Testimonials for Sean

From colleagues at Oracle Cloud Infrastructure

Ben Scaborough

Sean is an amazing engineer. I got the pleasure of working with Sean for my entire 7+ year tenure (and counting) at OCI. He is a great practitioner, level-headed, a deep thinker, and a great mentor to any engineer that had the opportunity to work with him. All the best!

Jag Brar

I have to say I am so saddened to hear that. Sean is one of our best – I know he is so much better than me. There is no replacing him, we will have to learn to survive without him. He has made us all better. In my mind he is "the" tech leader for all things compute. He was ahead of us in so many ways. I remember him showing me a GPU board he was testing with back in 2017-2018 and explaining how GPUs can be used to do "ML computations". He was clearly ahead of us all. I will for sure miss him. It is a huge loss for us.

Rik

To Sean - my friend

For a decade you stood, our steady guide, master of NICs with wisdom wide. You trained us young, you shaped our start, with patient hands and a generous heart. Those RIC mornings, five minutes long, became the foundation that made us strong. When questions were hardest, you'd appear— no matter the moment, you made time clear. So here's to the one Compute won't replace— a mentor, a compass, a steadying grace. The prodigal son whose impact we keep, in every lesson we learned, every promise we reap.

Mark Maynard

Hi Sean, I remember when you did a "Mini-ECAR" for LIMA (Launch Instance Multi-Attach) way back when. We didn't have a CCAR process yet! This was my first big design doc as an IC4 at OCI, and you helped steward the design review. Since then, you moved on to GPU/AI-land, and it sure has done a lot for my RSUs! I'm saddened that you are retiring, but I wish you the best, you've accomplished so much here!

Erik Reiter

Sean is the smartest and most humble engineer I have met in my professional career. No matter how busy he might have been, he was always available to answer any questions I had about Bare Metal / NICs / Compute. He would not just tell me the answer but would make sure I truly understood it. One of my earliest memories of Sean was during one of my very first on-call shifts at OCI on a late-night NOC bridge. Sean was one of few Compute folks still around and he generously jumped on the call when I was stuck to teach me what I was supposed to be doing. I was glad to have finally met and worked with him in person in Houston, TX after many years of working remotely. I wish our paths at OCI had intersected more often because I always felt like I learned so much when working with him.

Bob Booth

When Sean interviewed me eight years ago, he asked me a question I didn't immediately know how to solve. Rather than move on, he guided me through it until I arrived at a working solution. That moment set the tone for everything I've come to know about Sean — he takes the time to teach and elevate those around him. Anyone who has worked with Sean knows exactly what I mean. We've faced countless high-pressure customer calls with problems that seemed unsolvable. Sean's calm demeanor, methodical approach, and unmatched technical depth have a way of putting everyone at ease and ultimately getting to the answer. Sean, you've inspired all of us through your actions and example. Wishing you the very best — you will be greatly missed.

Sudha

Sean and compute have been synonymous since the day I joined OCI almost 9 years ago! I see him as a poster child representing OCI values. Never hesitating to help from answering simple questions to the most complex ones, I am very glad OCI had someone senior like Sean to not just tell but show how it's done! Sean has stepped in on numerous occasions to do the right thing for our customers. We are going to miss him. Enjoy the break Sean!

Jon Shelley

To Sean, I have enjoyed my interactions with you over the past few years. I appreciated the times that we got to work together. You always seemed to bring a cheerful attitude to work even though the stress was high. I also appreciated your willingness to share your time and learnings with me. I wish you the best as you move to your next adventure and hope that our paths cross again.

Shihao

Sean, you are one of the most brilliant engineers I've ever worked with. Your technical depth in Compute is unmatched, and the organization simply wouldn't be as successful without your leadership and dedication. You've been a great mentor, always there to guide others and keep things moving forward. You will definitely be missed. I wish you all the best and hope your next journey is even more exciting and rewarding.

Thomas Kuehnel

Since joining you have solved some of the toughest challenges OCI faced, starting with bringing up the first X7 T100 GPUs, making the Broadcom NICs work, guiding the transition to Mellanox, devising and implementing the Cavium burn-in to mitigate the gearbox issues, working through Meltdown and Spectre bugs, the first GB200 bring-up in AGA and SYD and the list continues through today. Throughout this time, you stayed humble, and it was fun and inspiring to work side-by-side with you, remember Sydney…?

Matt Mullins

Sean has helped me numerous times with understanding of various Compute designs. He has always been open to discuss, explain, teach, and share regardless of the ask. His ability to enable understanding of complex systems and issues will be sorely missed. I am where I am in my OCI career due, in part, to Sean. Sean is the person I go to for anything hardware related and his leadership and guidance will be missed and cause a void for many engineers.

Kenny Wilkerson

Thanks for all the mentorship and guidance as we ramped up this team in central KY. You played a big role in onboarding many of the senior ICs we hired here, and I know they are all very thankful for your willingness to step in and review designs, answer questions, and just help them be better engineers. Your impact on OCI will last well into the future through all you have mentored - you should take pride in that. Hopefully you get to take a long break and recharge the batteries, but wherever you land one day, please let me know early on so I can buy some stock. Best of luck!

Gyanesh Sharma

Thanks a lot, Sean, for an incredible eight years of collaboration in OCI. I first had the chance to work with you back when I was in OHD during the first couple of years, and ever since then, your impact has been unmistakable. You played a key role in shaping the HoPS team and in driving many of the solutions that set us up for success. There wasn't a single time I came to you with a challenge and didn't walk away with a clear path forward. Your leadership, technical depth, and willingness to help have made a lasting difference. HoPS team and I personally will truly miss your contributions. Wishing you all the best on your next chapter.

Greg Siekas

Thanks Sean for all the guidance over the years. I still remember my interview loop and having you as my first interview, little did I know. You have certainly made an impact on myself and OCI with all the challenges faced over the years. Hoping you enjoy the break. Life is too short to drink cheap wine.

Sudhir Singh

Thanks for all your contributions to OCI and best wishes for your future endeavors. While I was not fortunate enough to work directly with you and share the same rich experience and learnings that others have, I can easily comprehend the size of your contributions to our greater success. Thanks once again.

Nathan Ni

To me, Sean has never been just a colleague or a leader. You've been a mentor, a role model, and someone whose influence has genuinely shaped the way I think and work. We met 8 years ago in Compute VMI, and from day one, your perseverance, calm clarity, and distinctive working style left a deep imprint on me. I still remember the days we sat side-by-side bringing up the first AMD VM shape. I remember the times you guided me through building GPU VM provisioning and health validation. And I remember the moments when you pulled me into a 1:1 when I was frustrated with my career path and helped me move forward. Even though our paths diverged later: me moving into fleet-management world, and you expanding your expertise across the data plane, the GPU ecosystem (and far beyond that). But the inspiration you gave me never faded. Whenever I felt uncertain or stuck, I always found myself wanting to hear your perspective. I genuinely regret that we never had the chance to work closely again like we did during old VMI days, even though I always hoped we would. Now that I'm finally immersed in system-level work on the MI355x manufacturing side, it feels even more bittersweet that our paths didn't cross again. But more than anything, I'm really happy that you're giving yourself the break you deserve after so many years of relentless dedication to OCI. Wishing you all the very best, I will for sure miss you.

Nikhil Shetty

I wish we could have spent more quality time than the time we spent with Nvidia in an InfiniBand war room troubleshooting GPU cabling! Even in this fleeting experience, your intelligence and expertise was clear to me. We will miss your leadership and direction-setting within the Compute and AI Infra orgs. Hope we can cross paths again in the future.

Andy Rumer

The first time I spent significant time with Sean was during the bringup of the first Roma GB200s in SYD. I came in with little experience, but I learned more from Sean on the train rides to and from the hotel than I had in years. He's always willing to lend a hand, share his insights, and offer a bigger-picture perspective. His vast knowledge and experience could be intimidating, but Sean's gentle and generous demeanor makes it easy to feel comfortable and mentored around him. His departure will be a huge loss for OCI, and he will be deeply missed.

Avnish Chhabra

It was great working with Sean. In the short time we overlapped, you helped us a lot with H100s and GB200s. Your leadership, expertise and calm approach will be missed. Wishing you all the best. Thanks.

Shuo Wang

It was truly shocking to see Sean leaving, and heartbreaking too. From our first work together on secondary vnic project, like 8 years ago, until now, Sean has always been the pillar for Compute. He always has great ideas for every topic and has been always caring for all the people he works with. It's truly a huge loss for Oracle to see him leaving and he will be greatly missed. I give him my best wishes and I truly believe he would keep being the top one in whatever future endeavor he chose to pursue.

Zach Berkshire

Sean, you are, without a doubt, the most capable engineer I've had the pleasure of working with in my entire career. My respect for your technical acumen and dedication is immense. Thank you for being such a superb role model and for being my most trusted source for consultation on so many things over the years. Your ability to remain calm, focused, and "work the problem" has been a constant source of inspiration. Beyond your exceptional contributions as a colleague and engineer, thank you for simply being a superb human being and a great friend. Some of my favorite OCI memories are running across the Sydney Harbor Bridge with you and Thomas, or that rainy Sunday Seattle hike. I wish you all the very best in the adventures that await you and look forward to our paths crossing again.

Donald Lu

Without Sean, Compute would not have been where we are today; actually, far from where we are today. Part of the founding members when Compute was about 25 people. Sean's knowledge and the value he holds played a big role in Compute, and helped shape the culture of nailing the basics, act-now, iterate, don't be a jerk. X7 NPI and Ingestion. Spectre/Meltdown - he played a big role in understanding the vulnerability, planning and executing the mitigation. L1TF and side channel attacks - he took over the key role of security analysis. The Broadcom Drama - he pointed out the bug in their code, developed a live patch fix, and drove the effort to get off Broadcom for future shapes. Sub-core VM - he prototyped the algorithm. GPUs before it was a thing - he led GPU NPI. Zoom - he helped troubleshoot several hard problems. PCIe-bifurcation - his knowledge and drive made it happen. Telesis - he played a big role winning their trust. Container Instance - he was a main designer. GB200 Bring-up - he was in AGA, SYD for first couple of QS and PS bring-up. GB200 Manufacturing - he helped solve hard provisioning problems. GPU Ingestion - he helped stabilize HSG network. Memory Over-subscription - he was part of the crew that invented hypervisor working set size measurement. Thank you, Sean, for your contribution to the business, for your kindness to all the people you have worked with, and to your leadership that holds a lot of us together as a team. It has been a true privilege to have worked side by side with you over the last 9+ years.

Lucas Smyk

I'm truly sad to hear of Sean's retirement, but I look back with great fondness on the time we worked together. Sean was always down-to-earth, humble, and incredibly generous with his knowledge—whether you were an engineer just starting out or someone with years of experience. His dedication to OCI's success was evident, not just in his individual contributions, but also in how he helped multiply the effectiveness of the entire Compute organization. I'll always remember the first major project we collaborated on—the X7 VM GPU placement/modeling issues. Despite me being an IC3 at the time, Sean took the time to meet with me individually, explaining the core architecture and helping me brainstorm and refine my proposals. Over the years, our relationship grew stronger as we worked together on complex challenges like Live Migration, Ortano Smart NICs, vDPA, Container Instances, and more. Our final project together—GPU modeling for the Compute Cluster/Cluster Network—was especially memorable. Many of his ideas and vision have been incorporated into the upcoming design, and his influence will continue to be felt as we move forward. I am grateful for all of his guidance, and I strive to emulate his leadership qualities as I continue in my own career.

Paul Graydon

It has always been a privilege to get to work alongside you over the years at OCI. Your generosity with your time has always been appreciated, as has your insight into whatever situations we've been facing, be it technical or otherwise. There's been so many major events over the lifetime of OCI that have impacted Compute engineers in some way, and you've been able to rise to the challenge, and then some, every single time. Be it Broadcom, Spectre, L1TF, host health, all the initial pains with the first generation of GPUs, or more. OCI would not have been anywhere near as successful as it has been without your work. It's certainly hard to imagine Compute without you. Good luck with everything.

Dasa

Sean, thanks for your tremendous efforts in shaping OCI Compute into what it is today. I fondly remember those hallway discussions in CSQ about NIC training, SmartNICs, and X7 servers. Everything seemed like a problem at the time, but nothing ever felt unsolvable. As a senior engineer then, I had a front-row seat to see how you approach problems at scale and, more importantly, how you remain calm and calculated in the face of unrelenting pressure. Those lessons have stayed with me. On a lighter note, I'll never forget those war rooms where we'd have the India vs. New Zealand cricket match quietly streaming on the side. We'd wish each other good luck, even as we were secretly hoping for our own teams to win! Go Blackcaps, one of the most entertaining and talented teams in cricket today. The next time I watch a match, I'll definitely be thinking of you and our shared memories.