

## ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

## Connecting Science to Society

BY BASSAM Z. SHAKHASHIRI, UWRA MEMBER

**R**etirement from living the Wisconsin Idea and connecting science with society? Nah, you must be thinking of someone else. Although I have retired as a professor of chemistry, I am still the William T. Evjue Distinguished Chair for the Wisconsin Idea and I am not done yet. Would you like to join me in important outreach and public engagement activities?



Science and society face grand challenges: global warming, population growth, finite resources, malnutrition, spreading disease, deadly violence, war, and the denial of basic human rights—especially the right to benefit from scientific and technological progress.

The wide gap between those of us who flourish because of advances in science and technology and those who do not is highly alarming and adversely consequential. Facing these challenges requires vigilance, creativity, and the core belief that doing good in the world is a vital part of who we are and what we stand for.

With continual advances in science, the need for connecting science to society requires care, respect, and trust. The Wisconsin Initiative for Science Literacy (WISL), which I lead, offers several opportunities for making this happen (visit [scifun.org/wisl/wisl.html](https://scifun.org/wisl/wisl.html)).

Please tell your family, friends, and others about how UW-Madison Ph.D. candidates are sharing their scholarly research with a wide, non-science audience (visit [scifun.org/Thesis\\_Awards/thesis\\_awards.html](https://scifun.org/Thesis_Awards/thesis_awards.html)).

Also, please help spread the word about an online climate science workbook for teachers and faculty

to integrate climate material into their curriculum ([scifun.org/ClimateWorkbook/home.html](https://scifun.org/ClimateWorkbook/home.html))

We can align personal learning with serving the common good of society. Learning is enriched by sharing with others. It is validated by engaging in respectful conversations. It is affirmed by responsible action for the common good.

I invite you to participate in WISL programs. Your support can help connect science and society ([scifun.org/WISL/WISLsupport3.html](https://scifun.org/WISL/WISLsupport3.html)). Long live the Wisconsin Idea in the 21st century! ■

## Lake Wingra Watershed Gathering

**Vilas Park: Saturday, May 21, 1–4:00 P.M.**

**T**he Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association's WATER Team invites you to a family-friendly and free event. Bring your family, a friend, or neighbor.

Interact with homeowners and people from 30 organizations committed to clean water needed by all life forms that share this planet. Learn about water stewardship practices. Leave with new ideas as we collectively ensure healthy lakes, streams, and the lands in-between.

- Participate in fun activities with nine activities for children.
- Engage with storyteller Andi Cloud, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation.
- Renew your sense of connection among people, land, and water.
- Talk with individuals who plant prairies and restore greenspaces on public property.
- Meet homeowners with rain gardens, rain barrels, and prairies instead of lawns as ways to keep water out of their basements while creating habitat for butterflies, insects, and animals.
- Talk with urban vegetable gardeners.
- Learn about climate justice, how climate change impacts Madison Lakes and ways to lessen effects.
- Experience lake monitoring and tracking harmful chloride.
- Enjoy art inspired by water research results.

Schedule details are at [fb.me/e/2fBrOYwrY](https://fb.me/e/2fBrOYwrY). Feel free to contact Taylor [water.wingragathering@gmail.com](mailto:water.wingragathering@gmail.com). ■