

Building D named after David M. Bonner

December 7, 1964

The contributions to science and education of the late Dr. David M. Bonner, one of America's foremost geneticists and the first Chairman of the Department of Biology on the San Diego campus of the University of California, will be recognized by the University through the naming of a university building in his honor. Dr. Bonner died May 2, 1964.

The University Board of Regents, acting on the unanimous recommendation of the faculty and administration of UCSD, approved the naming of Building D as David Mahlon Bonner Hall. The building, the first to be named on the new Torrey Pines Mesa campus, is a four story cement structure which was completed last September. When fully occupied it will house the Department of Biology and part of the Department of Chemistry of The First College.

The building is located at the northeast corner of The First College cluster at the intersection of U. S. Highway 101 and La Jolla Shores Drive.

Dr. Bonner came to UCSD from Yale in 1960 as the first biologist appointed to The First College, then known as the School of Science and Engineering. He came to UCSD to take part in developing the teaching and research program in biology at the school.

According to his associates, Dr. Bonner, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, was one of the foremost biochemical geneticists in the United States who had been in the forefront of genetic research for 17 years. His work, elucidating the biosynthetic pathway of niacin and the concept of genetic control of enzyme synthesis, resulted in his receiving the Eli Lilly Award in 1954.

Dr. Bonner was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and received his A.B. degree from the University of Utah. At the California Institute of Technology, where he received his Ph.D., Dr. Bonner worked with George W. Beadle and Edward L. Tatum who in 1958 won the Nobel Prize for their studies in genetics.

After a period as Research Assistant at Stanford University from 1942-46, Dr. Bonner became successively Assistant Professor and Associate Professor of Microbiology at Yale University, and was promoted to full professorship in 1956.

His book, "Heredity," was published by Prentice-Hall in 1961 as a part of its "Foundations of Modern Biology" series.