



Ted Bornhorst in museum garden. My last created and nearly complete exhibit in the background, an 1860s kibble.

After 22 issues of **Showcase** beginning in 2015 this will be my last. I'm retiring next week from Michigan Tech after 40 years, the last 17 years as Director, and now Executive Director and Interim Curator, of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum.

I first visited the museum as a first-year undergraduate student in geology at Michigan Tech some 50 years ago in 1970. In 1973-74, I was a student employee at the museum and helped pack the collection from its location in Hotchkiss Hall (Hotchkiss was razed for construction of the EERC, which became the museum's home for the next 34 years). After finishing my doctorate in geology from the University of New Mexico, I returned to Michigan Tech in 1980 to do post-doctoral research, expecting to stay no more than 2 years. Obviously, I've stayed far longer! I advanced to Professor of Geology in the Department of Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences and in 2003, became co-director of the museum while continuing my teaching role until 2017, just 3 years ago. I've stayed active in research, and recently finished advising a M.S. graduate student, likely to be my last. I could fill the rest of this **Showcase** with reminiscing about my time as a faculty member but this is about the museum.

Since its beginning in 1902, the museum has been moved from one home to another until a decade ago. The museum vacated the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the EERC building in mid-December 2010. The contents filled 10 semi-trailers that were parked in a heated building. Less than 5 months later, in 2011, they were unpacked in the museum's current location. Back in 1973-74, I would not have believed that I'd be helping pack the collection a second time albeit the second time being much more intense than the first as logistical leader. The move-out, design and construction of the new building, and the move-in are etched into my memory. At the time, I called the move "a new beginning" and subsequently the museum has continued to improve by making additions and changes to the Thomas D. Shaffner exhibit hall, adding the Phyllis and John Seaman Garden featuring rocks of the Great Lakes region, adding the Copper Pavilion, expanding of the museum's Mineral Preparation Annex, and most recently, adding the 1860s kibble. It is fortunate that the museum's location provides space to grow. Financial support from friends of the museum helped make the building and improvements a reality.

After considerable negotiations, led by me, in April of 2015, Michigan Tech and the University of Michigan reached an in-perpetuity legal agreement that created the Michigan Mineral Alliance wherein the University of Michigan's mineral collection was moved to Michigan Tech. Michigan Tech became co-owner of the collection and the museum assumed responsibility for its care and management. Since the essence of the museum is its mineral holdings, the addition of the University of Michigan collection represents a significant leap forward while maintaining the capacity to grow.

The space here is insufficient to recognize the many more museum activities and accomplishments that are worthy of recognition. There have been legacy monetary donations creating endowments, one-time donations, and annual memberships, all of which are important to the museum. There have been donations of significant private collections ranging from a large number of minerals to smaller sets of minerals to just one specimen. These too are all worthy of recognition. Your support of the museum helped make being director fun and rewarding.

"Bittersweet" is my assessment of retiring from the museum. A historical footnote is that "Bittersweet" was the same assessment I gave in a 2014 (volume 20, no. 22) issue of the TechAlum newsletter article on teaching my last class of field geology after 32 continuous years. My bittersweet ending is happy, but mixed with sadness and nostalgia. I'm happy to have: served, met and interacted with many of you, the museum's constituents; played a role in strengthening the museum's foundation upon which the future will be built; and enjoyed my time leading the museum. I'm also sad because: I'll truly miss all of the people of the museum and university communities; there are goals not fully realized during my tenure; and I'm leaving the intellectual satisfaction that is part of a job that I love. I have many fond memories of my time leading the museum and the museum is now and will remain a part of me; this is the nostalgia. My museum journey would not have been nearly as successful or enjoyable without the support, encouragement, and advice of my wife Laurie. I hope my efforts have helped the museum to succeed for centuries and beyond.

You can surmise from above that I'll be helping out at the museum as needed during my retirement. My email address ([tjb@mtu.edu](mailto:tjb@mtu.edu)) will be the same as it is now, so feel free to let me know if you are in town and would like to cross paths or just want to say hello.

Farewell, Ted Bornhorst, Executive Director and Interim Curator