

Homepage: <https://www-users.cse.umn.edu/~stant001/>

Born: November 5, 1952

Dennis W. Stanton - [Denis, Stanton, 112, 1628, 1977, 2022, 3, 1, 12]

Not too much personal details are known about Dennis W. Stanton, but there is certainly some information about his professional life. Currently Dennis works as a professor at University of Minnesota. The last class he taught was Math 4707 in 2019, which is Introduction to Discrete Math. Students at the school rate him very highly and have much to say about his character and style.

According to the reviews left by his students, Professor Stanton is very strict and straightforward. He has a very no-nonsense attitude towards students which may seem scary at first but students find it to be reassuring as he is very kind to answer questions and allows students to use notes on exams. Although his exams are considered very hard, he is considered a fair grader. Dennis teaches students to think critically instead of regurgitating information which is what many other teachers do. This shows that Dennis really cares about his students and wants them to learn instead of memorize and forget.

I learned about Dennis Stanton mainly from testimonials from other people. Richard Stanley was such a person. He says that ever since Dennis's arrival on the math scene around 1977 he has enjoyed his many interesting papers and captivating lectures. He says Dennis's teaching style is so great, and how he is one of those lecturers who people can follow from start to finish and he always has something substantial to say each time. Although Dennis seems to have a mundane voice, his unique sense of humor compensates for it. Richard Stanley was a colleague of Dennis at MIT when he was a postdoc there from 1978-1980. Together they used to play a lot of racquetball, although Dennis beat him every time.

Some of Dennis's widely held work is Constructive combinatorics published in 1986 which is held by 682 WorldCat member libraries worldwide. The notes that turned into this book were written between 1977 and 1985 for a course called Constructive Combinatorics at the University of Minnesota. The course evolved from a course on combinatorial algorithms. It contained a mixture of graph algorithms, optimization and listing algorithms. Another widely held work of his was Q-Series and partitions published in 1989. This book is based on the proceedings of a workshop which was an integral part of 1987-88 IMA program on applied combinatorics.

Dennis seems to be a quiet guy. He doesn't post much about his personal life online so it's hard to find details about himself, only his professional life. The only insight we have on him is anecdotal stories from other people who were in his company. The one thing we do know is that

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Dennis loved combinatorics. So much so that one of his favorite quotes is, “You start out in life doing mathematics, you end up doing combinatorics.”