

My name is Shay Athayde, I'm a rising senior at Albion College double majoring in Anthropology and History with a minor in English. Over the past 8 weeks I have been working in the Albion College Archaeology lab and sometimes my days would be spent on the Kalamazoo River. But, most of the work I did happened in the lab. My goal for this project was to take the collection of numbered projectile points and correlate them to the Schultz catalog to have an idea of the collection we have and to add some organization to the Archaeology lab. The first week that I was cleaning out the lab with Dr. Harnish to create a workable space that wasn't crowded with boxes and craft supplies. Once the lab was cleaned up enough I started to take out ALL of the projectile points that were in the closet in the lab. While taking all these projectile points out I noticed that there were points with an "88" accession number, points with regular numbers spanning from single digit numbers to four digit numbers. Then there were points with numbers and letters which we were never able to identify where those came from.



Once all the projectile points were out, they covered the entire table. I counted 762 projectile points total on the table. At this point we were trying to decide if going through all of the points, even the ones that didn't have numbers, was going to be worth it. We decided to only study the numbered points for this research project. Cutting my number down to 325. During the first week I also presented one my research at the weekly FURSCA meetings.

The next Two weeks involved me sitting at the lab table doing data analysis on the projectile points. For the data analysis graph Dr. Chase and I went back and forth deciding what should be analyzed. We landed on measuring the length, width, thickness, and weight of each point. As well as the lithic class or the broad categories used to classify stone artifacts. To determine the lithic class I would look at the shape and flaking on the point, if there were worked in sides on a point I would consider that a hafted biface. I also researched the different types of Projectile points and tried matching up the ones in our collection to the ones in the Justice D. Noel book that I used as a reference.

Dr. Chase and I also had the privilege of visiting the Gardner House Museum to see if there was anymore information relating to collector G.A. Schultz or William Bloomquist. We also had the amazing opportunity to visit the Albion Local History Room in the Albion District Library. We met Jesse Yaeger, who is in charge of the history room, and we were able to find two more Schultz journals when we were under the impression there was just one. This was huge! Since we can continue the data analysis onto the higher numbered points that we couldn't match before. We also found a scary scrap book from the early 1900s of mound builder myths and giants that were responsible for building the burial mounds found across the country.

During my 8 weeks of research I was able to enroll in a National Association for Interpretation class with the wonderful Rita Nethersole. During this two week class I learned so much about the world of interpretation and how it is so important to incorporate the visitors and the people who want to learn about what your interpreting. I learned how to create a presentation outline for future interpretive projects, and the different ways people like to enjoy interpretations. At the end of the two week class I created an interpretive presentation on my current research. My presentation was called "Consultation and Connection: Interpreting Albion College's

Projectile Point Collection.” I presented on the importance of working with the tribes who rightfully own what my research is on and how it’s not just about doing the right thing, it’s about following the law as well.

The last couple weeks, Dr. Chase and I were working to correlate the numbered projectile points to a journal found by past FURSCA student Henry Baccolor, that we call the Schultz Catalog. This was a journal created by a collector in the early 1900s by the name G. A. Shultz, who appeared to catalog points he found and also a price attached to it too. So we think he was buying and selling these points. In the end we did not find as many matched to the catalog as we had hoped. There are about four or five that could be definite matches and about another 10 that could match if you squint your eyes and the rest are not matches. Dr. Chase and I plan to continue this research into the 2025-2026 school year as this will be my departmental thesis and my presentation at Elkin Issac in the spring. This research experience has taught me so much, and not just about projectile points, though I did learn so much about lithic analysis and projectile point typology. One thing that I learned that I will never forget is that each projectile point is in a stage of reduction, never fully finished. There were also tools that were once a projectile point but was used a lot that it was then crafted into a scraper for hides or a drill. I always thought that each point was done, because it had a shape and it looked like it was done. But I learned it’s quite the opposite.