

CHEMISTRY RESEARCH BUILDING

A major addition to the facilities available to the Department of Chemistry arose from a grant from the National Science Foundation to fund completely the construction of the Chemistry Research Building, which provided quarters for the inorganic and organic divisions of the department. At the same time, NSF paid the major cost of providing expensive research equipment such as spectrometers for the new unit. Coincident with this grant, Dr. Sisler, Graduate Dean Grinter, Physics Chairperson Ballard, and Mathematics Chairperson Maxwell were able to obtain a NSF Center of Excellence Grant, a major portion of which came to the chemistry department. This grant provided research equipment, new faculty positions, and support for additional graduate assistants and postdoctoral fellows.... Needless to say, these grants contributed significantly to the growth of the department's external recognition at the national and international level.

— from *"History and Research: The Department of Chemistry of the University of Florida,"* by Richard D. Dresdner, Harry H. Sisler, and Wallace S. Brey 1999

ARCHITECTS: McLane, Ranon, McIntosh, and Bernardo, in association with
Forrest M. Kelley, Jr., architect to the Board of Regents

BUILDER: C.A. Fielland, Inc.

SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION: October 1966

TOTAL COST: \$1,768,762.30 including fees, furnishings, and miscellaneous items
Partial renovation of CRB was accomplished in 1990-1991

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The endeavor to rename the Chemistry Research Building to Harry H. Sisler Hall began several years ago when Harry was an Emeritus Professor and an active member of our chemistry family. Many agreed it was a worthy cause. We would like to recognize the support of the former CLAS Deans and Chairs of Chemistry who believed this should be so: Deans Willard Harrison, Neil Sullivan, Joseph Glover, and Chemistry Chairs William Dolbier, Mike Zerner, John Eyler, and David Richardson. In the final stages, we are grateful for the renewed initiative of Professor and Dean Emeritus Willard Harrison, Professor Richard Yost, and the entire Department of Chemistry faculty. We thank President Machen and the University of Florida Board of Trustees for recognizing that the scientific and scholastic leadership of Harry Sisler merits such an honor.

—Daniel Talham, Chair, Department of Chemistry

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the UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT *of* CHEMISTRY

NAMING CEREMONY
for HARRY H. SISLER HALL

OCTOBER 22, 2008

UF



Harry Sisler, born in 1917, led a remarkable life, and at his death in 2007 left an enduring legacy. Educated at Ohio State (B.Sc., 1936) and Illinois (Ph.D., 1939), he was a successful chemist and professor at Kansas and Ohio State before being called in 1956 to a new challenge at the University of Florida. It was also to be his signature achievement. The University of Florida Department of Chemistry needed leadership to realize its potential, and Harry Sisler knew how to lead. As head of the department from 1956 to 1968, Sisler made sweeping changes, hired outstanding faculty, and started UF Chemistry on its way to becoming a first-rank unit. He is widely remembered as father of the modern UF Department of Chemistry.

Having jump started the Department of Chemistry, Sisler moved on to other leadership positions at the University of Florida. In 1968, he was named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; in 1970, Executive Vice President of the university; in 1973, Dean of the Graduate School; in 1976, Director of Sponsored Programs; in 1979, he returned full time to teaching and research as Distinguished Service Professor.

In his career, he published over 200 research papers and numerous research monographs. But he never lost sight of what to him was most important—the students. His textbook in general chemistry was responsible for encouraging many students to see the excitement in chemistry. And, not least, he published several volumes of his own poetry.

The dedication of Sisler Hall now provides a fitting memorial to the man who did so much to bring this department to national prominence.

PROGRAM

WelcomeDr. Daniel R. Talham
Chair, Department of Chemistry

Dedication.....Dr. Stephen M. Scott
Board of Trustees

Acceptance for UF.....Dr. Joseph Glover
Provost, University of Florida

Acceptance for CLAS.....Dr. Paul D’Anieri
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Harry Sisler’s Legacy.....Dr. Daniel R. Talham
Chair, Department of Chemistry

Unveiling of the Sisler Hall Sign..... Sisler Family Members

Reception to follow in the Keene Faculty Center, Dauer Hall