

## FYRES Research Mentors 2015-2016

**The FYRES Research Mentors for 2015-2016 are six excellent students in the Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies department. Four of them are previous FYRES students.**

Kaitlyn Etienne



Kaitlyn Etienne is a senior from Illinois. She saw Michigan's coastal dunes for the first time last year while on a Calvin field trip, and found herself wishing she hadn't waited so long to visit the area. She is looking forward to spending some quality time there this fall with the FYRES class. Kaitlyn's love for nature possibly comes from hours of her childhood spent playing outdoors in wetlands and woodlands. Her previous research experience in the GEO department was for her Geomorphology course, where she

completed a project looking for historical changes in the Grand River. Kaitlyn is an Environmental Studies major with a Geography focus and Architecture minor. She is especially interested in the way the built environment and the natural environment interact. Post-graduation, she hopes to gain work experience and possibly travel before applying to a Master's program in a sustainability-related field.

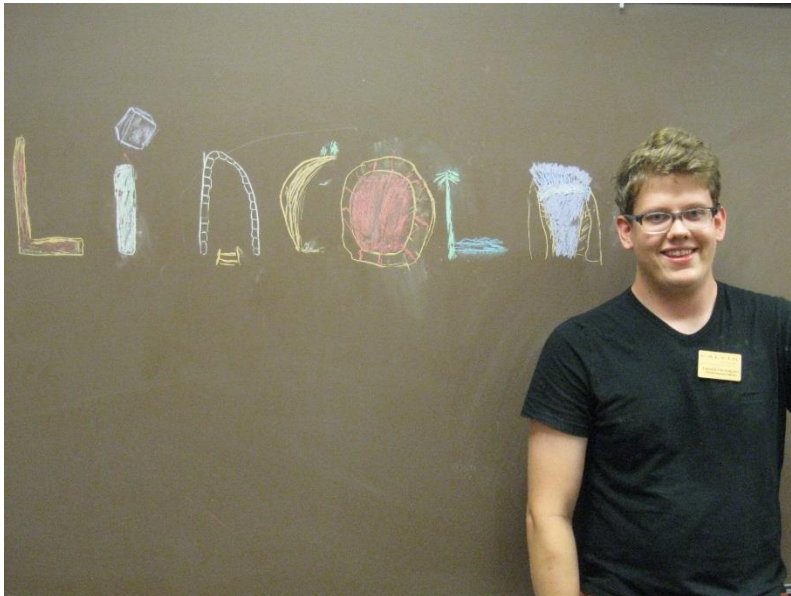
## Katy Gerber

Katy Gerber is a senior majoring in both Biology and Environmental Studies. She is originally from Minnesota, but has called Michigan, Georgia, and Ghana home in the past three years. This is her second year as a FYRES mentor and third year in the FYRES program. As a student, she studied the impact of storms on coastal foredunes. As a mentor, she evaluated the efficacy of re-vegetation and sand fence management at Castle Park



Dune Preserve. Last summer she worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, researching climate change factors on emerging health concerns. Katy loves the outdoors, Lake Michigan, field research, and statistics, and she looks forward to this year for another opportunity to blend these interests together. After graduating from Calvin, she plans to attend graduate school to pursue an MPH in Epidemiology.

## Lincoln Grevengeod



Lincoln Grevengeod hails from the hot and humid state of Florida. As a Geology major he enjoys studying anything related to minerals, rocks, and the general workings of the earth. Lincoln has previous experience working on research projects, including on coastal dunes during his time as a FYRES student. When he has free time Lincoln enjoys exploring, biking, and hiking around Western Michigan.

## Michael Messina

Michael Messina is a senior double majoring in Environmental Studies and Philosophy. He is from Oak Park, Illinois, but his most memorable experiences of the outdoors are of fishing at his Aunt and Uncle's cottage in Hesperia, Michigan, and exploring the beaches of Cape Cod. As a FYRES student in the fall of 2012, he studied the possible causes of abnormal blowout formation in two sand dunes. He then took a couple years off from scientific research, only picking it up again this past summer as a Preserve Steward at Calvin's Ecosystem Preserve. There, he conducted surveys of breeding bird and small mammal populations. After graduating, Michael hopes to find a job working in the great outdoors, with hopes to eventually go to graduate school.



## Charlotte Reynolds



Charlotte Reynolds is a senior from London, England, studying Geography (with a minor in Biology). She was not fortunate enough to take the FYRES class as a first-year student, but is excited to be involved this year as a FYRES Mentor. This past summer, Charlotte worked on a GIS research project with Professor Jason VanHorn, redesigning the Plaster Creek Interactive Online GIS, and creating an online map journal and educational videos telling the narrative of the Plaster Creek Watershed. She is looking forward

to mentoring first-year students and sharing her love of the outdoors, as well as gaining more research experience in physical geography.

## Matt Williams

Matthew Lee Williams is a senior at Calvin College majoring in geology. After enjoying the FYRES program in his freshman year, Matt was inspired to switch to becoming a geology major! He was born and raised in Denver, Colorado and has always enjoyed hiking in the mountains, boating, camping, and really anything outdoors. After graduating Matt hopes to be working with water as a hydrogeologist, helping bring clean water to more people around the world. He is looking forward to this year and having a great time with the FYRES students on the dunes.

