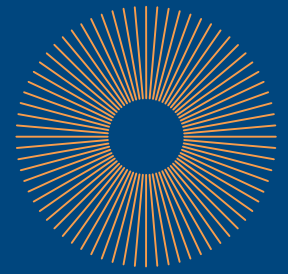
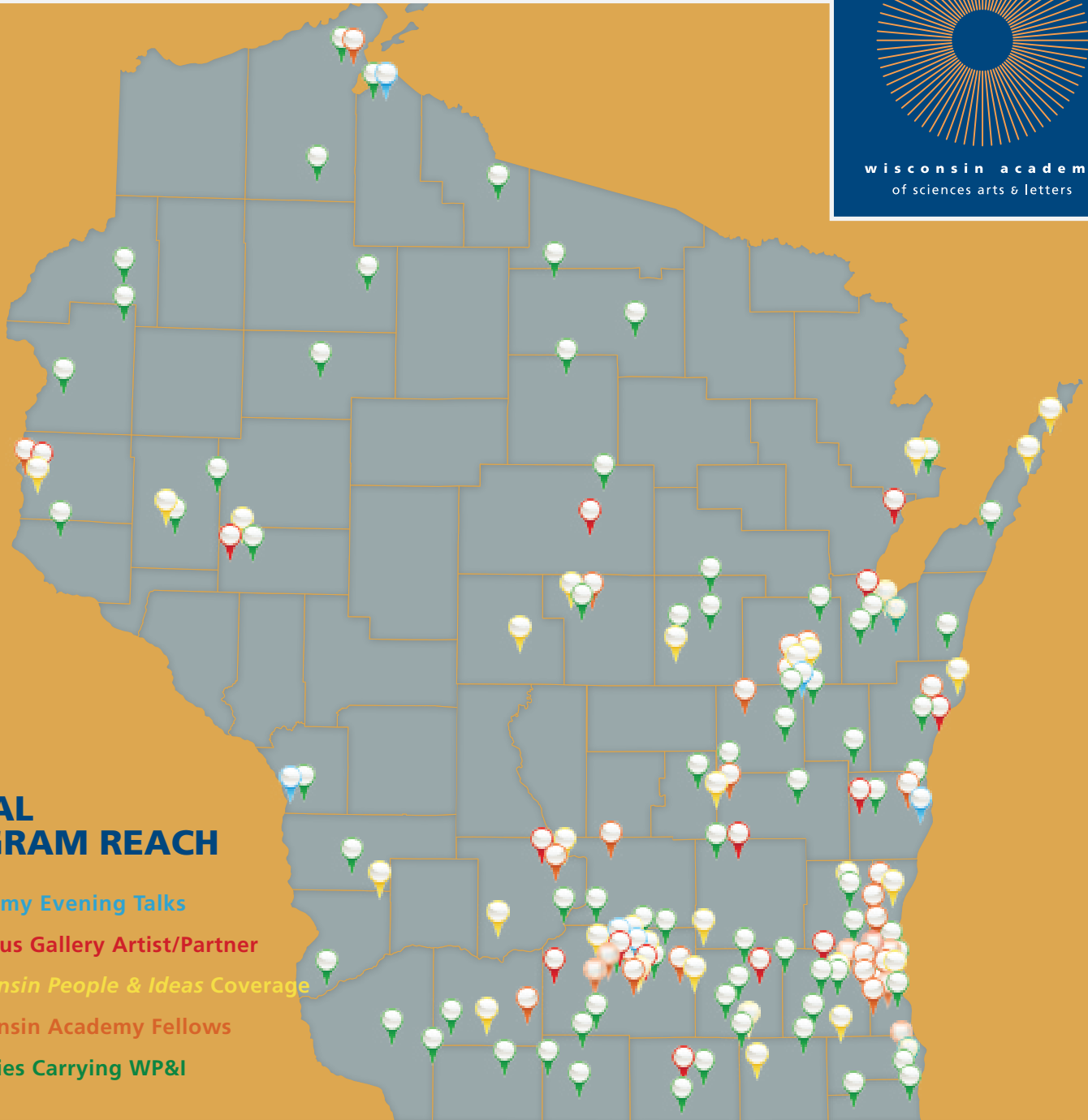



# WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ARTS & LETTERS 2010–2011 ANNUAL REPORT



wisconsin academy  
of sciences arts & letters



## WASAL PROGRAM REACH

-  Academy Evening Talks
-  Watrous Gallery Artist/Partner
-  Wisconsin People & Ideas Coverage
-  Wisconsin Academy Fellows
-  Libraries Carrying WP&I

## WASAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

**Current Members:** 1,252

### Academy Evenings:

- An estimated 2,944 people attended our talks
- Videos of these talks were viewed over 34,660 times

### James Watrous Gallery:

- 8,592 visitors
- 29 Wisconsin artists exhibited

### Wisconsin People & Ideas Magazine:

- In its 56th year of continuous publication
- Available in 102 libraries across the state
- Found in over 42 bookstores

### Wisconsin Academy Fellows:

- Seven new individuals selected in 2011
- Currently, there are 74 total statewide Academy Fellows

## A MESSAGE FROM THE WISCONSIN ACADEMY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hi. I'm Jim Armstrong, President of the Wisconsin Academy Council. Throughout much of 2011, many of us watched our state and our country become increasingly polarized over policy and cultural issues alike. It's hard enough to find an objective perspective, let alone have a conversation in which we can explore ideas in a safe and respectful manner.

But there will always be a place for discussion at the Wisconsin Academy. You can count on the Wisconsin Academy to spark conversations with our programs, which bring valuable context and clarity to the issues that affect us. From Academy Evening talks with brilliant and interesting Wisconsinites, to art exhibitions that shine a light on our state's most provocative visual artists, to magazine articles that highlight the best of Wisconsin thought and culture, we're constantly creating spaces for civic discourse—spaces that are needed today more than ever before.



Given the high quality of our programs, many people think we're funded by the university, or that we are some kind of State of Wisconsin program. But the Wisconsin Academy is an entirely independent nonprofit organization, receiving 98% of its annual operating income from contributed sources—gifts, grants, memberships, and our endowment funds.

It's our members and donors that give life to our programs—programs that provide the spin-free perspective on the sciences, arts, and letters we all need—and help us pursue a collective vision of a better Wisconsin. And, at the end of the year, we like to take stock of all we have done with your help. So, please, take a moment to review this annual report and consider how your support is helping to make our state a better, more civil and equitable place for everyone.

On behalf of everyone at the Wisconsin Academy, thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Armstrong".

**Jim Armstrong, President  
Wisconsin Academy Council**



### WISCONSIN ACADEMY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARGARET LEWIS RETIRES

For the past five years, Margaret Lewis served as executive director of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. On December 31, 2011 she retired from the position. Lewis is succeeded by Jane Elder, who began her tenure as executive director on January 16, 2012.

Margaret's strong sense of civic duty and desire to better the state of Wisconsin were always evident in the programs and community relationships she helped to build for the Wisconsin Academy. Her leadership and vision were instrumental in bringing programs like Getting to Purple, Age On!, Brain to Five, and Perspectives on a Post-9/11 World to communities around the state.

"I believe in the work of the Wisconsin Academy and think its mission has never been more relevant," said Lewis upon announcing her retirement. "Whether tackling complex state and national issues or giving us an opportunity to reflect on our past to give us an opportunity to create a better present, these community conversations across disciplines and generations promote the public interest because they have no private agenda, allowing the Wisconsin Academy to build the relationships to find the solutions essential to making a better state for all."

Everyone at the Wisconsin Academy thanks Margaret for her service and wishes her a happy retirement. Thanks, Margaret.

## WISCONSIN ACADEMY COUNCIL

The Council is the governing body of the Wisconsin Academy. Representing various regions of the state, the Council acts on behalf of Wisconsin Academy members. The Council sets policy and participates in strategic planning to implement the Wisconsin Academy mission of connecting people and ideas for a better Wisconsin. Council members also identify resources and community partners to help the Wisconsin Academy grow.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### President

Jim Armstrong, Madison

#### President-Elect

Millard Susman, Madison

#### Immediate Past President

James Perry, Larsen

#### Vice President for Sciences

Richard Burgess, Madison

#### Vice President for Arts

Linda Ware, Wausau

#### Vice President for Letters

Marianne Lubar, Milwaukee

#### Secretary

Claire Hackmann, Milwaukee

#### Treasurer

Howard Marklein, Spring Green

### Statewide Council Members

Les Alldritt, Washburn

John Ashley

Mark Bradley, Wausau

Patricia Brady, Madison

Terry Brown, Kenosha

Mary Lynne Donohue, Sheboygan

Eric Englund, Middleton

Reed Hall, Marshfield

Joseph Heim, La Crosse

Jesse Ishikawa, Madison

Ruth DeYoung Kohler, Kohler

Paul Linzmeyer, De Pere

La Moine MacLaughlin, Clayton

John Mielke, Appleton

Thomas Pleger, Baraboo

Bryan Renk, Madison

Tim Riley, Appleton

Tim Size, Sauk City

Marty Wood, Eau Claire

### WISCONSIN ACADEMY FOUNDATION BOARD

The Wisconsin Academy Foundation is incorporated as a charitable, tax-exempt foundation to oversee the professional management of the Wisconsin Academy endowment. The Foundation Board maintains responsibility for investment oversight and developing community relationships for the long-term good of the organization.

#### President

Doug Hoerr, Barneveld

#### Vice President

Greg Dombrowski, Verona

#### Treasurer

Howard Marklein, Spring Green

#### Secretary

Nancy Noeske, Milwaukee

Jim Armstrong, Madison

Marian Bolz, Madison

Jane Elder, Madison

Terry Haller, Madison

Jack Kussmaul, Woodman

James Perry, Larsen

Andrew Richards, Monona

Millard Susman, Madison

### New Council Members for 2012

The Wisconsin Academy is happy to welcome these Council Members who begin their terms in 2012.

#### Mark Bradley, Wausau

Mark is an attorney with the law firm of Ruder Ware LLC in Wausau and Eau Claire. He is president of the firm and a member of its Board of Directors.

#### Paul Linzmeyer, DePere

Paul is founder of Innovation for Sustainable Organizations International LLC, a consulting firm that helps companies build a business case for sustainability.

#### Bryan Renk, Madison

Bryan is Executive Director of BioForward, the state trade association that represents Wisconsin's biotechnology and medical device industries.

#### Tim Riley, Appleton

Tim is the Executive Director of The Trout Museum of Art in Appleton and previously the Director of Donor Relations at Lawrence University.

#### Tim Size, Sauk City

Tim has been the Executive Director of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative in Sauk City since helping found the organization in 1979.

#### Marty Wood, Eau Claire

Marty is dean of the UW–Eau Claire College of Arts and Sciences. He joined the English faculty at UW–Eau Claire in 1986.

## WISCONSIN ACADEMY FELLOWS

Wisconsin Academy Fellows are elected for high levels of accomplishment in their fields as well as lifelong commitment to intellectual discourse and public service. These distinguished individuals from a wide range of disciplines provide ideas and inspiration for our programs and projects. Fellows are limited to a group of one hundred at any given time. Our current Fellows are listed below with the year of their induction.

**Shirley S. Abrahamson (1982)** Chief Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court, Madison

**Steven Ackerman (2011)** Professor and director, Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies, UW–Madison

**Julius Adler (1996)** Professor of biochemistry and genetics, UW–Madison

**George Archibald (1988)** Co–founder and director, International Crane Foundation, Baraboo

**Emily Auerbach (2006)** Professor of English, UW–Madison

**Alfred Bader (1986)** Art collector and former chairman, Aldrich Chemical Company, Milwaukee

**Karen Johnson Boyd (2003)** Arts executive and gallery owner, Racine

**\*Nina Leopold Bradley (2001)** Conservationist, Baraboo

**Nancy Ekholm Burkert (1986)** Literary illustrator, East Orleans, Massachusetts

**Molly Carnes (2006)** Physician and professor of medicine, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison

**Sean Carroll (2008)** Professor of molecular biology and genetics, UW–Madison

**Ferne Caulker (1990)** Choreographer, director of Ko–Thi Dance Company, Milwaukee

**Alta Charo (2005)** Biomedical ethicist, UW Law School, Madison

**Warrington Colescott (1988)** Artist and printmaker, professor of art, UW–Madison

**William Cronon (2006)** Professor of history, UW–Madison

**\*James Crow (1984)** Professor emeritus, Department of Genetics, UW–Madison

**Richard Davidson (2004)** Neuroscientist and psychologist, UW–Madison, and director of the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds

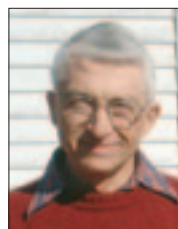
**Richard Davis (2004)** Bass player and professor of music, UW–Madison

**Hector DeLuca (2002)** Professor and chair, Department of Biochemistry, UW–Madison

**John DeMain (2006)** Music director and conductor, Madison Symphony Orchestra

**Michael Dombeck (2008)** UW System Fellow and professor of global conservation, UW–Stevens Point

**Robert H. Dott, Jr. (2011)** Professor of geology, UW–Madison



**William F. Dove (2009)** Professor of oncology and medical genetics, UW–Madison

**Ian Duncan (2009)** Professor of neurology, UW–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine

**Judy Faulkner (2011)** Founder of Epic Systems, Verona

**Michael Fiore (2004)** Physician and smoking cessation researcher, UW–Madison

**Janine Geske (2008)** Professor, Marquette University Law School and former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice, Milwaukee

**Raymond Gloeckler (2002)** Wood engraving artist and Art Department professor emeritus, UW–Madison

**John Gurda (2009)** Author, historian, and columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**Jo Handelsman (2009)** Professor of bacteriology and co–director of the Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute, UW–Madison

**John Harmon (2005)** Composer, pianist, and educator, Winneconne

**Paul G. Hayes (1986)** Former Milwaukee Journal reporter, Cedarburg

**Sister Esther Heffernan (2002)** Professor emerita of social science, Edgewood College, Madison

**Geneva Johnson (1994)** President and chief executive officer, Family Service America, Inc., Milwaukee

**James R. Johnson (1985)** Former Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing executive, River Falls

**Roland Johnson (1986)** Director emeritus, Madison Symphony Orchestra

**Laura Kiessling (2008)** Hilldale Professor of Chemistry and Laurens Anderson Professor of Biochemistry, UW–Madison

**Anne Kingsbury (2005)** Mixed media artist and manager Woodland Pattern Book Center, Milwaukee

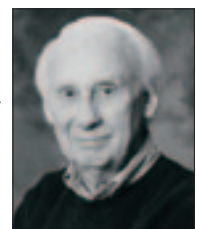
**Joanne Kluessendorf (2005)** Museum director and professor, UW–Fox Valley

**Ruth DeYoung Kohler (1989)** Director, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan

**Ellen Kort (2004)** Poet and first Wisconsin Poet Laureate, Appleton

**Melvin R. Laird (2003)** Former U.S. Secretary of Defense, Fort Myers, Florida

**Maury Laws (2011)** Musician and composer, Appleton



**Barbara Brown Lee (2008)** Chief educator, Milwaukee Art Museum

**David Lenz (2009)** Painter and 2009 winner of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery Competition, Shorewood

**Gerda Lerner (1994)** Professor emerita of history, UW–Madison

**Harvey Littleton (2001)** Glass artist, Spruce Pine, North Carolina

**Truman Lowe (2005)** Artist, curator of National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C., professor, UW–Madison

**Nancy O. Lurie (1986)** Curator of anthropology, Milwaukee Public Museum

**Katharine C. Lyall (2003)** Former UW System President, Madison

**Dennis G. Maki (2003)** Professor UW–Medical School, Madison

**Lorrie Moore (2009)** Award-winning author and Delmore Schwartz Professor in the Humanities, UW–Madison

**Karlos Moser (2009)** University Opera conductor and Fox Valley Symphony founding conductor

**Warren Nelson (2005)** Founder and former producer and executive director of Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua

**Don Nichols (2011)** Professor emeritus of economics and public affairs, UW–Madison

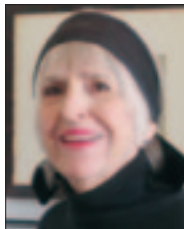
**Sara O'Connor (1993)** Former managing director, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre

**JoAnna Poehlman (2011)** Mixed media artist, Milwaukee

**Rev. Francis Paul Prucha (1986)** Professor of history, Marquette University, Milwaukee

**Sister Joel Read (1985)** Former president, Alverno College, Milwaukee

**Don Reitz (1986)** Former professor of art education, UW–Madison



**Walter Sava (2006)** Executive director emeritus, Latino Arts and United Community Center, Milwaukee

**Irving Shain (1996)** Chancellor emeritus, UW–Madison

**Bassam Z. Shakhshiri (2005)** Professor of chemistry, UW–Madison

**Peter Sheehan (2006)** Curator of geology, Milwaukee Public Museum

**Ben Sidran (1996)** Musician, composer, and producer, Madison

**Hans Sollinger (2006)** Surgeon and professor of medicine, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

**Kenneth Starr (1985)** Director emeritus, Milwaukee Public Museum

**Jeremi Suri (2011)** Professor of history, University of Texas at Austin

**Athan Theoharis (2003)** Professor of history, Marquette University, Milwaukee

**James A. Thomson (2002)** Professor, UW–Madison Medical School, and scientific director, WiCell Research Institute

**Kerry Trask (2008)** Former professor of history, UW–Manitowoc

**Tom Uttech (2004)** Artist, Saukville

**Ronald Wallace (1996)** Author, poet, professor of English, UW–Madison

**Lee Weiss (1985)** Watercolor artist, Madison

**Allen Young (2002)** Vice President for Collections, Research, and Public Programs, Milwaukee Public Museum

**Robert S. Zigman (1989)** Chairman, Zigman Joseph Skeen, Inc., Milwaukee



\*In Memoriam: Wisconsin Academy Fellows Nina Leopold Bradley (1917–2011) and James Crow (1917–2012)



Image credit: Benji Pierson

## NEW FELLOWS WELCOMED AT WISCONSIN ACADEMY FELLOWS EVENT

In November of 2011 the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters held a gathering at the Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center in Madison to welcome seven new Fellows.

We also celebrated the contributions of our Minerva Society members, the most generous supporters of Wisconsin Academy programs. Guests heard from each of the new Fellows, and enjoyed poems from Wisconsin Poet Laureate Bruce Dethlefsen. Wisconsin Academy staff, Council members, Fellows and the public had the rare opportunity to mingle and talk. Our photographer captured in conversation (from left to right) former Wisconsin Academy director Bob Lange, retiring Academy director Margaret Lewis, and newly inducted Fellow Don Nichols.

After the event, we were treated to a guided tour of the James Watrous Gallery exhibition *Water, Bone, Feather & Stone*, featuring the artwork of two Wisconsin Academy Fellows: JoAnna Poehlmann and Lee Weiss.



### ACADEMY STEWARDS WISCONSIN POET LAUREATE

When funding for the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission was eliminated from the State budget at the beginning of the year, the Wisconsin Academy stepped forward to steward the program in May 2011. “The Wisconsin Poet Laureate is more than just a symbolic appointment,” said then Wisconsin Academy executive director Margaret Lewis. “The poet laureate plays a crucial role in keeping the arts accessible and vital—to all age groups—and acts as a statewide emissary for poetry and creativity. The Wisconsin Academy will support the Poet Laureate Commission for the foreseeable future in order to ensure the survival of this meaningful program.”

“The Poet Laureate Commission is extremely pleased that the highly respected Wisconsin Academy stepped forward as steward of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate program,” says Poet Laureate Commission co-chair Jane Hamblen. “The relationship with the Wisconsin Academy will allow this celebration of poetry and creativity in Wisconsin to continue for many years to come.”

Bruce Dethlefsen (left) is the current Wisconsin Poet Laureate. A retired educator and public library director living in Westfield, Dethlefsen began his two-year term as Wisconsin Poet Laureate at the beginning of 2011. Author of two chapbooks, Dethlefsen was twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize and served for years as the secretary of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. Two of his poems were featured on Garrison Keillor’s *The Writer’s Almanac* on National Public Radio and several poems appear on [yourdaily-poem.com](http://yourdaily-poem.com). Published by Fireweed Press, his book of poems, *Breather* (2009), received an Outstanding Achievement in Poetry recognition in 2009 from the Wisconsin Library Association. *Unexpected Shiny Things* (2011), his most recent collection, was published by Cowfeather Press.



### ACADEMY EVENING TALK BREAKS RECORDS

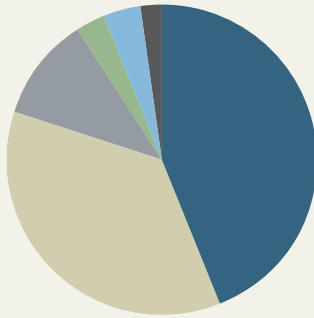
In March of 2011, the Wisconsin Academy was afforded the opportunity to bring nationally-known education historian Diane Ravitch (left) to the Wisconsin Union Theater in partnership with the UW–Madison School of Education. Ravitch spoke on *The Future of Public Education*, and her talk was especially timely due to both the controversy on the right and the left caused by her best-selling book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* (2010), and the current debate in Wisconsin over collective bargaining. During her speech, Ravitch faulted a strictly business model approach to education and defended public schools and school teachers. The Wisconsin Academy continued to address the topic of education throughout the spring of 2011, hosting events in Madison as part of the Education is Fundamental series. Other speakers included Daniel Nerad, Michael Thompson, Julie Underwood, and Adam Gamoran.

The Diane Ravitch event surpassed attendance numbers for any Academy Evening program ever produced:

- **966** – the number of people in attendance
- **361** – the number people watching the live online webcast (including one in Italy!)
- **12,231** – the number of times the website page with the video of the lecture was viewed

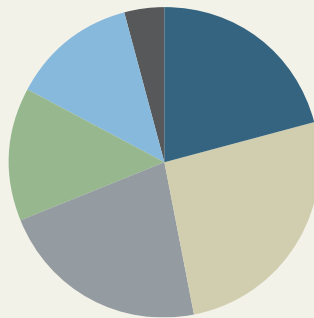
Image credits: (top) Benji Pierson (bottom) Kerry Hill

## 2011 YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENT



### Fiscal year 2011 Revenues (Fiscal year ending June 30, 2011)

Donations	44%
Wisconsin Academy Foundation Distributions	36%
In-kind Services	11%
Grant Revenue	3%
Membership Dues	4%
Other	2%



### Fiscal year 2011 Expenses (Fiscal year ending June 30, 2011)

James Watrous Gallery and other art programs	21%
Wisconsin People & Ideas magazine and electronic communications	26%
Membership & Development	22%
Wisconsin Academy Evenings	14%
Office, audit, interest & other admin. expenses	13%
Building, insurance, depreciation	4%

### Statement of Activity

*Fiscal year ending June 30, 2011*

<b>Revenue</b>	
Donations.....	\$ 331,844
Wisconsin Academy Foundation Distributions.....	276,846
In-kind services .....	83,496
Grant revenue .....	20,628
Membership dues.....	26,209
Other Revenue .....	14,028
<b>Total Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$ 751,051</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program-related expenses.....	451,537
Membership and Development .....	163,786
Office, audit, interest & other admin expenses .....	97,279
Building, insurance, depreciation .....	28,391
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$ 740,987</b>
Change in net assets .....	\$ 10,064
Net assets – Beginning of year.....	\$ 59,913
Net assets – End of year .....	\$ 69,977

### Statement of Financial Position

*as of June 30, 2011*

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and other assets .....	\$ 1,458
Pledges receivable.....	68,500
Certificates of deposit – restricted .....	12,452
Fixed assets, net.....	59,953
Other assets .....	10,541
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$ 152,904</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Line of credit .....	\$ 55,000
Accounts Payable.....	2,715
Unearned revenue.....	11,920
Other liabilities.....	13,292
<b>Total Liabilities.....</b>	<b>82,927</b>
<b>Total Net Assets.....</b>	<b>69,977</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets .....</b>	<b>\$ 152,904</b>

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

Auditors: Wipfli

# IN APPRECIATION OF OUR 2010–2011 SEASON SUPPORTERS

We couldn't do it without you! As an organization that relies heavily on contributed income to cover the costs of programs and operations, we graciously appreciate our 2010–2011 season supporters. No matter what the size of the gift, it takes the vested interest of many people to create a better Wisconsin. Thank you.

## Contributions of \$10,000 & above

Anonymous  
Tom & Renee Boldt  
Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission  
Daniel & Roberta Gelatt  
The Evjue Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of *The Capital Times*  
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Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation

## Contributions of \$5,000 to \$9,999

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## Contributions of \$2,500 to \$4,999

Todd Berry & Margaret S. Lewis  
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University of Wisconsin System  
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Wisconsin Humanities Council

## Contributions of \$1,000 to \$2,499

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James & Jinny Swartout  
Olive Thomson  
UW Health  
Gerald Viste  
Linda & Lane Ware  
The School of Education at UW–Madison  
Wisconsin Education Association Council

**Contributions of \$500 to \$999**  
In Memory of Ellen Buck

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## Contributions of \$250 to \$499

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## Contributions of \$100 to \$249

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 Kenneth & Melinda Potter  
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 Millard Rogers  
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 Alan & Beth Wolf  
 Clifford & Shirley Wood  
 Allen Young  
 Anne Zellhoefer  
 George & Dorothy Zograf

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## Give to the Wisconsin Academy

You've likely participated in our programs during the past year. You also understand how critical these programs are to making our state a better, more culturally and intellectually rich place to live. By supporting the Wisconsin Academy you can help spread these programs—and knowledge—across the state.

Take the time to consider an investment in people and ideas that make a better Wisconsin with a donation to the Wisconsin Academy. Whether you give at \$50 or \$5,000, you have an opportunity to direct the course of our state.

Please send us a tax-deductible gift today by visiting [wisconsinacademy.org](http://wisconsinacademy.org) to contribute safely and securely online. Call 608-263-1692 or e-mail development director Adam Erdmann at [aerdmann@wisconsinacademy.org](mailto:aerdmann@wisconsinacademy.org) to discuss ways in which you can support the Wisconsin Academy.

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### WISCONSIN LABOR EXHIBITION

In 2007, the Wisconsin Arts Board commissioned six photographers to create a “portrait” of contemporary labor for the Department of Workforce Development. The photographers—Tim Ablar and Dick Blau of Milwaukee, David Heberlein of River Falls, J. Shimon and J. Lindemann of Manitowoc, and Jamie Young of Madison—spread out across the state and captured the impressive diversity of Wisconsin’s labor force. A traveling exhibition of these photos, organized by the James Watrous Gallery, first opened in 2010 at the Wriston Art Center Galleries at Lawrence University, Appleton (October 29–November 23). It was on display at the Watrous Gallery in Madison from February 18–April 10, 2011. Finally, it traveled to the Northwestern Mutual Art Gallery at Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee (September 23–November 6, 2011).

#### Attendance for each show:

- Appleton: 487
- Madison: 2,415
- Milwaukee: 600

## WISCONSIN ACADEMY MEMBER PROFILE



### CATHRYN COFELL

APPLETON

member since 2004

#### Why are you a member of the Wisconsin Academy?

I first became a member back when the Wisconsin Academy hosted an annual conference that brought together people passionate about sciences and the arts; we convened in our separate rooms, the biologists sharing their papers, the economists sharing their theories, the poets sharing their poems. But then we all came together for this wonderful lunch and a sampling of the best of each. I've stayed a member now primarily for all you do for the literary arts. I am especially proud to belong to the organization who saw the necessity of maintaining the post of Wisconsin's Poet Laureate when the governor discarded it. Despite what the future might bring, that one bold action has made me a member for life.

#### How has the Wisconsin Academy been meaningful to you?

I was struggling to come back to writing after a six-year hiatus. The Wisconsin Academy was a critical component of that rebirth; your belief that the arts hold a place of distinction alongside the sciences and letters is an important reminder that poetry is not a frivolous fancy. When I received awards for the *Wisconsin People & Ideas* poetry contest two years in a row, you gave me the confidence to keep writing; I probably should have acknowledged you in every book since! And again, your partnership with the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission showed our residents that you do more than talk the talk. As a member of the group that advised former Governor Thompson on the formation of a Wisconsin Poet Laureate, we spent years researching, justifying, and forming a process that would serve our state well. This result of this hard work was three spectacular Poets Laureate bringing tens of thousands the power of words. I feel privileged to belong to the organization that now furthers this work of our fourth Poet Laureate, Bruce Dethlefsen, and the work of many more to come. All of us who are members of the Wisconsin Academy are a part of this now.

#### Which aspects of the Academy matter most to you?

In addition to all of the above, what matters most to me is *Wisconsin People & Ideas*. It is an exquisite magazine, alone worth the small price of admission. I open it for the literature, but most often read it cover to cover. So many rare finds in our fine state, everything from quilting to compassion to nanotechnology. The magazine's annual poetry and fiction contests are fast becoming one of the state's most sought after awards; to win, or even place, is a mantle-worthy honor. Beyond the arts, I've come to appre-

ciate the Academy Evening talks that you've brought to other parts of the state. You truly do try to extend your arms beyond Madison, picking the brains of residents everywhere.

#### Do these programs have an impact on your part of the state?

Absolutely! Attendance at talks in the Fox Cities has been strong and steady. As an employee of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, I've seen first-hand how some of these talks have birthed greater ideas for improving the quality of life in our region—such as the necessity of dependable health in rural communities, the needs of our aging population and, of course, Richie Davidson's talk on the science of compassion which continues to have our community engaging around this idea that being kind is critical to the quality of life for an individual, a family, an entire city. The magazine also brings your gallery to life in my own living room, and of course, the poems, the poems, the poems. When my friend the accountant compliments me on a poem that appeared, you've made an impact, squared!

#### What would you like to see the Wisconsin Academy do more of?

I want those arms of yours to keep reaching. Selfishly, I want you to bring more of what you have to offer to my community, to continue to reach outside Madison. Perhaps member gatherings in other communities, so I know who else carries a piece of you in the place I call home, or at least more events on a weekend so I can partake of all you have to offer more often. Keep doing the fine work of your magazine, your gallery, your vision of the value of weaving arts and letters with the sciences.

#### Why should others become a member or invest in the Wisconsin Academy?

You are, in many respects, the cultural hub of Wisconsin. While there are certainly many other worthwhile organizations chomping at pieces of our culture, the Wisconsin Academy alone is a marriage of both sides of the brain. It would be a travesty to lose this, especially when the price of membership is so small. I also think every poet and poetry lover in our state has an obligation to invest in you. Yes, an *obligation*. You have chosen to invest in us when others would not. It's a small price to pay to have such a heavy-hitter for a champion. Imagine a world without the arts: no music, no books, blank walls, miles of concrete, silence at weddings, baptisms, funerals. The Wisconsin Academy has long understood this gaping hole and has fought hard against it. It's time we all do the same.

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Academy Evenings

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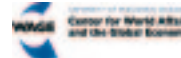
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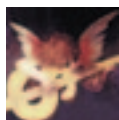


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