

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ARTHUR DAVIS HASLER**

Arthur Davis Hasler passed away on 23 March 2001. He was a pioneer in developing the science of limnology and one of the preeminent ecologists of the twentieth century. His broad interests included zoology, limnology, ecology, fishery biology and conservation biology. His publication record spans a period of 50 years and includes authorship or co-authorship of more than 200 scientific publications as well as contributions as author or editor of seven books. A total of 52 doctoral degrees and 43 masters degrees were conducted under his supervision. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1969. At that time, he was one of only three ecologists to have received this prestigious honor.

Hasler was born in Lehi, Utah, on 5 January 1908, received a B.A. degree from Brigham Young University in 1932 and a Ph.D. from UW-Madison in 1937 under the guidance of A. S. Pearse and Chancey Juday. He majored in zoology and minored in medical physiology and physiological chemistry. He joined the faculty of UW-Madison in 1937 as an instructor, rose to the rank of professor in 1948 and retired in 1978. He was a research analyst for the U.S. Air Force Strategic Bombing Survey while stationed in Germany during 1945. He served as chair of the Zoology Department during 1953 and 1955-57. Hasler was a Fulbright scholar at the Max Planck Institute in Germany during 1954-55 and a visiting professor at Finland's University of Helsinki in 1963-64. He was elected to the Societas Zoologica Botanica Fennica in 1966, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1972, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Science in 1976 and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters in 1988. He received 10 distinguished scientist awards including the Award of Excellence from the American Fisheries Society in 1977, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Institute of Biological Sciences in 1980, and the Outstanding Achievement Award for 1993 from the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists. In recognition of his long-standing efforts to protect the Madison lakes, he was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award from the Mendota-Monona Lake Property Owners Association in 1987. He served as president of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography in 1951, the Ecological Society of America in 1961, the International Society for Ecology during 1967-74, and the American Society of Zoologists in 1971. He received honorary D. Sc. Degrees from Memorial University of Newfoundland (1967) and Miami University of Ohio (1988). He was a founder of the Institute of Ecology, served as its director during 1971-74 and organized the First Congress of the International Association for Ecology held in the Hague in 1974. He served as an exchange scholar sent by the National Academy of Sciences to China during 1983 and to the Soviet Union in 1986. His sustained commitment to scholarly exchange and as tireless "statesman of science" were recognized in 1992 when he was awarded the Naumann-Thienemann Medal, the highest honor offered by the International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology.

During his 41 years as a member of the faculty at Madison, Hasler taught a wide range of courses. In each, he expressed the philosophy that a breadth of knowledge should be the goal of a student's time at the university. Long known as an advocate of international studies, he often punctuated his lectures with appropriate poetry presented in German. In addition, he was among the strong supporters of interdisciplinary degree programs and one of the founders of the cross-college undergraduate degree in Biological Aspects of Conservation, the graduate program in Water Resources Management and the graduate program in Oceanography and Limnology (now Limnology and Marine Sciences) and a strong supporter of the establishment and development of the Wisconsin Sea Grant College Program.

Hasler's research interests were diverse. He is best known for his seminal work on the role of olfaction in the homing behavior of salmon. He is widely recognized as a pioneer in experimental limnology, conducting one of the first whole-ecosystem, manipulative studies of lakes based on rigorous

(continued)

experimental design. His work on land-water interactions focused on agricultural practices and their effects on water quality in Lake Mendota through the process of “cultural eutrophication.” That became a scientific cornerstone of efforts to reduce nutrient loading to the Madison lakes. His untiring work with civic groups, local politicians and the state legislature led the process that helped reverse eutrophication here, attained national acclaim as a best example of using science to guide public policy, and continues to the present through the efforts of our contemporaries. In each of his research pursuits and those of his students, he emphasized the theme that research work was not done until its application to society was clearly presented.

Hasler’s efforts resulted in grants from the National Science Foundation that built the Laboratory of Limnology on the Madison campus and the Trout Lake Station in Vilas County. Both serve as the focus for continuing research and education in limnology. In recognition of his dedication and leadership, the Madison campus plans to conduct a naming ceremony on 10 May 2004 for the Arthur D. Hasler Laboratory of Limnology.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

James F. Kitchell, chair

John J. Magnuson

Robert A. Ragotzkie

Warren P. Porter