COMESEE ABRIGHTER VISCONSIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



wisconsin academy of sciences arts & letters

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

A WISCONSIN WHERE SCIENCE IS CENTRAL TO THE HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE, LANDS, AND WATERS.



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



A WISCONSIN BRIMMING WITH THE ARTS AND A LIVELY CREATIVE CULTURE.

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 positice 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

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 Elysse Lindell outreach and data coordinator Don Meyer business operations manager

Don Meyer business operations manager Amanda E. Shilling director of development Jason A. Smith director of communications and editor of Wisconsin People & Ideas

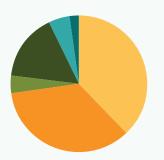
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WISCONSIN ACADEMY 2014–2015 YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Fiscal year 2015 Revenues

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2015				
	Donations	38%		
	Academy Foundation Distributions	35%		
	In-kind Services	4%		
	Grant Revenue	1 6 %		
	Membership Dues	5%		
	Other	2%		

Fiscal year 2015 Expense	es
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Fis

scal 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

Statement of Activity

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2015

Revenue	
Donations\$	275,827
Academy Foundation Distributions	255,976
In-kind Services	28,488
Grant Revenue	115,180
Membership Dues	34,982
Other Revenue	16,922
Total Revenue\$	727,375
Expenses	
Program-related Expenses\$	413,654
Membership & Development	91,514
Administration	148,705
Communications	56,106
Total Expenses	709,979
Change in net assets\$	17,396
Net assets – Beginning of year	209,226
Net assets – End of year\$	226,622

Statement of Financial Position

13%

8%

as of June 30, 2015

Assets

Communications

Cash and cash equivalents\$	119,632
Pledges receivable	31,994
Certificates of deposit – restricted	13,229
Fixed assets, net	84,430
Other assets	5,089
Total Assets	254,374
Liabilities	

Elabilities	
Line of credit\$	0
Accounts Payable	5,458
Unearned revenue	9,764
Other liabilities	12,530
Total Liabilities	27,752
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.

For more information on our programs and publications, visit **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+

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

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Nancy Noeske

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.

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

Baldwir

arry Steenbock

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

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.

*gi<mark>ft</mark>s r<mark>e</mark>ceived

Photo credits: Noeske photo courtesy of Schmidt & Bartelt; all others UW–Madison Archives and Record Management Services

If your name is missing from our acknowledgment list or misspelled, we apologize. Please call us at 608-263-1692 with corrections or omissions.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PRESENTERS

Thank you to the multitude of individuals and organizations that support the Wisconsin Academy and its programs. Your invaluable commitment of time, talent, and services makes all the difference.

James Watrous Gallery

Exhibiting Artists Randall Berndt Craig Clifford Sarah FitzSimons Thomas Gaudynski Marsha McDonald John Miller Brandon Norsted Tyler Robbins Rafael Francisco Salas Christine Style Paul Vanderbilt Graham Yeager

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& Volunteers Andy Adams Matt Blessing Paul Douglas, Douglas Art & Frame Jack Holzhueter Angela Johnson Lewis Koch Andy Kraushaar Mark Kraushaar Michael Lesy Annette Mahler Meeting of the Minds Martha Moye Katie Mullen Sara Parrell PLATO James Rhem Thor Ringler SPARK! Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wisconsin Historical Society

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Writers & Contributors

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Wisconsin Public Television

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Speakers

Jerry Apps Martha Bergland David Blockstein Monica Butler Stephen Carpenter William Cronon Hector DeLuca Bruce Dethlefsen Ian Duncan David Frank Max Garland Jennifer Uphoff Gray Joel Greenberg Paul G. Hayes Mrill Ingram Chele Isaac Molly Jahn Anne Kingsbury Jill Krynicki Chris Kucharik Curt Meine David Mrazek Kathryn Smith Marilyn L. Taylor Stanley A. Temple

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Volunteers, Interns,

& Gallery Attendants Hannah Borgault Augusta Brulla Amanda Dailey Stephanie Dresen Thomas Foellmi Jerry Marra Lorna Miller Joseph Moskwa Jonathan Posthuma Annaleigh Wetzel

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