

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the  
Regents  
December 18, 2014

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Building and Space Naming

Action

Requested: Authorization to name the David M. Dennison Building, the Crisler Center Club, and the Crisler Center North Tunnel in Recognition of Ronald and Eileen Weiser

Background:

Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser (BBA '66) and Eileen L. Weiser (MMus '75) have made a gift of \$50 million to the University of Michigan. The gift reflects the couple's significant involvement in the International Institute in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA); the School of Education; the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics; the Health System; the University Musical Society; and the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. With this gift, the Weisers' lifetime giving to the university totals \$95.9 million, placing them among the most generous donors to the university.

In addition to their support financially, the Weisers are active volunteers at the university. They are vice chairs of the Victors for Michigan Campaign Leadership Board, and Ron is a member of the advisory board of the Zell Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Ross School of Business and serves on the advisory board of the university's Food Allergy Center. Eileen has served on the University Musical Society (UMS) Board of Advisors, and is a member of the UMS Senate.

The gift includes support for the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies (WCED) in the International Institute in LSA. The WCED studies how democracies emerge and the conditions necessary for assuring and extending political, social, and economic freedoms. In 2008, the Weisers made a \$10 million gift to help establish the WCED as well as the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia (WCEE). With this latest gift, the WCED will be able to branch out to other parts of the world, collaborate with other schools and programs at U-M, and expand the international scholarship and research opportunities for students.

Their gift to the Stephen M. Ross School of Business will establish an endowed fund to support the Weiser Family Entrepreneurship Awards and provide support for the Multidisciplinary Action Projects that provide learning experiences that connect master of business administration students with corporations and organizations around the world to develop solutions to business challenges. It will also contribute toward the Ross School's new and remodeled buildings now under construction.

In the School of Education, their gift will support two goals of the TeachingWorks Program: establishing rigorous standards for entry to the teaching profession and creating partnerships with teacher preparation programs for improved teacher candidate preparation.

The University Musical Society (UMS) gift will add to the Michael Kondziolka Artistic Leadership Fund to ensure that UMS has the resources necessary to research the best creative work worldwide, to sustain and build upon long-term relationships with artists, and to undertake initiatives necessary to keep UMS as one of the best presenters in its field.

Ron Weiser was a student-athlete, wrestling on behalf of the Wolverines. He understands the value facilities have in helping athletes succeed. In the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Weisers' gift will help fund world-class facilities for the more than 900 student-athletes.

As grandparents of two children who have severe food allergies, the Weisers see firsthand the epidemic that impacts approximately 8 percent of children in the United States. Their gift will accelerate the development and widen the mission of the Health System's Food Allergy Center to expand access for specialized care, build clinical expertise, and conduct transformative research that will produce new discoveries and treatments.

The Weisers have also made a substantial additional gift to be designated at a future time.

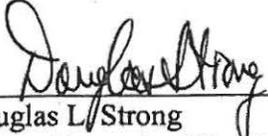
In recognition of the Weisers' substantial commitment to the WCED and WCEE which will be moved to the David M. Dennison Building when its renovation is completed, we recommend that the Board of Regents formally name that building Weiser Hall in compliance with the university's guidelines on namings and with the concurrence of the Dennison family.

In recognition of the Weiser's commitment to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, we recommend that the new Crisler Center Club and renovated Crisler Center North Tunnel be named the Ron and Eileen Weiser Family Club and the Weiser Family Tunnel respectively in compliance with the university's guidelines on namings.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Interim Donald R. Shepherd Director of  
Intercollegiate Athletics

  
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Andrew D. Martin  
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December 2014