

Clay Jaskowski, Summer 2018 Internship with The Field Museum in Chicago

This summer I was extremely fortunate to be given the opportunity to intern at The Field Museum in Chicago. While at the museum, I worked under Chris Philipp, Julia Kennedy, and Dr. Mark Golitko. Each of my respective supervisors offered incredible insight and taught me valuable lessons throughout the course of my time at the museum. Chris, the Pacific Collections Manager, has worked at the Field Museum for over twenty years, and seemingly knew every object of the tens of thousands in the Pacific Collection. Julia, the Assistant Collections Manager, was always super helpful and taught me both technical database skills, as well as how to catalog and scan information into archives. Dr. Golitko, whose research I was working on for the majority of my time at the museum, taught me how to use pXRF and introduced me to my first real research experience.

My main role while at the museum was to measure the chemical composition of obsidian tips on the end of daggers and spears through use of pXRF. Over my two months at the museum, I scanned and recorded information on over 600 spears and daggers. This data is now being used in further research. I cannot express how grateful I am for this opportunity that was granted to me over the summer. I would like to especially thank all of my supervisors, as well as the Coss family, whose generous financial assistance made this possible. For other students considering this opportunity, I don't have much to say except that this experience has been absolutely fantastic, and I cannot think of many better ways to spend a summer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPEBBSNmtak>

