

■ Innovation

A New Phonics Approach for Teaching English

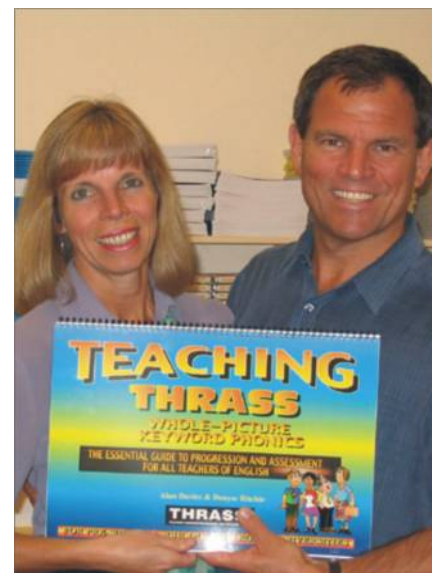
A workshop on a new teaching approach to English was held at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg from 5-9 June. This was attended by about one hundred delegates from all over Africa and DCDM Business School was represented by Soraya Sayed Hassen, Head of Humanities.

The workshop included a two-day certification course in *THRASS Teaching Handwriting, Reading and Speaking Skills* conducted by the Educational Psychologist and author of *Teaching THRASS*, Alan Davies, from the UK.

Delegates included all those who are involved in the teaching and learning of English, such as teacher trainers, speech and language therapists and teachers of the deaf. There was a particular show of interest on the part of the Department of Education of the South African government. During the workshop, visits were made to schools which have adopted the THRASS method of English

and literacy, including a visit to Masimbambane College in Orange Farm, where Mandla Maseki, the Chief Education Specialist from the Children and Youth Literacy section of the Department of Education in South Africa, officially opened the Smart Board Project whereby THRASS UK has teamed up with SMART Technologies to donate an interactive whiteboard to this school situated in one of the most socially deprived areas of South Africa.

These new interactive whiteboards together with a new 'phoneme machine' pioneered by Alan Davies could revolutionise the teaching of English in countries where children battle with it as a



Alan Davies, the originator of THRASS, and his wife, Hilary, who is also the Secretary of THRASS UK

second language which is nevertheless the medium of instruction.