

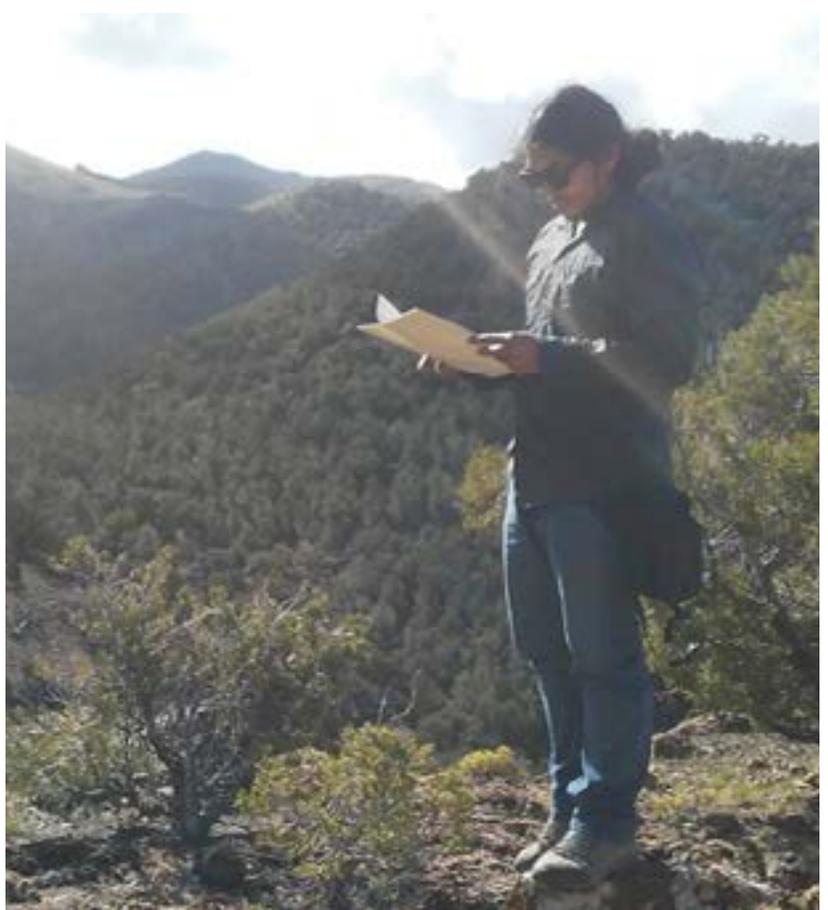
September 2018 News Notes

- Alumni Change Lives
- New Dinosaur Installation in Orton Hall
- Siegfried (Sig) J. Muessig: An Appreciation
- Brevia
- Alumni Spotlight: Bruce D. Hulman

Alumni Change Lives

Datu Adiatma is a graduate student working with Professor Matthew Saltzman. Here he describes how the Friends of Orton Hall fund helped further his graduate studies. If you are interested in giving to support the Friends of Orton Hall or other funds, please visit our giving page ([link](#)).

Friends of Orton Hall partially funded my trip to Nevada and Utah to do fieldwork and attend the IGCP 653 Meeting Pre-Conference Field Trip in the Great Basin. My main work in Nevada was assisting Dr. Chris Conwell (former PhD student of Matt Saltzman) with field sampling and observing a time equivalent sequence in Antelope Range Nevada; I will use this section to compare to my main research section in West Virginia. After completing the fieldwork, I attended the IGCP 653 Pre-Conference Field Trip in Utah and Nevada, led by Dr. Seth Finnegan, Dr. Bob



Gaines, Dr. Sara Pruss, and Dr. Richard Hofman. In this field trip I got to visit classic Cambrian to Ordovician sections of the North American Continent (the Ibex section and the Shingle Pass section) and meet with other geoscientists from around the world (Australia, Germany, Denmark, China, Canada, and Czech Republic). This trip gives me a valuable insight into the Cambrian and Ordovician stratigraphy of the North American Continent, which is very beneficial for my future research. I would like to thank the Friends of Orton Hall for the financial support to do this trip.

New Dinosaur Installation in Orton Hall

Two exciting upcoming events in Orton Hall will give you the chance to hang out with our new dinosaur, *Cryolophosaurus ellioti*. The dinosaur installation was possible thanks to the hard work of Museum Director and Professor Bill Ausich and Museum Curator Dale Gnidovec as well the generous support of many alumni and friends.

The mission to bring a dinosaur to Orton began in 1991, when Professor David Elliot was in Antarctica tracking volcanic ash deposits with the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center. While on his lunch break, Elliot stumbled upon massive dinosaur bones, encased in rock and ice. Four field seasons later, *Cryolophosaurus ellioti*, a new dinosaur species, was free!

You can read more about our famous dinosaur [here](#)



Please RSVP for either event at the link:

[Saturday October 6](#)

Alumni Homecoming Tailgate at Orton Hall, 11 AM – 1 PM

We will have lunch, beers and pre-game cheers!

Please RSVP [here](#)

[Sunday October 7](#)

Orton Dinosaur Open House, 2 PM – 4PM (kid friendly!)

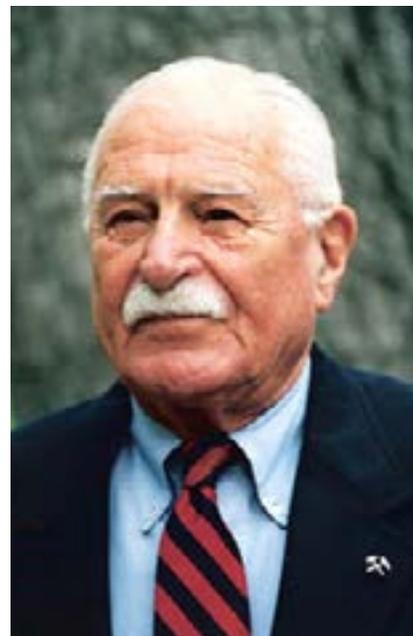
Please RSVP [here](#)

Siegfried (Sig) J. Muessig: An Appreciation

Siegfried Muessig (SEG 1957 HF), a highly respected American mining geologist, died May 24, 2018, age 96, in Claremont, California.

Sig was born to Philipp and Irma Muessig in the historic university city of Freiburg, Germany, in 1922. Six years later the family emigrated to Sylvania, Ohio in the United States, where he grew up. He managed to catch the tail end of WWII as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army Air Corps, flying a B-29, before earning B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Geology at The Ohio State University and subsequently joining the U. S. Geological Survey.

In the early 1950s, one of Sig's first jobs, in support of the U. S government's desire to develop borate-based jet fuels, was to help determine the extent of boron ore reserves in the western world. That work exposed him to the U.S. Borax Company's deposits and mining operations in the deserts of California, Argentina and Chile. Sig became deeply involved with this project, quickly becoming an authority on the chemistry, deposition and distribution of the world's borate deposits. In Argentina in 1957, he discovered and named a new borate mineral, Ezcurreite, after the manager of the mine where it was discovered. Sig next worked in Washington State, and his USGS Bulletin 1216 on the Republic District in north-central Washington remains an excellent exploration guide to the district.



In 1959, U.S. Borax hired Sig as their first Chief Geologist, a position he held until 1966 when Tidewater Oil Company, later Getty Oil Company, recruited him to head up their new minerals exploration group, to be known as Getty Mining. Getty had chosen wisely. During Sig's twenty-year stay he formed and directed a highly-regarded, aggressive, and successful, multinational exploration group well-known for its discovery of significant gold reserves in the historic Mercur District of Utah and its roles in the joint venture discoveries of the large Jabiluka uranium orebodies in Australia; the world-class Escondida, Chile copper deposit; the Casa Grande, Arizona, copper deposit. A colleague and friend summarized the experience of working at Getty this way: "[Sig's] leadership of the Getty Minerals group, the quality of the team he built, their accomplishments, and his effective advocacy at the highest levels of Getty Oil for our programs gave us all the freedom to do our job well and to produce some of the best discoveries of that era, if not since then. They don't come any better."

After Getty, Sig directed Crystal Exploration's diamond search in Michigan and Wisconsin, consulted for major mining companies' exploration efforts and during his final year, readied for USGS publication his 1954 field report and plane table map on the Monte Blanco borate deposits of Death Valley (in press). Sig's approach to all matters was enthusiastic and energetic. He served his profession well as President of the Society of Economic Geologists in 1978 and received their Ralph W. Marsden Medal in 1990. He was a Distinguished Member of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) and received their Ben F. Dickerson III award in 2007. He was also a Fellow of the Geological Society of America (GSA), and a life-term Governor of the National Mining Hall of Fame.

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He always brushed away the window dressing and looked for the basic elements of a project and his pithy, insightful comments about the exploration business were always on the mark. During his career he would frequently, in print, exhort his fellow professionals with directives to keep focused on the basic issues of mineral exploration. "Drill in the shadow of the headframe!", "Exploration is a business not a science!", "IQ may get you there but it's NQ that finds it!" became slogans of the profession.

Sig is survived by his wife of 69 years, Mary Catherine (Kit), his sons Hans and Philipp, their spouses and three grandchildren. Siegfried Muessig was a remarkable geologist, a gentleman, a leader, a scientist, and a companion to so many of us.

Cheers old friend. You had a wonderful run.

Contributed by Robert C. Munro (FGS) and William M. Pennell (SEG SF 1979)

Gifts in Sig's memory may be made to The Ohio State University Foundation, 1480 Lane Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43221, for their Edmund M. Spieker Memorial Scholarship Fund or the School of Earth Sciences Field Experience Travel Fund.

Brevia

A number of SES students, faculty and staff attended the recent Goldschmidt Conference in Boston Massachusetts.

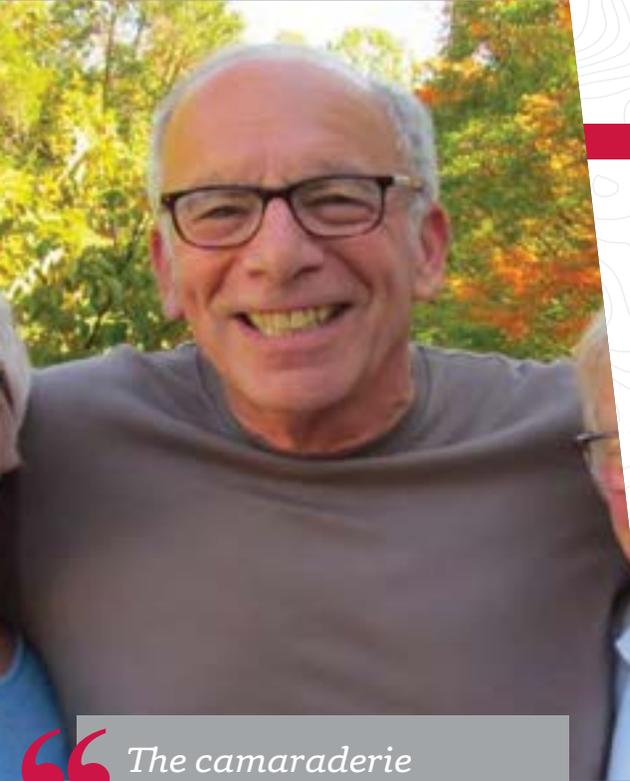


Laboratory manager Dr. Julie Sheets with Anne Booker, student of Professor Mike Wilkins.

BRUCE D. HULMAN

Retired engineer, Delaware Solid Waste Authority

Silver Spring, MD, bhulman@comcast.net, bhulman@me.com



WHERE HAS YOUR DEGREE TAKEN YOU?

I have held many positions since I graduated with my BS in 1969. I completed my masters degree while working for the Ohio EPA in 1973. I then went to work for a civil engineering firm. After working for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, I decided to return to Ohio State to earn a BS in Civil Engineering. Following my Civil Engineering degree, I worked for a variety of consulting firms across Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Delaware, where I remained until I retired at the end of 2014.

MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE?

Without doubt, my experience working with Dr. Wayne Pettyjohn was most instrumental in formulating my views about environmental issues and how I should conduct myself professionally. Though he had a reputation for being direct and tough, he was very fair, and I rarely misunderstood him. He helped me get started in hydrogeology and provided real-world advice to me. Dr. Pettyjohn appreciated my level of effort doing my senior thesis project. I also recall Dr. Sidney E. White fondly. He was a terrific undergraduate advisor. Dr. Henry Wenden was a superb teacher of mineralogy. Dr. Wenden loved mineralogy and his enthusiasm was evident in his classes. I also liked Dr. Gunter Faure and Dr. Walter Sweet. Both Drs. Faure and Sweet were experts in their respective fields of geology.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE SES STUDENTS?

Students should follow their interests as they complete their education. Realizing that your interests may change as you learn more about various fields of geology. College is a comparatively short time compared to the learning you get once outside of college. If your goal is to do advanced research and stay in academia, then your efforts should be to fulfill the criteria to complete a PhD. That means stamina. You never know what you will be doing several years post college. The best advice I can offer is to be as receptive to varying areas of geologic technology as you can. While in school grades are important but don't let grades consume you.

“The camaraderie among geology students was just great. I fondly remember how we were as students, treks to Larry’s Bar in High Street on Friday afternoons, seminars about various aspects of geologic study and the summer field camp in Ephraim, UT. Who could forget that experience??”



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