

# NEWS UPDATE 1

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## June 2017

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### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Magda Kloppers**



Winter and for us in the northern parts of our lovely country, unexpected winter rain, is knocking at our doors and the 2017 conference which inspires all of us to rigorously pursue the development of critical thinking abilities in ourselves and in the people who cross our day to day lives, is almost three months in the past!

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## CONTROVERSIAL, DEBATABLE AND SPECIAL INTEREST TOPICS



### Back to basics with Six Bricks

Brent Hutcheson



Back to Basics with Six Bricks provides opportunities for children to develop their working memory, perceptual, speaking and listening skills and forms the foundations for effective reasoning, literacy and numeracy.

[Read more ...](#)

## University of the Third Age

Eve Dunnelle



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

*"never stop learning"*

The University of the Third Age (or U3A for short) started in 1972, as an offshoot of the University of Toulouse, in France.

[READ MORE ...](#)

## 15 Astonishing ways that social media is forcing the world to evolve

Byron Bunt



Ignore the hype that we're all becoming more superficial and narcissistic because of our obsession with social media.

[Read more ...](#)

## Feedback on the 2017 IACESA Conference

Estelle Brettenny



The theme, *Thinking Critically about Optimal Health and Well-Being*, has never been explored at an IACESA Conference. As chronic disease is on the rise and is this century's greatest challenge, the IACESA Board decided to incorporate this theme as part of the 2017 conference.

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## Special interest: Mindfulness in Education

Mark Hayter





Over the past decade, training in mindfulness—the intentional cultivation of moment-by-moment non-judgmental focused attention and awareness—has spread from its initial western applications in medicine to other fields, including education.

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## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES



### Promoting High Performance Learning at Laerskool Vaalrivier

**Magda Kloppers**

Recently, two workshops were successfully completed at Laerskool Vaalrivier, a public primary school in Vanderbijlpark.

[Read more ...](#)

### Promoting high performance learning at Tsoelopele Primary School, Sharpeville

**Mary Grosser**

Prof. Deborah Eyre (Oxford University), the developer of the High Performance Learning (HPL) Theory in the UK, visited Optentia during February 2017 (14-16 February) to assist Proff. Mirna Nel and Mary Grosser with the training of teachers at Tsoelopele Primary School in Sharpeville, where a pilot study will be conducted (2017-2019) to establish the potential of High Performance Learning Theory to create conditions and opportunities for all learners (including those who experience barriers to learning), to become Advanced Performers.

[Read more ...](#)

### Six Bricks Workshop for educators

**Stef Esterhuizen**

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning” ~ M Rogers ~

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### An Update on the Schools as thinking communities project at Primêre Skool Fonteine, Sasolburg: Prioritizing values in education

**Mary Grosser**

Since February 2016, teachers and learners at Laerskool Fonteine, Sasolburg, collaboratively decided on integrating “*respect*” intentionally as part of character education into the life and culture of the entire school.

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## IACESA AND OTHER TRAINING EVENTS

### IACESA 2017 Conference

Mary Grosser



The development of critical thinking has been regarded as an important outcome and ideal of education since the early days of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

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### New Board Members

A warm word of welcome to our new board members .

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### Cape Town CogEd Seminar

Fairmont High School

14 June

Estelle Brettenny

[Read more ...](#)



### Gauteng CogEd Seminar North-West University

23 June 2017

Viné Petzer

[Read more ...](#)



### Gauteng CogEd Seminar Grayston Preparatory

5 July 2017

Viné Petzer

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## Empowering teachers to teach and assess for thinking

Mary Grosser



During 2017, the Cognitive Education Research Group (Optentia Research Focus Area) in Association with the International Association for Cognitive Education in Southern Africa (IACESA) will present a Short Learning Programme (SLP), as a one-year course for 25 SACE CPD points on 10 Saturdays (4 hours per Saturday) (80 notional hours: 40 hours facilitation and 40 hours practical at own time), after which participants will receive a Certificate in Cognitive Education endorsed by the NWU at NQF Level 6.

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# IACESA



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COGNITIVE EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

## Short Learning Programme (SLP)

Preparing teachers to  
develop advanced  
performers: A cognitive  
approach to teaching,  
learning and assessment

Deon van Tonder



South African teachers will acquire practical tools and approaches/strategies suitable for the South African teaching and learning context, in order to transform classroom practices and intentionally unlock learners' cognitive potential, so that they become Advanced Performers of the 21st century.

[Read more ...](#)



WITH THE SUPPORT OF  
THE BELGIAN  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



## Second South African Symposium on teacher education for inclusion

Mirna Nel

# OPTENTIA

Optentia Research Focus Area, on the Vaal Triangle campus, and the Faculty of Education Sciences, on the Potchefstroom Campus (NWU), of North-West University (NWU), in collaboration with De Vlaamse Vereniging voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking en Technische Bijstand (VVOB), sponsored by the European Union, are pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 2nd Bi-Annual Symposium on Teacher Education for Inclusion: Linking Research to Practice from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 Vanderbijlpark, South Africa.

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**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR COGNITIVE EDUCATION  
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

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