

I'm pleased to introduce Margaret Hanson, the new Assistant Director of the museum. She earned a B.S. in geology and a M.S. in instructional technology. As a student Margaret won an award in mineralogy. Her experience includes several years teaching youth at the middle school level and as a university teaching assistant for which she received an award for outstanding performance. Recently, she worked for a junior mining company. Margaret is a GIA certified graduate gemologist and has experience selling gemstones along with considerable experience in retail sales, including minerals. She has worked in the museum environment as well. All of these professional experiences are especially relevant to her role as Assistant Director of the museum. Margaret is already responsible for many museum activities and the list will grow over time. Her technical background allows her to answer questions about geology and minerals from the general public. She is the "go to person" for public identification of minerals, even those difficult-to-identify rounded and naturally polished pebbles from the beach. Margaret now handles orientation tours for school and other groups, the operation of the museum's gift shop and supervises our multiple student employees, among other duties, which does indeed make her work days go by quickly. As you will discover in interactions with her, she has an unbridled enthusiasm for the museum and its future and has a love of minerals and geology. Her outgoing and positive personality is perfect as the "face" of the museum. As you can tell I'm delighted she has joined the museum staff in this capacity!



The museum continuously pursues a variety of avenues to connect with our constituencies, which includes the general public, mineral connoisseurs and collectors, geology professionals, and more. It is through these connections we derive our reputation. We are connected, for example, with the regional geologic community through involvement in the Institute on Lake Superior Geology (ILSG). The museum co-hosted (myself as co-chair) the 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the ILSG with the Ontario Geological Survey, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, which was held in Wawa, Ontario May 8 through May 12. The meeting consisted of 2 days of technical sessions with 51 presentations and 6 geological field trips. Despite the remote location, there were 137 participants from the U. S. A. and Canada. Margaret served as registrar for the meeting and together we co-edited the 97 page proceedings volume and also compiled the 204 page field trip guidebook. The first awardee of the ILSG Pioneer of Lake Superior Geology was Douglass Houghton (1809-1845). The museum prominently exhibits an 1870s life sized oil painting of Houghton as well as some of his mineral specimens under the Michigan Mineral Alliance, you can read more about him from the museum website:

[http://www.museum.mtu.edu/sites/default/files/AESMM\\_Web\\_Pub\\_4\\_Douglass\\_Houghton.pdf](http://www.museum.mtu.edu/sites/default/files/AESMM_Web_Pub_4_Douglass_Houghton.pdf)



63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
Institute on  
Lake Superior Geology



Wawa, Ontario  
May 8 - 12, 2017



Wawa  
Wild Game  
Land of the Big Game  
in Ojibway



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The museum's exposure ranges from local to regional to national, and even to international. The prestigious international journal *Nature* published a Correspondence June 7<sup>th</sup> titled "A rescue package for imperiled collection" co-authored by myself, Dr. Chris Poulsen, chair and professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Michigan, and Dr. Rod Ewing, professor in the department of geological sciences and Frank Stanton professor in nuclear security at Stanford University. The Correspondence was in response to an Editorial in *Nature* on how academic natural history collections can be saved from destruction by uniting them at regional hubs. It discusses the "rescue" of the University of Michigan mineral collection under an agreement between the University of Michigan and Michigan Tech termed the Michigan Mineral Alliance which I've described in more detail previous issues of **Showcase**. To learn more about the agreement see

<http://www.museum.mtu.edu/collections/um-collection/alliance>. I'm especially pleased to have our innovative model for preservation of university mineral collections given a spotlight in such a prestigious publication. The Correspondence is publically available as part of Springer *Nature* Content Sharing Initiative at: <http://rdcu.be/tiPO>.



Sulfur, Sicily, Italy 24 X 12 X 7 cm from the  
University of Michigan mineral collection,  
UM4721. Photo by C. Stefano

Until next time, Ted Bornhorst, Executive Director