



## From the Executive Director by Ted Bornhorst

Once again, the season holiday season is beginning and it is time for the museum's annual newsletter. The museum had a good year as I've reported to you in this year's editions of **Showcase**. I hold back some news, as hard as that is, in order to make this *Newsletter* special. From A. E. Seaman to today, the accomplishments of museum staff have contributed to the success of the museum. These accomplishments have been honored, but one honor goes beyond a normal award- a mineral named for the recipient provides a permanent mineralogical legacy for them and by association for the museum. The museum's namesake and founder was recognized by the mineral named seamanite, late curator Kiril Spiroff by spiroffite, and recently retired curator, George Robinson, by georgerobinsonite. And now another as you will read below. The museum and the accomplishments of its staff are not possible without your support. We would not exist without the mineral collection which has been built mostly through private donations. Some examples of continuing mineral donations that enhance the collection are given below. We would also not exist if it were not for the financial assistance of both Michigan Tech and private donors. About a week ago, a visitor to the museum asked to talk with me about creating an endowment for the museum with a specific focus through his estate. Endowments are a permanent and continuing source of support for the museum. While most of our endowments are a result of generous estate gifts, others are being funded by current and future donations such as the Elizabeth Bekkala Endowed Memorial Fund created in 2017 by Angela and Corey Hammond. I'll tell you more about museum endowments in an upcoming issue of **Showcase**. If you are interested in designating an estate gift to the museum and/or creating a museum endowment, either I or the Michigan Tech Fund are happy to help. These are not the only ways to support the museum. There are many who support us by simply telling others about us and recommending they visit us. And of course monetary donations to the museum including renewing or becoming a member are important, no matter the size. If you have not already done so this year, I hope you will consider financially supporting the museum. I've enclosed a simple mail back form or you can donate via credit card online at: <http://www.museum.mtu.edu/support-us/giving>. Thanks to all of you who already gave in 2017.

## New Mineral Named after Adjunct Curator John Jaszczak



John Jaszczak, Professor of Physics and the museum's adjunct curator, has been honored by having a new mineral named after him in 2017 by Luca Bindi and Werner Paar from Firenze, Italy and Salzburg, Austria respectively. Jaszczakite is  $[(\text{Bi,Pb})_2\text{S}_3][\text{AuS}_2]$ , and is a sulfur and bismuth analog of the mineral buckhornite. The type locality is the Nagybörzsöny gold deposit in northern Hungary, which is hosted by a Miocene volcanic breccia pipe. Jaszczakite is currently known to exist in only one polished section in which it was observed to be intergrown with quartz, arsenopyrite, cosalite, and bismuth. It is an extremely rare tin-white metallic mineral with a hardness of 2.5 to 3. Jaszczakite was discovered by accident by Bindi while trying to do further investigation of jonassonite, a chemically similar mineral that was named by Paar and others in 2006 from the same locality. The first publication on jaszczakite appeared in the *European Journal of Mineralogy*, February 2017 issue authored by Bindi and Paar. In naming the new mineral after him, they recognized John for holding the position of adjunct curator of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum, for being a well-known mineral expert, and for the wide international recognition of his studies on natural graphite.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE A. E. SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM

[www.museum.mtu.edu](http://www.museum.mtu.edu)



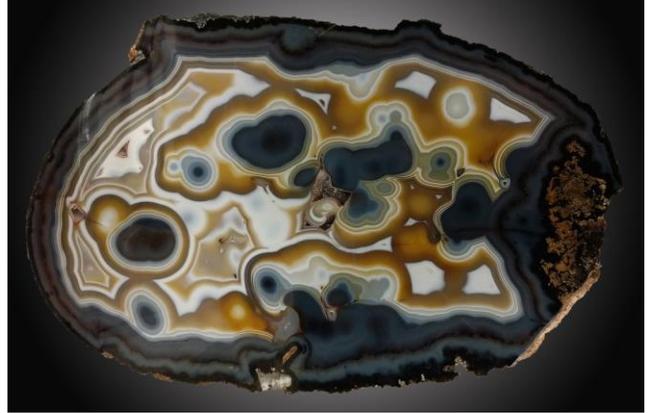
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## Kate Sullivan



Boulder opal, Queensland, Australia. Specimen is 6.5 cm tall. Photo by C. Stefano.

In mid-October of this year Kate Sullivan, Ann Arbor, generously donated of a sizable mineral collection. Her late husband, Don (DJ) Sullivan, assembled the collection. DJ Sullivan attended Michigan Tech for a year in the late 1950s. He earned a MS in Industrial Engineering at Wayne State University followed by a career in healthcare management. His company, DJ Sullivan & Associates, focused on surgical suite design and management throughout the US and Canada. Over several decades he assembled a collection of about 500 specimens. The collection consists mostly of minerals, but also a few fossils including a fossil dinosaur egg from China. There are a variety of mineral specimens such as polished spheres and free-forms, amethyst geode slices and an outstanding polished agate slice. Among the more notable specimens



Large polished agate slab from Brazil. Slab is 48 cm across! Photo by C. Stefano

are emerald in matrix from China, tourmaline in quartz from Pariaba, Brazil, chalcopyrite on calcite from Romania, a beautiful pink gemstone variety of spodumene, kunzite from Afghanistan and multiple specimens of boulder opal from Australia. Multiple specimens from this collection will be accessioned into Michigan Tech's permanent mineral collection after evaluation is completed.

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## Jeff and Louise Nuttall



Copper, Quincy Mine Specimen is 3.5 cm tall. Photo by J. Jaszczak.

Michigan Tech alumnus Jeff Nuttall ('68) and his wife Louise have donated an outstanding copper crystal to the museum. The crystal of copper, from the Quincy Mine in Hancock, has near-perfect form. Although the museum has the finest cumulative collection in the world of crystallized copper specimens, the Nuttalls' donation is more than twice the size of the next-best crystal of the same form in the museum's collection! Among the thousands of copper crystals from the Copper Country in other museums and private collections, very few show such perfect form. Associate Curator Chris Stefano notes that "Despite its small size, this specimen is among the finest copper crystals in the museum's extensive holdings." Nuttall is a semi-retired geologist running Vicksburg Petroleum out of Houston, Texas and has an extensive collection of minerals from the local region. He has a great love for the Copper Country and has collected minerals since his time at Michigan Tech.

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## Paul and Janet Clifford

Paul and Janet Clifford continue the donation of their mineral collection to the museum. The first installment of their generous donation was announced in the April 2015 Issue 3 of **Showcase** (<http://www.museum.mtu.edu/about-us/news/archive>) where you can learn more about them and their long association with the museum. This past summer the Cliffords donated 201 specimens, the second installment of the approximately 4000 specimens they pledged in 2003. They have now donated about half of their collection to the museum. Paul is the former curator of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's gem and mineral collection and was assisted by Janet. An endowment has been created by the Clifford's with the proceeds to be used to purchase specimens for the museum's collection. Michigan Tech's mineral collection continues to improve through the generosity of donors such as Paul and Janet Clifford. The museum looks forward to the next installment of their minerals.



Pentagonite, India. Specimen is 8.5 cm tall. Photo by C. Stefano.