduce the new *Course Organizer* components.

- **The THINK Strategy:**

Students use the *THINK Strategy*, a new strategy in the Cooperative Thinking Strategies series, when working together in teams to systematically solve problems in different content areas. Students

learn how to analyze and identify a problem, examine what's been done in the past, brainstorm new solutions, discuss advantages and disadvantages of new solutions, choose the

best solution, devise a plan to implement the solution, and process how the group worked together.

- **Proficiency in Sentence Writing:**

This presentation will focus on the revisions to the *Sentence Writing Strategy* program, which now consists of two levels of instruction. *Fundamentals of Sentence Writing* can be used to teach the fundamental concepts and skills associated with writing simple sentences, starting with concepts such as "subject," "verb," "infinitive," and "preposition." The program includes an instructor's manual and a student materials volume. The program can be used as a developmental curriculum for younger students or as a "quick and dirty" review for older students. *Proficiency in Sentence Writing* picks up where *Fundamentals* leaves off and provides instruction in compound, complex, and compound-complex sentence writing. It also consists of an instructor's manual and a student materials volume. *Proficiency in Sentence Writing* is new this year; *Fundamentals* was introduced during the 1998 National SIM Trainers' Conference.

- **InSPECT Strategy:** The *InSPECT Strategy* has been

developed to assist students in detecting and correcting spelling errors in work generated with a computer-based spellchecker. It also can be adapted for use with hand-held spellcheckers. Students who learn to use the *InSPECT Strategy* understand the importance of producing written work that is free of spelling errors and can effectively proofread and correct their own work.

New manuals in 1998

In addition, we plan sessions on each of the following manuals, which were introduced during the 1998 conference:

- *Framing Routine*
- *Practicing the Storage Strand Strategies*
- *Quality Assignment Routine*
- *Recall Enhancement Routine*

Other sessions

In addition to the general sessions and the sessions on new manuals, the conference will feature many sessions guaranteed to pique your interest.

- **Red Hot and New:** Jerri Neduchal plans a rocking good time for participants of this session, who will come away with many new ideas for spicing up their training sessions.
- **The Responsible and Responsive Use of Humor in Working with Special Needs Populations:** Everyone who knows Larry Bemish knows he

always has a joke or a tall tale to tell. In this session, Larry shares what he's learned about using humor effectively.

- Joan Nejezchleb will share her experience in a session titled **Building in Prerequisite Skills for DISSECT.**
- **Using the Concept Mastery Video:** Keith Lenz will focus on how to incorporate the video "Teaching with the Concept Mastery Routine," its companion Video Viewer's Guide, and the *Concept Mastery Routine* guidebook into training.
- Don Deshler will help SIM Trainers take their involvement with the

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Tentative conference schedule

Thursday, July 8

8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Registration
8:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	General Session "Language-Sensitive SIM" Barbara Ehren
10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Workshop Barbara Ehren
11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	Lunch On your own
1:15 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Concurrent sessions
5:15 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Social

Friday, July 9

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Keynote "Instruction of Students with Learning Disabilities: What Matters?" Naomi Zigmond
10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Workshop Naomi Zigmond
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Luncheon
1:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.	Poster Session
1:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.	Concurrent sessions

Saturday, July 10

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Kaleidoscope Continental breakfast
9:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Concurrent sessions
11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	Lunch On your own
1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Concurrent sessions
2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Closing session

Scheduled speakers

Since the publication of the April issue of *Stratenotes*, we have made some minor changes in the speaker schedule for this summer's National SIM Trainers' Conference.

Naomi Zigmond of the University of Pittsburgh will speak on Friday, July 9, rather than Thursday as originally planned.

Barbara J. Ehren, a SIM Trainer from the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, will give a special presentation on Thursday, July 8. Her topic will be "Language-Sensitive SIM."

Workshops cancelled

The potential trainer workshops for Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement, originally scheduled for August at the University of Kansas, have been cancelled because of low enrollment. However, the following options exist for interested individuals:

- A potential trainer workshop for Learning Strategies is planned in Michigan.
- A potential trainer workshop for Content Enhancement is planned in Florida.

For more information about these workshops, contact Janet Roth, (785) 864-4780 or jroth@ukans.edu.

Regional meeting feedback

Feedback from all of the regional update meetings tell us that wonderful events happened at all of them. A special thanks to the following SIM Leaders:

- Ron Wolf, coordinator of the Northeast Region Conference at Charleston, West Virginia
- Jerri Neduchal, coordinator of the Southeast Region Conference at Charleston, South Carolina
- Barb Millikan, coordinator of the Far West/Midwest Regions Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada

Anyone who would like to submit a report of the conference they attended is invited to do so.

1999-2000 SIM update meetings

- Northeast Region
Tentatively October 15-16, 1999—Connecticut
Alice Henley, coordinator
- West Region
February 5-6, 2000,
Tropicana Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada
Barbara Millikan, coordinator, assisted by Joe Crank
- Southeast Region
March 2-4, 2000—
Embassy Suites,
Charleston, South Carolina
Jerri Neduchal, coordinator, assisted by Shari Fiskum
- St. John Island SIM Trainers Conference
February 9-12, 2000—
Maho Bay Camps
Ed Pieper, coordinator

Camaraderie in paradise: SIM Trainers recharge

If you are looking for new, exciting experiences in a place that has all the characteristics of paradise, you will want to join other members of the SIM Network at the second SIM Trainers Update Conference on St. John Island, February 9-12, 2000.

In late April 1999, a small group of SIM Trainers met for four days at Maho Bay Camps on St. John Island, U.S. Virgin Islands, for the first Strategic Instruction Model conference at that site. The cultural and climate changes contributed to the rich intellectual exchange of ideas among the participants. Each morning, the group met for four hours in an outdoor pavilion on a high bluff overlooking the beauty of Maho Bay of the Caribbean Ocean. The spectacular setting seemed to stimulate the interactive flow of SIM knowledge and questions and inspired many original thoughts and responses. Speakers were challenged to maintain their original agenda.

The new *Course Organizer Routine* manual and all the other new Content Enhancement Routines and Learning Strategies were the focus of attention. The group was small enough that everyone attending had the opportunity to present a favorite aspect of her or his teaching and training repertoire. The exchange of knowledge continued into each afternoon and evening with group activities on the beach, on a catamaran, or in learning about the natural history and human history of the island. Most members of the group took advantage of the opportunity to snorkel in the most beautiful water in the world. Of course, as SIM tradition does have it, shopping was a must on Saturday afternoon with local artists displaying their wares at an outdoor fair in honor of Earth Day.

Flexibility and an adjustment to island life were essential components of this experience. The Maho Bay Camp is an unusual entity in itself. With an ecological emphasis, 114 tent-cottages are nestled into the side of a hillside among the trees. Neighbors are isolated

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from each other because of the density of the foliage. Boardwalks with numerous stairs join all of the huts with each other, the beach, and the core of the village, which is the outdoor restaurant, small store, and the information/activities director station. In the evenings, Maho Bay always provides special entertainment. Those who do not want to stay in the tent-cottages may spend more money for quarters in cabins that offer more creature comforts to guests. These cabins are located higher on the hill above the tent-cottages.

The unusual aspects of St. John included a 20-minute ride on the ferry from St. Thomas Island; rides in the typical St. John taxi, which is a pickup truck with wooden seats in the back for passengers; feral donkeys along the roads; and cars with steering wheels on their left driven on the left-hand side of the narrow mountain roads. Passengers beware!

The beauty of the island is found everywhere in the brilliant blue water, the stars in the night sky that sparkle like dancers, the beautiful flowering vegetation, the gorgeous children, and the spectacular fish and other marine organisms.

For those who are interested in attending next February, plane

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Lodging information

Several establishments have given us special rates for the conference this summer. When making reservations, **you must mention that you are attending the KU Center for Research on Learning Workshop** to receive these rates. Prices quoted are for single occupancy unless otherwise specified. Taxes are not included.

Anderson Inn Cozy Cottages

Private residences within walking distance of campus
(785) 843-2044
Two cottages available
Rates start at \$89 entire house.

Comfort Inn & Suites

740 Iowa St.
(785) 838-4242
One of newest motels
\$60 flat rate; \$5 each additional person
Indoor pool, hot breakfast
Must verify you are with CRL.

Days Inn

2309 Iowa St.
(785) 843-9100
One of newest motels
\$68
Includes refrigerator, coffeepot, continental breakfast, indoor pool, and jacuzzi

Eldridge Hotel

701 Massachusetts
(785) 749-5011
Historic downtown hotel
\$76—Queen suite, single occupancy
\$86—Double suite, single occupancy
\$92—Double suite, double occupancy
*\$75—for any room if we occupy 15 rooms

Halcyon House

1000 Ohio St.
(785) 841-0314
Bed and breakfast
Nine rooms available; close to campus and downtown
\$47-\$89
Price reflects single and double room rates. Lower rate means sharing a bath. Full breakfast offered.

Hallmark Inn

730 Iowa St.
(785) 841-6500
\$58-\$85
Prices vary according to room

Hampton Inn

2300 W. 6th St.
(785) 841-4994
One of newest motels
\$58 flat rate
Deluxe continental breakfast, indoor pool, hot tub, workout room, computer outlets in rooms

Holiday Inn Holidome

200 McDonald Drive.
(785) 841-7077
Indoor pool and restaurant
\$65
Reservations must be made by June 10.

Ramada Inn

2222 W. 6th St.
(785) 842-7030
Outdoor swimming pool, restaurant.
\$56 flat rate; \$8 each additional person
Reservations must be made three weeks in advance.

Travelodge Motel

801 Iowa St.
(785) 842-5100
Outdoor heated swimming pool
\$45 flat rate if stay is 5 days; otherwise, \$48 for single, \$55 for double

Transportation options

Even though some travel agents will want to send you to Topeka, plan to fly to Kansas City International Airport in Kansas City, Missouri. Transportation from the Kansas City Airport to Lawrence is much easier. The airport is northeast of Lawrence, approximately an hour's drive away. You may want to rent a car or use the transportation services described below. If you are driving from the airport to Lawrence, take the I-435 Topeka exit and then I-70 west. Leave I-70 at the East Lawrence exit if you are staying at The Anderson Inn Cozy Cottages, the Eldridge Hotel, or the Halcyon House. For other places, the West Lawrence exit is more convenient.

Services

Superior Shuttle Service

Call (888) 795-3914 (toll free outside of Lawrence) or (785) 838-4500 for reservations.

Make reservations 12 to 24 hours in advance. \$22 one way; \$40 round trip. The shuttle departs from the airport every one and a half to two hours, with the latest departure from KCI at 12:15 a.m. The earliest departure from Lawrence is 4:45 a.m. (\$35 one way). The shuttle offers free pickup and delivery at all area hotels and motels. The shuttle service offers 24-hour transportation for an additional fee.

Lawrence Taxi Service

Call (785) 842-8294 for reservations. Rates are \$4 for a ride of fewer than 10 blocks and \$6 for everything over that within Lawrence city limits. Additional passengers bring a \$.75 per person increase in rates.

Events & materials

Your three-day conference registration fee includes the following:

- Friday lunch
- snacks at the Thursday social
- Saturday continental breakfast
- training materials

One- or two-day registration fees cover training materials and special events occurring on the days for which you are registered.

Skits

In past years, we've seen some very creative skits during the conference social. We're planning again this year to showcase your dramatic efforts. Let us know if you would like to perform during this year's social.

Kaleidoscope and poster sessions

The conference will feature the return of our popular kaleidoscope session. This session is designed to allow more people to trade ideas, tips, and successes.

Participants move through several stations, hearing short presentations at each.

The kaleidoscope presentations complement the traditional poster session. If you have an idea that doesn't lend itself well to a traditional poster, consider presenting it during the kaleidoscope session. Please also be thinking of ideas you can present in the traditional poster format.

Registration Form

National SIM Trainers' Conference

July 8-10, 1999

Holidome

Lawrence, Kansas

Name: _____

Social Security Number (required): _____

Work Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

I give permission for CRL to include my name, address, and phone number in a listing to be distributed to conference participants: **— yes — no**

How many previous National SIM Trainers' Conferences have you attended? _____

Registration Fee

All 3 Days

Thursday-Saturday, July 8-10

\$100

\$ _____

2 Days

☐ Thursday, July 8

☐ Friday, July 9

☐ Saturday, July 10

(Please check the days you plan to attend.)

\$80

\$ _____

1 Day

☐ Thursday, July 8

☐ Friday, July 9

☐ Saturday, July 10

(Please check the day you plan to attend.)

\$55

\$ _____

Total Enclosed:

\$ _____

Make check payable to KU-CRL

Mail to Janet B. Roth

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning
3061 Dole

Lawrence, KS 66045

Your receipt for registration will be available at the conference.

Take a look

StrateNet

Suggestion Box

Anita Friede suggested we build a section of StrateNet in which each strategy and routine would have a special place. Anita goes through her *Strategram* and *Stratenote* articles to find appropriate items to use for training or teaching. "When I am focused on a strategy or routine," she wrote, "the other stuff in the supports gets in my way."

Building on this request, **Jim Knight** and **Sue Woodruff** suggested creating one folder for training tips with subfolders for each strategy.

This discussion led to the development of the SIM Library, a new feature on StrateNet.

Thanks to Anita, Sue and Jim for making these suggestions.

Join in

To participate in any of the discussions on StrateNet, or to start a discussion of your own, simply log on and start posting. You can access StrateNet through KU-CRL's Web site, www.ku-crl.org. You must have a valid user ID and password to log on. If you do not have a user ID and password, e-mail your request to Julie Tollefson at jtollefson@ukans.edu.

Language

The Language-Sensitive SIM discussion continues on StrateNet. To join the discussion, see the Language-Sensitive SIM folder on your StrateNet desktop.

Open Forum

David Scanlon posed the following question in Open Forum: "In my work with classroom teachers learning to incorporate strategies into their curriculum I find that while I can get them enthusiastic about strategies they don't really "buy in" until they see the evidence in the classroom that they are looking for. ... I'm concerned that they are generally only concerned with such results though. Very important to being a good strategy user is to think and act strategically, this means to not perform strategy steps in a rote fashion. So here's my question: What are some of the ways other trainers encourage teachers to teach for and look for students thinking in strategic ways?"

Respond to David in the Open Forum area of StrateNet.

SIM Library

SIM Library is a new area on StrateNet, designed as an archive for training tips, teaching tips, articles, and other information related to strategies and routines. The library contains a folder for each strategy and routine. Within the last few weeks, we have loaded articles from *Strategram* Volumes 9 and 10 to the archives.

Trainers speak at international LD summit

Several members of the International SIM Trainers' Network participated in the recent Keys to Successful Learning: A National Summit on Research in Learning Disabilities in Washington, D.C.

The summit brought together policy makers, administrators, researchers, and practitioners to share information and plan the next steps in bridging the gap between research and practice.

Sue Woodruff, a SIM Trainer and Teacher Consultant at Muskegon, Michigan, High School, spoke in a session showcasing examples of how educators have successfully implemented research-based practices in the classroom. The session was titled "Reading, Writing, and Higher Order Learning: Research-Based Practice in Action." **Don Deshler**, director of the Center for Research on Learning, also participated in this session as a panelist.

Carl Skordahl, Director of Special Education, Educational Service Center in Osseo (Minnesota) Area Schools, participated in a panel discussion with teacher training professionals from around the country who are making research-based instruction a reality. The title of the session was "State and Local Districts That Are Making It Work."

Don also spoke during the summit on "Moving Research into the Hands of Educators: Practices that Enhance Student Learning."

www.ku-crl.org

Don't forget to visit the Center for Research on Learning Web site for the most up-to-date information about the 1999 National SIM Trainers' Conference.

Conference sessions

(Continued from page 3)

Strategic Instruction Model to new levels in a session titled **How to Set Up Action Research Studies.**

- Participants will learn about the **Possible Selves Strategy** during Mike Hoch's presentation.
- **Translating Research into Practice:** Jim Knight will focus on a research-validated program of working with individuals, groups, and schools. Jim promises that participants will receive an abundance of valuable materials.

- Jim also plans to present an update of the **Strategic Advantage** project and to share the library of Course and Unit Organizers developed for sophomores in an integrated curriculum.
- **Writing Strategies:** Keli Gustafson and Jim Knight will explore the process of developing a kindergarten to fifth-grade scope and sequence program for the writing strategies. The session will include the modifications made to *Fundamentals of Sentence Writing* for students in kindergarten through second grade.

CRL

St. John

(Continued from page 4)

reservations must be made *very early*, several months in advance. Some people were unable to attend because the price of plane tickets became prohibitive (\$1,700 from Florida) closer to the time of the conference. Now is the time to begin looking into this trip. This year, the best fares were \$500 to \$600 from several places across the country. Also, persons should plan to arrive in St. Thomas so that they can travel to St. John in daylight on the ferry. No taxis are available on St. John later than 9 p.m., and the crooked mountain roads could confuse people trying to drive rental cars after dark.

If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity to build camaraderie in paradise with other SIM trainers, please contact Janet Roth at (785) 864-4780 or jroth@ukans.edu to let her know of your interest.

FIRST CLASS

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