Strate*notes*

Summer 2001
Volume 9, Issue 9
an international newsletter for SIM Trainers

A look inside

New CRL structure reflects diversity of studies

Julie Tollefson, Director of Communications
Center for Research on Learning

The past year has seen numerous changes at the Center for Research on Learning.

Not only have we published two new manuals (see page 5), with a third very close to completion, but we've also scrutinized our inner workings and begun the process of streamlining our organization.

Don Deshler, director of the Center, and Keith Lenz, CRL research scientist, outlined some of our recent organizational work during July's International SIM Trainers' Conference in Lawrence. They also provided a brief look at some of our current projects.

"Many projects take place within the Center that are not showcased at all at the conference, but they really have a significant impact on our overall thinking and really inform the work we're doing," Don told the conference participants.

Part of our internal organization study involved clarifying the Center's vision, mission, goals, and values (see our web site, **www.ku-crl.org**, for more information about the Center's charter, inclusing vision, mission, goals, and values). In addition, the Center formalized the names of the four institutes conducting research under the CRL umbrella. They are the Institute for Effective Instruction, the Advanced Learning Technologies Division, the Division of Adult Studies, and the e-Learning Design Laboratory.

Institute for Effective Instruction

The Institute for Effective Instruction studies the underlying factors related to academic under-achievement and intervention strategies that dramatically improve the performance of learners.

Although Strategic Instruction Model research is conducted primarily in this institute, the work of other CRL institutes often contributes to the knowledge generated here.

Current projects under way in the Institute for Effective Instruction:

Fact:
The Center for Research on Learning is one of six designated research centers at the University of Kansas. It is the second largest of these centers. In addition, CRL has a formal research relationship with one of the other designated centers, the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center.

Calendar

September 1, 2001
Strateworks membership fees due to KU-CRL
Lawrence, Kansas

October 5, 2001
Regional SIM Trainers' Conference
Dubuque, Iowa

November 9-10, 2001
Northeast Region SIM Trainers' Conference
Avon, Connecticut

January 23-25, 2002
Florida SIM Trainers' Conference
Central Florida

February 1-2, 2002
West Region SIM Trainers' Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada

March 7-9, 2002
Southeast Region SIM Trainers' Conference
Charleston, South Carolina

March 20-22, 2002
Preservice SIM Trainers' Conference
Maho Bay, St. John Island

June 20-22, 2002
California Update Meeting

July 17-19, 2002
International SIM Trainers' Conference
Lawrence, Kansas

Pins presented

Pins are presented to SIM Trainers at certain milestones based on the number of years they have attended the International Conference. This year, the following presentations were made:

15-year pins: Gail Cheever, Shari Schindele (also, CRL staff members Don Deshler, Jean Schumaker, and Keith Lenz)

10-year pins: Judy Peterson, Barbara Vallejo, and Mary Whitaker

5-year pins: Sue Meyer, Kim Short, Sandy Van Pelt, Sue Woodruff, and Gwen Swoope

CRL notes...

Gwen Berry, SIM Trainer and Center for Research on Learning staff member, has taken a position at Mankato State University in Minnesota. Gwen has long been affiliated with CRL, including as a doctoral fellow and later as a project coordinator for CRL's Division of Adult Studies. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

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Jean B. Schumaker
B. Keith Lenz
Jim Knight
Janet B. Roth
Editor: Julie Tollefson

Growth of the Center

Year	Expenditures	% Increase
FY96	$2,473,202	----
FY97	$2,749,759	10% increase
FY98	$3,823,545	28% increase
FY99	$5,130,784	25% increase
FY00	$8,620,390	40% increase

- Pathways to Success (**www.ku-crl.org/pathways**)
- Institute for Academic Access (**www.AcademicAccess.org**)
- Smarttogether Strategic Learning Network (**www.smarttogether.org**)
- Content Enhancement Online (**www.contentenhancement.org**)
- Project Open Door (**www.ku-crl.org/opendoor**)
- Reading Strategies Online
- Innovation Configuration
- Evaluating the Effects of SIM on Student Outcomes
- Content Literacy Continuum

To learn more about these projects, visit the Center's web site at **www.ku-crl.org**.

Advanced Learning Technologies Division

The Advanced Learning Technologies division studies ways technology can be used to enhance instruction. Among ALTec's current projects are the following:

- KanCRN (**www.kancrn.org**), a science education project
- High Plains Regional Technology in Education Consortium (**www.hprtec.org**), a project that offers a means for highly creative teachers to share their methods for integrating technology and instruction
- Powerof2 (**www.powerof2.org**), a project that involves teachers teaming together and collaboration
- 4kids.org (**www.4kids.org**), a project that introduces children to good, exciting sites on the web

To learn more about these projects, visit ALTec's web site, **www.altec.org**.

Division of Adult Studies

The Division of Adult Studies addresses issues in transition, education, employment, and quality of life of adults with disabilities. Among current DAS projects are the following:

- Individual Accommodations Model
- Moving Adults with LD from Welfare to Work
- Design & Validation of Screening Instrument for Spanish Speaking Adults
- Increasing Self-Sufficiency for Adults with Disabilities

To learn more about these projects, visit the Division of Adult Studies web site, **das.kucrl.org**.

e-Learning Design Lab

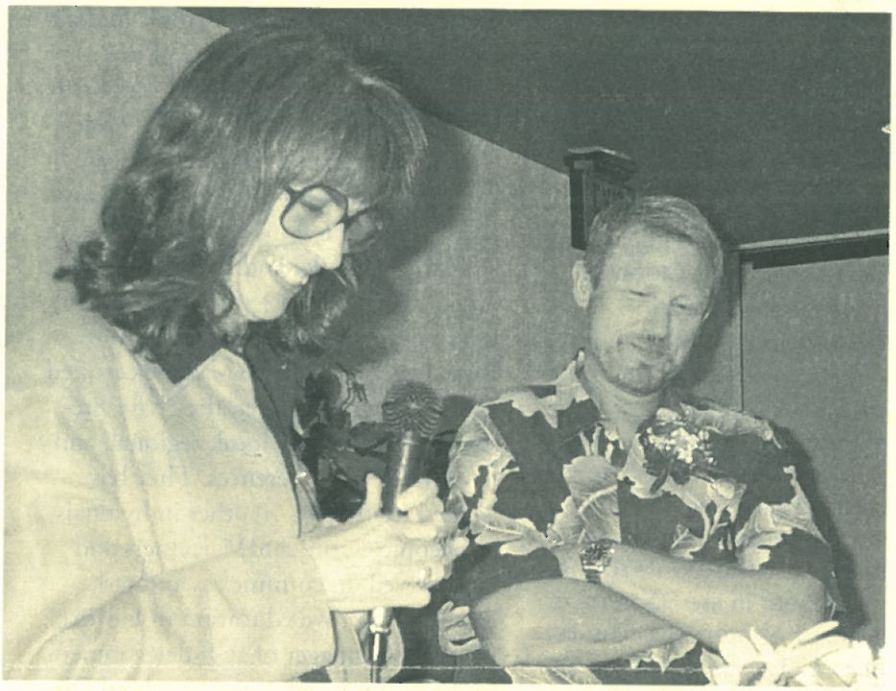
The newly formed e-Learning Design Lab studies and develops online instructional models that incorporate validated principles of pedagogy.

The Center for Research on Learning has teamed with researchers from the Information and Telecommunications Technology Center at the University of Kansas to develop this lab.

Check the Center for Research on Learning web site (**www.ku-crl.org**) for updates on progress of the e-Learning Design Lab. ☒

CRL, SIM network honor outstanding partners, leaders

Each year, the Center for Research on Learning honors outstanding individuals and groups who have contributed greatly to our overall mission through their dedication and hard work. For more information about the awards and this year's recipients, visit the 2001 Conference highlights section of our web site: **www.ku-crl.org/2001con/awards.html**.



Associate Director Jean Schumaker surprises Keith Lenz, research scientist, recipient of one of the 2001 SIM Leadership Awards.

The **Gordon R. Alley Partnership Award** acknowledges the outstanding contributions of individuals for their work in enabling the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning to fulfill its mission.

Anne Clouatre began her education career as a special education teacher in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. Now supervisor of programs for students with learning disabilities for the Louisiana Department of Education, her primary responsibility is staff development for teachers of students with disabilities. In 1999, Anne launched a Strategic Instruction Model program in Louisiana. It has grown into a statewide project. Anne is a certified Content Enhancement Trainer and is working toward certification as a Learning Strategies Trainer.

Barbara Duchardt completed a Ph.D. in Special Education and Administration at the University of Kansas-Lawrence, where she was a research assistant at CRL. Presently, she is an associate professor in the College of Education at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and is the recipient of the Arthur C. Watson Endowed Professorship. She has been instrumental in fostering the growth of regional SIM programs in northern Louisiana.

James Glass grant specialist for Topeka, Kansas, Public Schools, managed grants totaling $9,493,587 for the district in the 2000-2001 school year. One of the grants he works with is CRL's *Pathways to Success,* funded through the U.S. Department of Education's GEAR-UP program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs). Jim's work within the school district has paved the way for the success of the *Pathways* project.

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. It is given to individuals who have been leaders in the SIM International Training Network.

Luanne Todd has been active in the SIM network for more than 10 years and currently is the only SIM Trainer in Colorado. In 1995, she started her own business, the Learning Coach[SM], with the mission of providing SIM Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement Routine training to teachers as well as providing private strategic tutoring sessions for students and their parents. She has trained teachers in school districts, private schools, and at the college level and has presented SIM-related sessions at local, state, >

New SIM Trainers

The following new SIM Trainers received their certificates during the 2001 International SIM Trainers' Conference:

Learning Strategies

Iowa: Georgie Koenig, Paula Hamp Nelson

Kansas: Kathy Karlin, Rebecca Williams, Patsy Wells

Content Enhancement

Louisiana: Joyce Russo, Patricia Neal, Anne Clouatre

Kansas: Bob Hubert

Washington: Melissa James

Visit the Center's web site, www.ku-crl.org, to see photos of these individuals.

A complete list of newly certified SIM Trainers, including those who were unable to attend the conference, will appear in the September issue of *Stratenotes.* The list also will be available in the SIMville section of our web site.

Participants enjoy the annual recognition luncheon.

regional, and national conferences. She has contributed to CRL publications and electronic communications opportunities. In summarizing her experiences with SIM, Luanne wrote, "I have found the energy to do this, in part, because I believe so strongly that students deserve to have SIM tools in their hands ***now*** and also because of the generous encouragement and support I have received from the SIM Network. The colleagues and resources it has provided me have been invaluable as I have tried to promote SIM in this state."

Debbie Cooke and **Patricia Sampson-Graner** met in 1988 when they were selected as representatives from Palm Beach County to become certified SIM Trainers. Together, they have presented at numerous local, regional, and national SIM conferences. They have trained more than 50 other individuals to become certified SIM Trainers and have served on committees and task forces to improve education in Florida. Debbie is manager of staff development for the Palm Beach County School District, Office of Staff Development. Last year, Patty became coordinator of strategic education training for CRL's Strategic Learning Center in Seattle, Washington. Although working on opposite coasts has hampered the team's ability to train together frequently, it has not dampened their enthusiasm for SIM.

Karen Koskovich, a Special Education Consultant in Dubuque, Iowa, is known throughout the SIM Network for her creativity and energy in developing unique ways to support instruction and implementation of SIM Learning Strategies. Karen's games and tips have been featured in *Strategram,* Stratellite Connection videotapes, and at local, regional, and national conferences. She has offered numerous opportunities for Iowa educators to learn more about SIM. During the past year, she has added training sessions and monthly follow-up calls at a youth correctional facility in Wisconsin. "The progress and excitement that are being generated now that they have taught the strategies for a third time make the extra effort worthwhile," she said. Her recent projects involved adapting the *Assignment Completion Strategy* for the elementary level and devoting a great deal of time and energy to organizing the Oct. 5 Regional SIM Conference in Iowa.

Keith Lenz, CRL research scientist, was a surprise recipient of the SIM Leadership Award. Keith is an author of many of the manuals that result from the research conducted by CRL. He is active in CRL research and is dedicated to sharing results and progress with the SIM Network at local, regional, and international meetings. He serves as a resource for both CRL staff and SIM Trainers. His work with Content Enhancement continues to inspire the development of innovative instructional methods and tools for general education teachers. Among his current projects are the Strategic Learning Centers in Lawrence and Seattle and development of a content enhancement planning CD. He also is leader of the Institute for Academic Access project schools in Washington state.

The **SIM Innovation Award** recognizes schools or programs that have demonstrated highly innovative and effective applications of SIM.

The **Summer Reading Institute** of Baltimore County, Maryland, introduces participants to SIM, providing instruction in the *Word Identification Strategy, LINCS Vocabulary Strategy,* and the *Paraphrasing Strategy.* The institute includes instruction for both teachers and students. ☒

Conference highlights

The 2001 International SIM Conference offered something for everyone, as participants explored the *Road to the Final Four:*

- Helping students become independent and lifelong learners
- Improving the quality of instruction in schools
- Integrating SIM with other best practices
- Creating real access to the general education curriculum for all students

Several members of the SIM Network contributed greatly to the overall quality of the conference through breakout sessions and poster and kaleidoscope presentations. Special sessions focused on new undertakings at the Center for Research on Learning as well as on how SIM relates to current issues in education.

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Russell Gersten of the University of Oregon, addressed the issue of sustained change in classroom practices. He emphasized the research on the process of teaching that can help professional developers gain perspective on their efforts. Gersten followed his keynote with an engaging discussion of real issues facing professional developers today during a casual breakout session.

Dr. John Poggio, co-director of the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation at the University of Kansas, invited participants to learn more about standardized testing in *Large-Scale Assessment and the Needs of Students with Learning Difficulties: Issues, Realities, and Opportunities.* After Poggio's introductory remarks, representatives of the SIM Network raised issues regarding specific implications of standards-based assessments for those teaching SIM interventions. Don Deshler, CRL director, and Keith Lenz, CRL research scientist, joined Jacob Bertucci, program specialist with the Los Angeles Unified School District, on this panel.

We continue to work on the Content Enhancement Interactive Organizer CD-ROM. This tool will allow you to construct course, unit, and lesson organizers and concept diagrams, moving smoothly from device to device as you attach notes, web links, and more. For more information about this project, visit its web site, **www.contentenhancement.org**.

Another CRL project that will have direct benefits for the SIM Network is an attempt to describe the essential elements of SIM to assist with effective implementation. Look for more information about this innovation configuration in future issues of *Stratenotes.*

In the spirit of integrating SIM with other best practices (one of the four goals associated with the conference theme, the *Road to the Final Four), Reading Proficiency: SIM* + took a look at the research regarding teaching students with reading disabilities to be proficient readers, what pieces SIM provides, and how other programs fit

New manuals

Two new manuals made their debut during the 2001 International SIM Trainers' Conference:

Following Instructions Together is the second program in the *Community Building Series.* It is designed to teach students concepts and strategies associated with following instructions effectively. The first lesson is a review of the *Talking Together* program. The next two lessons help students follow simple and complex instructions and work effectively with partners. In the last lesson, students learn to check their written assignments before turning them in to ensure that they have followed all of the instructions. Practice activities are included for both younger and older students.

The ***Vocabulary LINCing Routine,*** a new manual in the *Content Enhancement Series,* is designed to facilitate student use of two powerful tools that will help them learn and remember the meaning of complex terms. The *Vocabulary LINCing Routine* is based heavily on the *LINCS Vocabulary Strategy.* Indeed, the LINCS steps that are found in both the routine and the strategy are the same. The primary difference between the routine and the instructional program for the strategy is where they should be used and by whom. The *Vocabulary LINCING Routine* is designed for use by general education teachers in subject-area classes, while the *LINCS Vocabulary Strategy* is best used by support teachers in smaller classes where intensive instruction can take place.

New on the CRL web site

CRL's web site links to all of the items listed below. To reach the web site's Table of Contents page,

- visit **www.ku-crl.org** then click on **Contents**
  or
- use the following direct address: **www.ku-crl.org/htmlfiles/core.html**

- As a result of CRL's recent organizational streamlining efforts, we have revised our charter. Read about our **vision, mission, goals**, and **values** in the **August SIM Spotlight**.
  www.ku-crl.org/archives/2001/0801spot.html
- An enthusiastic new group completed **potential trainers' workshops** for learning strategies and content enhancement at CRL this summer. See **fun photos** on our site.
  www.ku-crl.org/htmlfiles/core.html

Special thank you

A special note of thanks to SIM Trainer **Connie Gentle,** who so graciously stepped in to instruct the new potential trainers for Learning Strategies at the University of Kansas when Fran Clark became ill.

And a thank you, too, to **Jerri Neduchal,** who led the potential trainer workshop for Content Enhancement when she had planned to have Connie as her co-trainer.

into the overall picture. Barbara Ehren, CRL research associate, presented that session. In addition, Rosemary Tralli, independent trainer from Glastonbury, Connecticut, discussed ways to develop students' writing skills by integrating strategies and skills from multiple approaches in *Six Trait and SIM: A Perfect Marriage for Writing Instruction.*

The kaleidoscope session again offered an enticing variety of minisessions covering topics ranging from adaptations of strategy instruction for elementary students to program development for students who are highly at risk to descriptions of SIM mentoring programs.

See more highlights of the conference, including photos and session descriptions, on the Center's web site: **www.ku-crl.org/2001con/2001con.html.** ☒

Web links

2001 International SIM Trainers' Conference

- Highlights
  www.ku-crl.org/2001con/2001con.html
- Awards
  www.ku-crl.org/2001con/awards.html
- Photographic retrospective
  www.ku-crl.org/2001con/photos.html
- Session descriptions
  www.ku-crl.org/2001con/sessions.html
- Content Enhancement Interactive Organizer CD-ROM
  www.contentenhancement.org

Creative ideas needed

Design a Logo for the SIM Network!

Several SIM Trainers in recent years have voiced a need for some kind of logo that could be used on business cards and letterhead to identify individuals as members of the International Training Network.

We are interested in pursuing this idea and would like to have your ideas about what such a logo should look like.

In thinking about the logo, how it should look, and what it should represent, we thought it might be useful to have a verbal portrait of the SIM Network. We asked SIM Trainers who subscribe to SIMTRAINER-L to offer a few words describing the SIM Network, SIM Trainers, and the work SIM Trainers do. Here are the results of that discussion:

...united, team, teamwork, collaborations, partnerships, coordinated, united, partners, networkers, friends, synergistic

...leading edge, progressive, innovative, leaders, seekers, pioneers, teachers

...fun-loving, upbeat, positive, optimistic, enthused, positive, hopeful, energetic

...caring, open-minded, openness, givers, understanding, willing

...intelligent, knowledgeable, willing to learn, learners, thinkers, able

...inspirational, encouraging, sharers, supportive, willing to help others, accepting of others, supportive, teachers

...talented, creative, flexible, resourceful

...dedicated, strong, thorough, rational, committed, prepared, persistent, truthful

Now that we've *heard* what you have to say, we'd like to *see* what you think. Get your creative juices going! Submit your logo ideas to Julie Tollefson by October 1. You may e-mail Julie at jtollefson@ku.edu or mail ideas to her at KU-CRL, 521 JRP Hall, 1122 West Campus Road, Lawrence, KS 66045.

2001-2002 Strategram Schedule
(Tentative)

The strength of *Strategram,* our newsletter for SIM teachers, lies in the many wonderful contributions made by SIM Trainers over the years. Please take a look at the tentative editorial schedule for *Strategram* for 2001-2002, and consider sharing classroom activities, ideas, teacher tips, stories, or other materials that will support the efforts of *Strategram's* readers to provide quality, strategic instruction for students.

November Issue

Deadline: October 1, 2001
Topic: Sustained change
Examples: Data regarding student benefits from long-term use of strategies or routines, generalization activities...

January Issue

Deadline: December 1, 2001
Topic: Reading
Examples: Materials and ideas for use with reading strategies *(Paraphrasing, Visual Imagery, Self-Questioning),* SIM and other reading programs, integrating SIM into existing reading programs, innovative uses of SIM to improve reading comprehension...

March Issue

Deadline: February 1, 2002
Topic: Adapting strategies for use in general education classroom
Examples: *Vocabulary LINCing Routine,* strategies activities for use in general education classrooms...

May Issue

Deadline: April 1, 2002
Topic: Content Enhancement
Examples: Activities, materials, or ideas related to Content Enhancement Routines for classroom use, activities or ideas related to the new *Vocabulary LINCing Routine* or *Question Exploration Routine...*

July Issue

Deadline: June 1, 2002
Topic: Writing
Examples: Materials and ideas for use with writing strategies *(Sentence Writing, Paragraph Writing, Error Monitoring),* SIM and other writing programs, integrating SIM into existing writing programs, innovative uses of SIM to improve writing skills...

If you have materials, stories, or classroom ideas to supplement any of these topics, please submit them before the deadline to Julie Tollefson, jtollefson@ku.edu, or mail them to Julie at the Center, 521 Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 1122 West Campus Road, Lawrence, KS 66045.

This schedule and the planned topics are tentative and subject to change. Please don't feel constrained by these topics. We are always looking for good classroom ideas and materials to share in *Strategram* and will consider all materials submitted, regardless of the main focus of the issue.

E-SIMville

SIMTRAINER-L

To engage in discussions for SIM Trainers, subscribe to our e-mail discussion list. Send an e-mail message to

listproc@ukans.edu

In the body of the message, type

sub SIMTRAINER-L Your Name

Replace "Your Name" with your name. Note that SIMTRAINER-L is all one word; do not type any spaces in the list name. Do not type anything in the subject line of the message.

SIMville

SIMville is the first place to look for training and classroom activities. From the Center's web site,

www.ku-crl.org

click on "SIM Trainer Resources." When you select the log on option, you will be asked for a password. Type "**strategic**" in the box (do not type the quotation marks). The password is case-sensitive, so you must use all lowercase letters. Click on the "OK" button. To bypass the password screen in the future, bookmark the first SIMville page.

New on SIMville:

- What should a **SIM Trainer logo** look like? Get involved in the design of a logo for the SIM International Training Network. Visit SIMville for more information.
- The **Training Tips** section of SIMville has been updated with many new ideas for your professional development sessions. Check it out, then add tips of your own by e-mailing them to jtollefson@ku.edu.

Potential trainer workshop participants

The following people have completed potential trainer workshops for either Learning Strategies or Content Enhancement.

Center for Research on Learning/University of Kansas

Learning Strategies
Trainer: Connie Gentle

Iowa: Amy Sturm; *Kansas:* Lynn Barnes, Devona Dunekack, Wendy Meyer; *Minnesota:* Molly Lynch, Beth Mortinson; *Nevada:* Kathy Konold, Ashley Skylar, Michelle Wilson; *North Carolina:* Alice Bartley; *Texas:* Elizabeth Gaidry, Frieda Lee Schwartz; *Vermont:* Winona Lowe

Content Enhancement
Trainer: Jerri Neduchal

Canada: Dorothy Finlayson, Jean Lendzyk; *Florida:* Jorge Vallin; *Nebraska:* Anne Millea; *Pennsylvania:* Virginia Lewandoski; *Texas:* Candace Bixler; *Virginia:* Robert Keniston, Cheryl Reynolds, Kim Tate

Michigan

Learning Strategies
Trainers: Sue Woodruff and Jim Knight

Pam Albin, Jackie Ball, Mary Bowman, Ardena Duren, Suzanne Finney, Paula Hoffman, Mary Pollock, Rita Reimbold, Lynne Snyder, Deb Streu, Debbie Underhill, Margie Wood, Kelli-Ann Woodruff

Louisiana

Learning Strategies
Trainer: Rosemary Tralli

Sheila Barber, Yvonne Ben, Hilly Bernard, Kristina Braud, Anne Clouatre, Rachel Dugas, Eva Miller, Patricia Neal, Joey Neumann, Melynda Rodrigue, Joyce Russo

Connecticut

Learning Strategies
Trainer: Rosemary Tralli

Barbara Haggerty, Carol A. Hanny, Diane Lucarelli, Donna Wittmer

New York City

Content Enhancement
Trainers: Rosemary Tralli and Ann Hoffman

Edna Agyeman, Deborah Aslanian, Antoinette Bianco, David Connor, Renee Cowart-Jenkins, Lisa DeMatte, Patti Fager, Elise Feldman, Lorri Gumanow, Dorothea Killea-Meany, Marcia Kimmel, Sharon Korn, Kathleen LeFevre, Sharon Longert, Theresa Luger, Danielle Papa, Patrick Reimer, Ellen Spund

Workshops also have been conducted in Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, and Georgia, but the names of the new potential trainers from these workshops have not been turned in to CRL at this time.

FIRST CLASS

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STRATENOTES Volume 9-Issue #9
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