COME SEE A BRIGHTER WISCONSIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Image credit: Cathy Martin, Country Summer (detail) 2010. Oil on Masonite, 32 x 12 inches.
INSPIRING DISCOVERY

Through Waterways, an exhibition at our James Watrous Gallery featuring three Wisconsin artists, we explored the confluence between visual art and issues surrounding water quality and quantity. Visitors to Waterways discovered new and creative ways to think about water and its connection to their own lives, and a series of Academy-led events featuring scientists and policy leaders provided participants with new perspectives on the future of our most precious resource.

“Waterways ... is the perfect opportunity to showcase the water-related efforts of the recent past, and combine arts, science and letters.”

—James O. Peterson, UW–Madison Emeritus Professor of Water Quality
ILLUMINATING CREATIVE WORK

Our magazine of contemporary Wisconsin thought and culture—Wisconsin People & Ideas—continues to deliver provocative essays, stories, poetry, and visual art by leading artists, scientists, writers, and innovators from across the state. A trusted resource for people who value an objective perspective on the issues and ideas of today, Wisconsin People & Ideas is a must-read for anyone interested in the intellectual and cultural future of Wisconsin.

“It’s great to have a magazine like this that shows the spirit of the people of Wisconsin”
—Dan Howard, Viroqua-based photographer
A WISCONSIN BROUGHT TOGETHER THROUGH CIVIL DISCUSSION AND EXPLORATION OF THE BEST IDEAS OF TODAY.

FOSTERING CIVIL DIALOGUE

Through our two Initiatives—Climate & Energy and Waters of Wisconsin—the Academy continues to focus on the environmental health and vitality of Wisconsin. In an effort to transcend partisan divides and foster civil dialogue, these programs continue to bring together scientists and scholars with community, nonprofit, and business leaders to listen, learn, and discuss in order to gather the best ideas and share them with a public that seeks thoughtful and responsive action on the critical issues of today.

“I commend the Academy for its ongoing commitment to the rational discussion of climate change that truly educates the public and provides positive policy options for the future.”
—Matthew Frank, attorney and former WDNR secretary
WITH YOUR SUPPORT, THE WISCONSIN ACADEMY IS MAKING A BRIGHTER WISCONSIN. THANK YOU!

MAKING A BRIGHTER WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Academy is working to create a brighter Wisconsin through programs and publications that explore, explain, and sustain Wisconsin thought and culture. These programs and publications were successful in 2015 thanks to the efforts of engaged citizens who believe that learning, the arts, and civic participation make Wisconsin a brighter place for us all. The Wisconsin Academy staff and board of directors thanks you for your support in 2015—and into the future.

“The Wisconsin Academy does an excellent job of sharing knowledge and culture from the academic and research world with the public at large.”

—Roberto G. Michel, program attendee
A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

James Thurber once observed, “You might as well fall flat on your face as lean over too far backward.” Having done both, I’m happy to report that the Academy has done neither in 2015. In this past year, the Academy has exceeded even my optimistic expectations.

We have been working hard on several fronts: increasing our capacity to program statewide, building partnerships with like-minded organizations, revitalizing our Board leadership, and developing strategies to expand public understanding of who we are and what we do. The fruits of our 2015 labor include the development of Academy Talks to be held not only in Madison but also in Wausau, Sheboygan, and Weyauwega. As the Academy’s Steenbock Center office becomes older and tighter, we’re exploring other venues to house growing activity. We’re expanding on collaborations with long-time and new partners such as Wisconsin Public Television and the Wisconsin League of Municipalities. And our Board of Directors emerged from the June 2015 retreat in Milwaukee with fascinating new ideas for greater productivity. (This coming June the Board meeting is in Spring Green at Taliesin—imagine what this location will ferment.)

Our stellar programs and publications reflect the energies of a thoughtful staff. In partnership with UW–Madison’s Global Health Institute, the Academy played a statewide (even international) hosting role in the COP21 Paris climate talks, one that highlights our Climate & Energy Initiative. Speaking of partnerships, our work with the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission has brought widening audiences for Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kim Blaeser. Through Waterways and a slate of other compelling exhibitions, the James Watrous Gallery is showcasing the interdisciplinary focus of our mission. Finally, Wisconsin People & Ideas magazine is covering events and ideas that make vivid the overlapping nature of different fields.

Clearly our mission—to bring people together at the intersection of the sciences, arts, and letters to inspire discovery, illuminate creative work, and foster civil dialogue on important issues—animates this work. As President, I’ve been grateful to be part of an endeavor that honors civility, knowledge, and imaginative vision. The Academy also allows me to work alongside remarkable staff members as well as the board members of both the Academy and its Foundation. It’s not all parliamentary procedure, long car trips, and boxed lunches, this thing we do. It’s also arguing and laughing and stretching our own capacities—so that Academy members, friends, and program participants can do the same thing all over Wisconsin.

When I began my term as President, I asserted that “our growth and goodness as human beings depend upon transformative access to knowledge through science, to memory through history, and to metaphor through the arts. Whether the focus of our concern is education or immigration or equal rights, we need the imaginative life of stories and poems and paintings as much as we need the crystalline clarity of science and rational thought to inform our discussions—and decisions.”

I hope this is happening in part because the Wisconsin Academy is not only existing but flourishing.

Linda Ware
President, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters
Professor Emerita, English Department, University of Wisconsin-Marathon County

WISCONSIN ACADEMY STAFF AND BOARD (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015)

We are fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff and Board working together to further the Wisconsin Academy’s mission to inspire discovery, illuminate creative work, and foster civil dialogue on important issues.

STAFF
Jane Elder executive director
Rachel Bruya exhibition coordinator, James Watrous Gallery
Zachary Carlson web editor
Jody Clowes director, James Watrous Gallery
Aaron Fai project coordinator
Meredith Keller director, Wisconsin Initiatives Program
Elyse Lindell outreach and data coordinator
Don Meyer business operations manager
Amanda E. Shilling director of development
Jason A. Smith director of communications and editor of Wisconsin People & Ideas

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD
President Linda Ware, Wausau
President-Elect Tim Size, Sauk City
Immediate-past President Millard Susman, Madison
Treasurer Diane Nienow, Middleton
Secretary James W. Perry, Larsen
Vice President for Sciences Richard Burgess, Madison
Vice President for Arts Marianne Lubar, Milwaukee
Vice President for Letters Cathryn Cofell-Mutschler, Appleton
Foundation President Jack Kussmaul, Woodman

BOARD-AT-LARGE
Leslie D. Aldrtrit, Washburn
John Ashley, Sauk City
Mark Bradley, Wausau
Patricia Brady, Madison
Malcolm Brett, Oregon
Roberta Filicky-Peneski, Sheboygan
Joseph Heim, La Crosse
Tom Luljak, Milwaukee
Bernie L. Patterson, Stevens Point
Marty Wood, Eau Claire
### Fiscal year 2015 Revenues

**Fiscal year ending June 30, 2015**

- Donations: 38%
- Academy Foundation Distributions: 35%
- In-kind Services: 4%
- Grant Revenue: 16%
- Membership Dues: 5%
- Other: 2%

### Fiscal year 2015 Expenses

**Fiscal year ending June 30, 2015**

- Gallery and Arts Programs: 20%
- Magazine & Electronic Comm.: 15%
- Wisconsin Initiatives: 14%
- Academy Talks & Fellows: 8%
- Program Development: 1%
- Administration: 21%
- Membership & Development: 13%
- Communications: 8%

### Statement of Activity

**Fiscal year ending June 30, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$275,827</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academy Foundation Distributions</td>
<td>255,976</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind Services</td>
<td>28,488</td>
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<td>Grant Revenue</td>
<td>115,180</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>34,982</td>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>16,922</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$727,375</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program-related Expenses</td>
<td>$413,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership &amp; Development</td>
<td>91,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>148,705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>56,106</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$709,799</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in net assets | $17,396 |
| Net assets – Beginning of year | $209,226 |
| Net assets – End of year       | **$226,622** |

### Statement of Financial Position

**as of June 30, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$119,632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable</td>
<td>31,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificates of deposit – restricted</td>
<td>13,229</td>
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<td>Fixed assets, net</td>
<td>84,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>5,089</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$254,374</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Line of credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>5,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unearned revenue</td>
<td>9,764</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>12,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,752</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Net Assets       | **$226,622** |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | **$254,374** |

This is a summarized financial presentation. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

Auditors: Wegner CPAs, LLP

### Foundation Board

The Wisconsin Foundation is a separate nonprofit organization dedicated to managing the Wisconsin Academy’s endowment. Managed by the Foundation Board, the Foundation provides the Academy with a steady source of income, which in recent years represents approximately one-third of total funds for Academy operations. If you want to help to ensure this income stream to the Academy—please consider a gift in your estate plans. Please contact Amanda E. Shilling, director of development at 608-263-1692 x16.

**Founder**
Ira Baldwin (1895–1999)

**Foundation Officers**
President: Jack Kussmaul
Vice president: Andrew Richards
Treasurer: Diane Nienow
Secretary: David J. Ward

**Foundation Directors**
Jane Elder*
Terry Haller
Tim Size*
Millard Susman*
Linda Ware*

*Ex officio

### About this Report

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters is an independent 501(c)(3) dedicated to connecting Wisconsin people and ideas for a better world.

In an effort to provide transparency and context for our operations, the Wisconsin Academy publishes an annual report. For a digital version of our 2014–2015 annual report, visit [wisconsinacademy.org/2015report](http://wisconsinacademy.org/2015report).

For more information on our programs and publications, visit [wisconsinacademy.org](http://wisconsinacademy.org) or call 608-263-1692.
IN APPRECIATION OF OUR 2014–2015 DONORS AND SPONSORS

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters is pleased to publicly acknowledge those individuals and organizations who gave a cash or in-kind contribution of $100 or more between July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015. Your generosity is an investment in our operations and programs that explore, explain, and sustain Wisconsin thought and culture.

Thank you for joining us in our efforts to make Wisconsin brighter.

THE MINERVA SOCIETY:
Honoring our most generous donors who contribute an annual gift of $10,000+

Anonymous

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region—Renee and Tom Boldt Family Fund

The Evjue Foundation Inc., the charitable arm of The Capital Times

Sally Mead Hands Foundation

Huston Design

Joyce Foundation

Ruth DeYoung Kohler Madison Community Foundation—Great Performance Fund

Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation

The Patricia Weisberg Estate

Wisconsin Academy Foundation

Annual contributions of $2,500 to $4,999

Anonymous

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National Guardian Life

Millard & Barbara Susman

Stanley A. Temple University Research Parks

Thomas Wolfe & Patricia Powers

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Mark J. Bradley

Patricia Brady

Richard Burgess

The Douglas and Sherry Caves Fund

Thomas Peneski & Roberta Filicky-Peneski

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Carroll A. Heideman

Frances Jones Highsmith

Jesse & Nancy Ishikawa

Laird Youth Leadership Foundation, Inc.

Katharine Lyall

Madison Community Foundation—Terry L. Haller Fund

Dennis & Gail Maki

Jim & Joy Perry

Irv & Mildred Shain

Tim & Pat Size

Gerald D. Viste

Dave & Judy Ward

Linda L. Ware

Wisconsin Arts Board

Wisconsin Historical Foundation, Inc.

Annual contributions of $500 to $999

Anonymous

Marin & Jack Bolz

Greg & MaryAnn Dombrowski

Susan M. Earley Charitable Giving Fund

William & Lynne Watrous Eich

Mary & Jay Gallagher

Dudley and Constance Godfrey Foundation, Inc.

Bob Goodman & Lauren Randolph

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Joseph P. Heim

Margaret S. Lewis & Todd A. Berry

Tom & Wendy Luljak

James T. Lundberg

Madison Community Foundation—Ron and Dorothy Daggett Endowment Fund

Stephen Morton

Bernie L. Patterson

Pamela Ploetz & John Henderson

Dietram A. Scheufele

Barb & Bob Sorensen

Tom & Eileen Sutula

Marty Wood

Annual contributions of $100 to $249

Anonymous (6)

Seymour & Shirley Abrahamson

Steve Ackerman & Anne Pryor

Julius & Hilde Adler

Leslie & Vicki Alldritt

Carla & Fernando Alvarado

Todd L. Ambis

Norman & Peggy Anderson

Richard & Alice Appen

Jerry & Ruth Apps

Leigh & Linda Aschbrenner

Dr. Alfred Bader

Dennis & Naomi Bahcall

Todd L. Ambis

Annie & Steve Barlow

James Cain & Miriam Simmons

Jeffrey Calder

Elizabeth Campbell

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R. Alta Charo

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Cathryn Cofell-Mutschler

David & Barbara Frank

Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc.

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National Telemedia Council, Inc.

Diane Nienow

James R. Peterson

Fran & Louis Rall

Andrew Richards

Roy & Mary Thilly

Maxine Triff

UW-Sheboygan

Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin—Mark & Ann Bradley Fund

Gregory & Dorothy Conniff

Dan & Pat Cornwell

Sheila Coyle

James & Nancy Dast

Donald Davis

Laura P. DeGolier

Hector F. DeLuca

William & Alexandra Dove

Patrick & Lloyd Eagan

Jane Eisner

Herman Felstheusen

Don Ferber

Jane & Patrick Fitzgibbons

Kathy Kelsey Foley & Ernest P. Foley

Mary & Jerry Foote

DEF & EWF

Bernard Friedman

Linda Garrity

Sharon & Warren Gaskill

Jane M. Genzel

Michael G. George

Janine Geske

Martha & Tom Glacki

Joan & George Hall

Reed & Ellen Hall

James Haney

Sue & Steve Hawk

Paul & Philia Hayes

James V. & Laurie Z. Howard

CJ Hribal

Allen Jacobson & Lila Daut

Molly & Bob Jahn

Dr. Norman & Nancy Jensen

Thomas S. Jerow

Nancy Jesse & Paul Menzel

J. & D. Kabot

Deborah Kern

Laura Kiessling & Miriam Simmons

Abrahamson

CJ Hribal

Allen Jacobson & Lila Daut

Molly & Bob Jahn

Dr. Norman & Nancy Jensen

Thomas S. Jerow

Nancy Jesse & Paul Menzel

J. & D. Kabot

Deborah Kern

Laura Kiessling & Ron Raines

Mary & Scott Kolar

Dr. Kenneth W. Korb

Bill Kraus & Toni Sikes

Annual contributions of $250 to $499

Charles & Mary Anderson

Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Nancy Ciezki & Diane Kostecke

Richard & Susan Davidson

Larry & Kathy Dickerson

*Endowment gifts directed to the Academy Foundation ensure future success of our mission to connect Wisconsin people and ideas for a better world.
The Full Circle Society

Thank you to the forward-thinking individuals who have pledged a legacy gift to the Wisconsin Academy. Through their generous commitment to the programs and publication of the Wisconsin Academy, we will be able to explore, explain, and sustain Wisconsin thought and culture for generations to come.

A special thank you to the many donors whose contributions to the Great Performance Fund at the Madison Community Foundation have benefited the Academy’s ongoing programming at the Overture Center for the Arts.

Members and friends of the Wisconsin Academy are encouraged to consider a legacy gift. Your investment benefits the health our endowment, while ensuring the future of our programs and publications. If you have already made a commitment, but are not listed or would like more information, please contact Amanda E. Shilling at 608-263-1692 x16.

*gifts received

Ira Baldwin* 
Constance & Dudley Godfrey* 
Terry Haller 
Gunnar & Lorraine Johansen 
Jack Kussmaul 
David Lundahl

Elizabeth McCoy* 
Ron & Dorothy Daggett* 
Nancy Rae Noeske* 
Jim and Joy Perry 
Harry Steenbock* 
Patricia Weisberg*

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*gifts received
Many individuals shared their time and talents with multiple Academy programs, they are only listed once.