

David M. Dennison



Bronze Bas-Relief of David M. Dennison by Marshall Fredericks, now in the David Dennison Colloquium Hall , room 340 West Hall. The bas-relief was commissioned by the Physics Department and David Dennison's students and family after his death in 1976. It was at this time also that the name of the Physics and Astronomy building was changed to the Dennison building. The bas-relief was on the wall in the second floor connector between the high-rise and the low-rise portions of the building.

Through the next decades, the physics offices, research activities, and teaching laboratories moved to spaces in the renovated West Hall and in the newly-built addition to the Randall Laboratory. However, all of the introductory physics instruction (large lectures, lecture demonstrations, and recitation sections; also the heavily-attended Saturday Morning Physics lectures) remained in the Dennison building. The upper seven floors were soon occupied by other departments and various interdisciplinary centers. That pattern of use continues as of 2021.

In 2014, UM alumni Ronald Weiser and Eileen Lappin Weiser donated \$50 million to the University of Michigan. To recognize this gift, the University Regents announced that the Dennison Building would be renamed Weiser Hall. In 2016, Ronald Weiser was elected to a nine-year term as Regent.

In 2018, the University's College of Literature, Science and the Arts did what it could to redress Dennison's demotion by naming the physics department's colloquium room (#340 West Hall) in his honor. In 2019, the Marshall Fredricks bas-relief portrait of David Dennison was installed in that room.