

IACESA NEWS UPDATE

MAY 2013



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COGNITIVE EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

News Update with news of local and international events of interest to our members.

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MESSAGE FROM THE IACESA PRESIDENT - ESTELLE BRETTENNY

Dear IACESA Members

IACESA would like to wish all our members, and other persons interested in cognitive education, best wishes for a thoughtful and productive year.

Our 2013 IACESA Conference was very successful and has been described by some individuals as 'the best IACESA Conference that they have ever attended'. We could not have achieved this without the contributions of the international and local presenters and we salute them for their time and effort to bring to life our conference theme:

*Essential Tools for Learning and Life:
Language...Thinking...Diversity...*

On page Elsefie Wranz, IACESA's Immediate Past President, provides a reflective summary of the 2013 conference. Elsefie played a crucial role in leading the IACESA Board and Conference

Organizing Committee to host a memorable and meaningful conference.

There have been some changes in the IACESA Board. We would like to thank outgoing Board members, Dr Anita Worrall and Dr Louis Benjamin, for their years of dedicated service to IACESA's activities. We also thank Debby Evans, Sharon Moonsamy and Les Osler for their contributions during their terms of involvement with IACESA.

We welcome the new IACESA Board members: Janet Condy, Stef Esterhuizen, Magda Kloppers and Mia Schoeman. Please visit the IACESA website for more details regarding the Board members.

IACESA strives to place the development of effective thinking, learning and quality teaching in the forefront of the quest for human and economic development in South Africa. We are busy with planning for Cog Ed Seminars for 2013 and the 2015 IACESA conference. Our News Updates and the website will be used to inform our members about cognitive education events

or learning opportunities and provide relevant articles or information.

On a day-to-day basis all of us however function in our own work situations to fulfill our daily roles, tasks and activities as teachers, therapists, psychologists, etc. We encounter learners and clients with problems: concentration problems, learning problems, thinking problems, emotional problems... Let us all take time to *think more deeply* about our learners and clients this year. Let us look at the *person* who has the problem and not at the problem alone. Let us teach or treat the *person* with the problem. Let us *listen* to

our learners and clients because often they can tell us *why* they cannot think or learn effectively.

But, firstly, let us be kind to ourselves. Life is truly a gift, treasure it. Make the right decisions. Make a positive difference in the world, however small. Take care of yourself physically, emotionally and financially so that you have the energy and the means to enjoy your life and help those around you.

Estelle Brettenny - IACESA President 2013 – 2015
Cell: 082 430 7956 estelle@brettenny.co.za

EXECUTIVE & BOARD MEMBERS (2013 - 2015)

PORT FOLIO	BOARD MEMBER
PRESIDENT	Estelle Brettenny: Private Occupational Therapist; Learning Health Consultant; Trainer in Metacognition & Thinking Skills and Programme Evaluator
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Elsiefie Wranz: HOD; Speech-Language Therapist and Audiologist at Jan Kriel School; Accredited as external lecturer with the Stellenbosch University Speech-Language and Hearing Therapy Department
PRESIDENT ELECT	Prof. Mary Grosser: Associate Professor: Teaching and Learning
HON. SECRETARY	Mandy Kowarski: Learning Support Therapist; Special Needs Co-ordinator
HON. TREASURER	Rabia Edries: Learning Support Teacher
	Prof. Lena Green: Extraordinary Professor of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of the Western Cape; Educational Psychologist
	Lillian Lomofsky: Educational Psychologist
	Prof. Janet Condy: Associate Professor of Education, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Faculty of Education and Social Sciences, Mowbray Campus
	Stef Esterhuizen: Lecturer: B Ed Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE), North-West University, Vanderbiljpark Campus.
	Magda Kloppers: Lecturer: Teaching and Learning, School of Education Sciences, North West University, Vanderbiljpark Campus
	Mia Schoeman: Educational Psychologist in private practice

THINKING BACK AND REFLECTING ON OUR "LANGUAGE... THINKING... DIVERSITY" - ESSENTIALS FOR LEARNING AND LIFE CONFERENCE

When the IACESA board and the conference committee debated the theme and subthemes for the conference – many hours were spent deciding what exact message we wished to convey about thinking in the 21st century. We wanted the theme to be contemporary, creative and to include diversity about thinking. We considered very carefully what would be interesting and valuable to us, but also what would be relevant and thought-provoking to our members. We were also aware that it is critical to be aware of what attracts people to a conference. During these debates, the idea of emphasizing the thinking processes within the brain, came up time and again. Although we did not specify the “brain and its processes” explicitly in our theme, the brain and its function in thinking were mentioned by most speakers in their presentations. So it appears that, although some very relevant and important concepts were not mentioned specifically in our pre-conference literature, these were implied in the theme and their relevance covered during the presentations.

Each presentation was chosen with care to tie in with the themes, and was required to be topical, relevant and thoroughly researched. The presentations of Prof Belle Wallace, Prof Louis Fourie, Prof Maryanne Wolf and Dr Kobus Neethling were rated very favourably. Prof Belle Wallace presented her very practical and relevant TASC approach to teaching which drew many complimentary comments from the delegates. Prof Maryanne Wolf highlighted reading as still being one of the major obstacles to optimal learning and cleared up many myths about poor reading skills in learners who experience barriers to learning, explaining what happens in the brain

when it is just not capable of functional reading. Kobus Neethling and Louis Fourie emphasized the important role of technology and creativity in our modern, technologically controlled world.

The feedback regarding our presenters and their presentations, informed us of the need for our delegates to be educated about the newest technology and its place in our education system as well as in our modern everyday life.

By choosing the Upper Eastside Hotel as our venue we took a calculated risk, as it is situated in a formerly dubious area. Fortunately the area is currently in the process of being upgraded and is steadily growing trendier and safer with many small businesses and quaint restaurants attracting tourists. Feedback suggested that the venue was easy to access and that the ambience was experienced very positively. Although parking posed a slight problem for a few delegates, finding a “legal” parking was not a major issue for the majority of our delegates.

We were very fortunate to have Jolandi and her competent team from ***On Screen Conferences and Events*** as our organisers – it was just a pure pleasure working with them. A sincere thank you goes to Jolandi and her team for thorough planning as well as outstanding execution of each task before, during and after the conference. We salute you and your team, Jolandi, not forgetting Mo and his audio-visual team!

We depend greatly on the feedback of our delegates when planning future conferences – hence the survey monkey format that made it uncomplicated and quick to give feedback. Thank you to all of you who took time to respond. If you have any additional comments – please do not hesitate to inform us of your wishes, desires and suggestions regarding Cog-Ed seminars or future conference topics.

Elsefie Wranz - Immediate Past President

**SNIPPETS FROM 2013 IACESA
CONFERENCE KEY NOTE
PRESENTATIONS**

DR KOBUS NEETHLING, President of the SA Creativity Foundation, challenged the audience to become 'beyonders' and to develop 'beyonders'. 98% of children younger than three years demonstrate creativity at a superior level but at the age of ten years only 30% of children show creativity! So to remain creative and to become a beyonder (or a beyonder school) a deliberate process is needed. We need to change our beliefs about ourselves, our jobs, our school or our organization. Beyonders ask, "What is possible?" and not "What is the problem?" We must move from *unconscious incompetence* to *conscious incompetence* to *intuitive competence*. We need a revolution in creativity...

PROF MARYANNE WOLF, John DiBiaggio Professor of Citizenship and Public Service and Director for the Centre of Reading and Language Research at Tufts University, stated that reading is the vehicle to unleash the potential of children. We want reading to propel the reader beyond the text to their own wisdom... we want deep reading and thinking beyond the text. It is however not natural for the brain to read and reading does not happen automatically. Multiple circuits must work together for the *Reading Brain* to function optimally. Fluency is not all about speed – it is how the circuits of the brain come together to read. Prof Wolf entertained the audience with fascinating details as well as demonstrations regarding the reading circuit and the implications for the evolving reading brain. She shared some simple but powerful principles to encourage deep reading, such as: *Encourage learners to read on if they come across a word that they can not read as they may come across a clue further in the sentence; Expect another thought from your learners; Ask them to say it;*

Teach learners to Think Thrice – think ahead, think back and think for themselves. Her book, *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain* is a must if you want to learn more about the Reading Brain. Prof Wolf also developed the RAVE-O Reading Intervention Programme that is widely used in many countries as well as in South Africa.

PROF KATHERINE GREENBERG, founder of the Cognitive Enrichment Advantage, made the conference delegates aware of the many marginalized learners or learners that can not learn effectively. They are often forced into a position of powerlessness due to all the stumbling blocks that they have to face. She emphasized that these *stumbling blocks* should become *stepping stones* and that the CEA Model (Cognitive Enrichment Advantage Model) can be used to assist learners to do this. The CEA Model's Building Blocks of Thinking (that are basic thinking skills/functions) and Tools of Learning (affective-motivational factors) are like "Rules of Life". Once you understand and know these 'Building Blocks and Tools', you can develop your own personal learning strategies.

PROF BELLE WALLACE, Director of TASC International, emphasized that you can not learn if your brain is not active. Children learn by doing and using their senses. If you tell them to sit still, they can not learn! Modern technology has trained the brains of children to expect short inputs. They are not trained to spend time thinking or to engage in problem solving. The TASC Approach (Thinking Actively in a Social Context) encourages children to think actively, to make decisions, to be actively engaged, to think independently but also inter-dependently. All children have the potential *to be more intelligent and creative* (but their speed of processing is different). The TASC approach and colorful TASC Wheel, with its powerful key questions, can be

used by teachers or professionals to increase the speed of processing, thinking and problem solving in learners.

PROF HELIA JORDAAN, Associate Professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at WITS, made the conference delegates aware of the fact that there is very little you can think about without language. Cognition and language go hand in hand. Language skills stimulate thinking. Children learn the language that they are exposed to and the type of inputs they get is vital for language development. The more inputs the brain processes, the better the language development. Language – a child’s home language – is the only resource that he/she brings to school. Prof Jordaan emphasized that the processing of a new (second) language is demanding and that implicit learning is not sufficient for additional language acquisition. Explicit teaching and learning to master a second language can not be stressed enough. The key role of the academic language (the language of the classroom and learning area) is often underestimated and must also be taught to children because most children come to school without it. Prof Jordaan highlighted that good quality language teaching is extremely important and essential in South Africa; that ‘Language Matters’ and that we must all start ‘Languaging’.

PROF LOUIS FOURIE, Professor and Chair in Information Systems as well as Head of Department at UWC, used his excellent IT skills to illustrate the incredible pace of the changing world that we are living in. We are all so used to technology that it is hard to believe that the first email was sent 42 years ago; that the first web page was developed only 23 years ago; that we could Google for the first time a mere 15 years ago; that Face Book and Twitter were developed 7 years ago; that the now popular I-Pad was invented 3 years ago and that Web pages double three times a year! Prof Fourie challenged the audience to learn to cope as it will be ‘survival of the fittest’. Luckily the capacity of the human brain has increased too and as a result of the brain’s neuroplasticity, human beings are extremely adaptable. The brain has a life long ability to reorganize its structure and functions based on new experiences and learning. There are advantages and disadvantages - ‘We shape our tools and afterwards our tools shape us!’ There are also many unanswered questions: Is technology good or bad? Is Google making us stupid? Is there a dark side to Internet? IACESA is in the process of booking a date with Prof Fourie to shed more light on all these intriguing questions.

Estelle Brettenny – IACESA President

Visit the IACESA Website (www.iacesa.co.za)

to down load presentations

of certain conference presentations

**(Please note: IACESA can only place presentations on the website
if permission has been obtained from the presenter)**

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITES

DATE	EVENT
18 May 2013	How to grow a Thinking School, TSSA Conference in Cape Town See flyer
29 May 2013	IACESA Cog Ed Seminar – venue & registration details will be emailed to members <i>Resilience: Coping Effectively with Life's Challenges</i> Presented by Dr Lidia van Vuuren, Psychologist
2 to 5 June 2013	Jerusalem International Conference on Neuroplasticity and Cognitive Modifiability
10 to 11 June 2013	International Thinking Skills Conference, Swindon, United Kingdom
24 to 27 June 2013	IACEP International Conference in University of Leiden, The Netherlands; Unfolding potential: assessment, strategies, change, and intervention
30 August to 2 September 2013	ICPIC International Conference, Philosophy for Children See flyer



***COPING EFFECTIVELY WITH LIFE'S CHALLENGES - COG ED SEMINAR
ON 29 MAY 2013 - VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED***

Resilience is the capacity to withstand stress and catastrophe. Psychologists have long recognized the capabilities of humans to adapt and overcome challenges and adversity. Individuals and communities are able to restructure their lives even after devastating tragedies.

Resiliency skills that help us think more accurately and flexibly can be absorbed by children from an early age and can optimize the development of resilience (Schneider 2001; Seligman 1995).

Part of the holistic well-being of a person to function adequately in the demanding world today, include knowing about the factors that nurture resilience. **Dr Lidia van Vuuren, psychologist** with more than 30 years experience working with families and learners with special education needs, will introduce us to the factors that nurture and maintain resilience within a family unit. We will learn how to structure and achieve the environment to promote positive development of resilience skills. We will also be introduced to practical guidelines that individuals may implement regarding necessary structures and routines to facilitate the cultivation of resiliency skills.

HOW TO GROW A THINKING SCHOOL FLYER



A non-profit organization committed to supporting
200 thinking schools, 100 000 smarter children by 2015

Founded with support of



Accreditation available locally for



HOW TO GROW A THINKING SCHOOL
HALF-DAY CONFERENCE IN CAPE TOWN: SATURDAY 18 MAY 2013

Special Guest Speaker!

*Panel
Discussion
with Daryl
Ilbury:*



Why South African Schools need to develop
"FOXY THINKING"

Chantell Ilbury is one of South Africa's leading strategists and facilitators and has addressed audiences around the world on managing uncertainty.



Preparing SA
schools for the
21st Century

Daryl Ilbury is a Senior Journalist and Opinion-Editorial Columnist with experience as a radio talk show host, who will challenge us to think!

If you are a Head or a Teacher interested in joining the global trend to more explicit teaching of thinking skills and strategies, this conference is for you. Even if you have already started implementing explicit thinking skills, come and find out about the whole school approach that embeds competencies for better academic performance from Grades 0 – 12 and prepares learners for the 21st century.

PLEASE NOTE: REGISTRATION CUT OFF DATE IS 13 MAY 2013

**TSSA IS OFFERING ALL PAID UP IACESA MEMBERS A DISCOUNT OF R100!
INDICATE IF YOU ARE A MEMBER ON REGISTRATION FORM & PAY ONLY R650**

CONFERENCE TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

**How to Grow
Thinking Schools
in SA**



Jane McIntyre
TSSA CEO,
Strategy/Change
Facilitator

**Thinking Maps
as a language
for learning**



Katy Mthethwa
TSSA Thinking Maps
Master Trainer

**Engaging
successful Habits
of Mind for better
results**



Ingrid Beekhuizen
TSSA Habits of Mind
Trainer.

**Developing
Independent
Thinkers**



Craig Carolan
TSSA Trainer
and de Bono expert

VENUE: The Grove Primary School, Grove Avenue, Claremont 7708

DATE: Saturday 18 May

TIME: Registration 7.30 am Conference runs from 8.00 am to 1.30 pm

COST: R750 per person

RSVP by Monday 13 May 2013 : thinkingschools@xsinet.co.za

ICPIC CONFERENCE FLYER

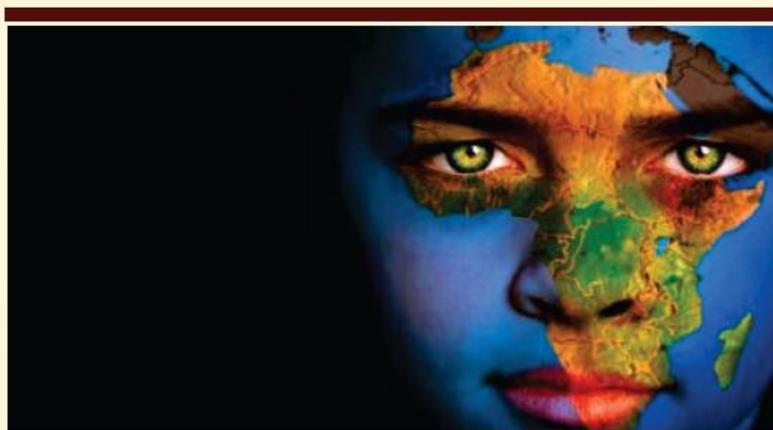
International Conference at UCT

For:

Principals
Educators (all phases
and subjects)
Psychologists
Sociologists/social
workers
Lawyers
Policymakers
Politicians
Authors children's
(text)books
Philosophers

Website,
enquiries &
registration

<http://icpic.cmc-uct.co.za>



*International Council of Philosophical
Inquiry with Children*

16th Conference

**Philosophy with Children
Critical Thinking
&
Enquiry-based Learning**

**30 Aug - 2 Sept
2013**

IACESA SECRETARIAT

The IACESA Board would like to express their appreciation to Christa Krige for her services as IACESA Secretary for the past two years. She has assisted IACESA in a quiet but dedicated way. Thanks Christa!

As Christa will not be able to assist IACESA for the next two years, IACESA has appointed Mrs Elize Heiberg. She will take over from Christa from the beginning of May 2013. See the box below for the new contact details.

NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR IACESA

Secretariat:

Mrs Elize Heiberg
iacesa2013@gmail.com

Cel: 083 264 7503

Fax: 086 272 2720

www.iacesa.co.za

A LITTLE INSPIRATION...

~ HOW DO YOU THINK ~

Author Unknown

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't!
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
It's almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost;
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will;
It's all in the state of mind!

If you think you're outclassed, you are;
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself
Before you'll ever win the prize.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man;
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the person who thinks he can!