In fall 2018, the FYRES class consisted of 23 students that researched a variety of topics on the dunes.

Kelly Adamovicz

**Major/subject interest:** Environmental studies  
**Hometown:** Saline, MI  
**What is an interesting fact about you?** I love to sing, play the ukulele and guitar; music is an unbelievably beautiful escape.  
**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** I really appreciated the fact that I could fulfill course requirements, while at the same time engaging in research in an outdoor classroom.  
**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?** It has been wonderful getting to know the people in this course and make memories with them.

Asher Amundson

**Major/subject interest:** Science area, maybe physics  
**Hometown:** Saint Charles, IL  
**What is an interesting fact about you?** I can recite a Shakespearean sonnet from memory.  
**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** I heard it was life changing. I didn't know what I was majoring in at the time, so I took the opportunity to see what earth science is like.  
**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?** The views at the crests are incredible, not going to lie.
Hayworth Anderson

**Major/subject interest:** Computer science

**Hometown:** Greenville, SC

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
Love listening to all different types of music.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
Initially I wanted an easy science credit about something that seemed interesting, but I have really enjoyed the class so far and learning about the coastal dunes of Michigan.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
One of the labs where we all had certain jobs to do was a great time and a lot of fun to do. We found out one of our mentors can't park well too.

Katherine Benedict

**Major/subject interest:** Political science and Environmental science (Bio emphasis), minor in Writing

**Hometown:** Grand Rapids, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I was on a competitive ski racing team in high school. Also, I can wiggle my ears.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
I was interested in the opportunity to conduct scientific research as an underclassman. Also, I wanted to get to know more about dunes.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
I enjoyed the lab where my group operated the total station and all the car rides to and from the beach!
Haleigh I. Bos

Major/subject interest: Chemistry
Hometown: Hudsonville, MI
What is an interesting fact about you? I enjoy playing my double bass.
What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The opportunity for research.
What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Field work at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park.

Rachel Commons

Major/subject interest: Undecided
Hometown: Rochester, MI
What is an interesting fact about you? I can lick my elbow.
What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The idea that I am not only working behind a desk, my classroom is the outdoors on the dunes which is an amazing environment.
What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? It is an amazing hands-on project which allows me to engage in what I'm learning.
Noah DenBleyker

**Major/subject interest:** Geology

**Hometown:** Gilbert, AZ

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I am organized with schoolwork and always get it done on time.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
Going out to do research on the dunes.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
Doing different types of research methods to study dune movement; for example, stadia rod or total station or sand shifters.

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Simon Detmer

**Major/subject interest:** Biology and Environmental science

**Hometown:** Chicago, IL

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I have a longstanding and deep interest in the banded linsang.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
The opportunity to do hands-on research on the earth in the first semester of college.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
I have enjoyed working with my classmates on the beautiful Michigan dunes.
Josh DeVries

**Major/subject interest:** Marketing

**Hometown:** Walker, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I got to fly a plane once.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
Leaning hands-on and actually going out and learning at the dunes.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
Just learning and hanging out at the dunes.

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Keagan DeVries

**Major/subject interest:** Business

**Hometown:** Dyer, IN

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I am left-handed.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
I enjoy being in nature and it seemed like a very good research opportunity.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
Surveying dune 3.5 at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park with an eye level and a stadia rod.
David Martinez-Vasquez

Major/subject interest: Biology

Hometown: Wyoming, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?
I am a quadruplet, a singer, and pretty cool.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?
Being outdoors, firsthand research experience, meeting other potentially interested in research, and DUNES!

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?
Visiting Noth Beach Dune... Wind was cold and I didn't dress well, but at the crest I saw a bald eagle soaring as the wind blew and I couldn't help but enjoy the beauty.

Jake Mulder
Chynna Pomales-Stohr

**Major/subject interest:** Political science with a minor in Computer science

**Hometown:** Okemos, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I have two wonderful cats, one that looks like a panda and one beautiful calico named Zelda!

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
I actually didn't know about the FYRES course until I came for my advising during Passport. Deanna introduced me to the course and I applied that day. I was drawn to the idea of being off campus to do research, but a lot of the decision was based off of the warmth of my advisor, Deanna, and knowing she was going to be the professor.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
The research has been fun, but the highlight has been learning more about our local coastal dunes and the fact that we get to be outside!!

Garrett Rhoads

**Major/subject interest:** Marketing and Entrepreneurship

**Hometown:** Mio, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I enjoy fishing.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
I like the outdoors and FYRES gave me the opportunity to connect my love for the outdoors and the classroom.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
When we stopped at the cider mill after a lab and we got donuts and cider as a group.
**Kyra Schofield**

**Major/subject interest:** Film and media  

**Hometown:** Bloomfield Hills, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**  
I have a twin.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**  
I wanted to take this course because I have an interest in doing field research. Also the fact that we go to the beach every lab.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**  
A highlight that I have is when I got to use the total station and measure the elevation of the dunes.

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**Jessie Vandekeifft**

**Major/subject interest:** Undecided  

**Hometown:** Jenison, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**  
I'm a triplet.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**  
I love the beach and being outside, so when I heard that we would be doing research on the dunes I decided to join.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**  
Being able to learn outside of the classroom and how the course is more hands-on.
Madelyn Vander Veen

**Major/subject interest:** Undecided, but maybe chemistry

**Hometown:** Portland, OR

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I play viola.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
I wanted to take a science class, my sister enjoyed it, and I like the beach! Getting research experience this early in college is also pretty cool.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
My favorite moment was sitting on the crest of a dune, eating some trail mix, and looking at the view.

Lesley Vargas

**Major/subject interest:** Biology - but undecided as of now

**Hometown:** Holland, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**
I'm one quarter Israelite (the Middle East).

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**
I loved how this course was hands-on and we are able to go somewhere outside of class to do research, especially as freshmen.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?**
I have made close friends with my peers in this class and I have learned so much information about the importance of dunes that I never would have gained if it weren't for this course! I've learned important research skills throughout the course as well.
Catherine Worthington

Major/subject interest: Psychology
Hometown: Alto, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?
I used to compete in gymnastics and still enjoy keeping up with it - and doing the splits in random places.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?
I learned about FYRES right after a trip to Arizona, where I spent more time outdoors. The idea of spending more time outdoors for class sounded awesome. As a non-science minded person, I wanted to have fun while earning science credits.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?
I love being outdoors! It has also been great to work on projects that allow me to use my organizational and writing skills.