

# BAKER IDEA INSTITUTE MESSENGER

March 2009 Report

Dear Friends,

The Baker Idea Institute's March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium brought together playwrights, researchers, artists, public school principals and counselors, teachers and college experts. From the business world came Fossil's Stephen Zhang and his remarkable visual approach to problem solving. Laban movement analyst Dr. Carol-Lynne Moore introduced solutions in motion. Radio star Tumbleweed Smith (Bob Lewis) shared a vast array of sounds, silences and a look into the role of music and sound in film and theater.

Thank you to all the remarkable people who participated in the symposia throughout this first year! Out of the exploration of Paul Baker's multi-sensory strategies and learning styles, a new play on learning differences by Linda Daugherty and Mary Scudday, *hard 2 spel dad*, has begun to emerge with a team of experts already surrounding its development.

Friday night's keynote speaker Dr. G. Reid Lyon mesmerized everyone with details about how the brain lights up, and why students faced with learning differences, especially dyslexia, need special help. He noted that of the million students who drop out of school each year, half are non-readers. Dr. Lyon brilliantly connected his work in brain research with Carol-Lynne's movement analysis, Stephen's visual literacy and the Daugherty/Scudday play about the challenges of two learning-different teens. It was a high-energy evening with superb discussion between speakers and participants! Many amazing new connections have been made. Thank you to Tumbleweed Smith, Dr. Lyon and Dr. Moore, Stephen Zhang, S'Ankh Rasa, and playwrights Daugherty and Scudday.

*Robyn Flatt*



March Speakers *Bob Lewis (a.k.a Tumbleweed Smith), Carol-Lynne Moore, Dr. G. Reid Lyon and Stephen Zhang.*



Dr. G. Reid Lyon and Diane Lyon



Playwrights Mary Scudday and Linda Daugherty with BII Founding Fellow Joe Brooks



Speaker Stephen Zhang of Fossil



BII Director Robyn Flatt and Kimberly Kottwitz



Playwright Mary Scudday



Playwright Linda Daugherty



Speaker Bob Lewis (a.k.a. Tumbleweed Smith)



BII Director and Musician/Composer S'Ankh Rasa



Photos by Ben Cashion and John Henson.



Speaker Carol-Lynne Moore

Susan Fleming of The Shelton School

## Thank you!

In wrap-up for the year, major thanks go to our lead sponsors:

- Teresa Parravano
- Joe Brooks
- Carolyn and Graham Holloway
- Sara Hess Roney
- Shirley and Clint Blankman
- Carole and Tom Troupe
- Treysa and Eugene McKinney
- Ernest O'Bannon
- Barbara and Robert Rowland
- Mary Sue Joris
- John Via



Hostess Louise Smith, with Mr. & Mrs. Grover Wilkins of the Orchestra of New Spain

Thanks to our hostess Louise Mosley Smith, our symposium co-chairs Callie Mitchell and Michelle Roberts and DCT 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chair, Craig Sutton

Thanks to all of the outstanding speakers who brought so many ideas to the table, and the people from so many different walks of life who participated with such wonderful enthusiasm.



Joan Meister of the Denver Public School System



## So, What's Next?

In year two, the Baker Idea Institute will focus on learning differences and the development of *hard 2 spel dad*. In the fall, its staged reading will be accompanied by relevant workshops and discussions led educators and brain specialists for BII participants. In April, a full performance of *hard 2 spel dad* will be featured, followed by lectures and workshops for the community. Stand by for further details as plans evolve.

For more information on upcoming symposia, please go to [www.bakeridea.org](http://www.bakeridea.org) or email [alicia.wallace@bakeridea.org](mailto:alicia.wallace@bakeridea.org)