

CLAIRE STANECKI - SUMMER 2019 - FIELD MUSEUM - CHICAGO, IL

I am extremely grateful to have worked at the Field Museum this past summer. I worked in the Anthropology Department as an Integrative Research Center intern. I worked with Dr. Mark Golitko on his research and was overseen by Dr. Lisa Niziolek, the Boone Research Scientist in Asian Anthropology at the museum.

I spent most of my days in an anthropology lab conducting compositional data analysis on obsidian from the Hopewell collection. I was trained on a pXRF and ran over 1,500 scans. 664 of those scans were conducted on obsidian from the Hopewell collection itself (blades, flakes, spears, etc). The other 898 scans were conducted on raw samples of obsidian from Idaho, Yellowstone, Arizona, and New Mexico that were collected by Dr. Mark Golitko to be used as a cross-reference to the Hopewell obsidian.

In addition to analyzing the obsidian, I photographed, labeled, and reorganized parts of the collection in order to easily pair an object with its scan. I also worked the museum's database and archives to learn as much as I could about the objects I was working with, many of which have been at the museum since its opening in 1893.

The opportunity to work with 2,000 year old artifacts and get a glimpse at the inner workings of a world class museum is absolutely invaluable to me. I learned so much and loved spending my summer at the Field Museum!

