

FYRES Students 2016-2017

In fall 2016, the FYRES class consisted of 27 students that researched a variety of topics on the dunes including oak wilt, vegetation, and wrack.

McKinley Anderson



Major: Psychology, Ministry

Hometown: Greenville, SC.

What is an interesting fact about you? I love theater and have studied at a Fine Arts School.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Being able to study the Michigan Coast (I am interested in Marine Biology) and learning more about the state I get to call home for the next 4 years.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Surveying Dune 3 at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park.

Jamie Atkinson

Major: Undecided (recreational therapy)

Hometown: Lake in the Hills, IL

What is an interesting fact about you? My favorite food is spaghetti.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I like science and also English and writing.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Getting GPS certified.



Caleb Boraby



Major: Computer Science or Geology

Hometown: Toledo, OH

What is an interesting fact about you? I play Super Smash Bros competitively.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I wanted to experience what geographers and geologists might do in the field of sand dunes.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Measuring elevation change on the dunes.

Amy Bristol

Major: Undecided (History, English)

Hometown: Walker, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I did online school senior year.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The hands on part and leaving campus.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Getting to know new people and going to the beach every week.



Shira Davis



Major: Chemistry, Minor: Environmental Science

Hometown: Chicago, IL

What is an interesting fact about you? I would like to climb mountains one day.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Prof. Van Dijk recommended I apply to this class after I told her I had an interest in Environmental Science.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? I really enjoyed using the "Quadrat" Method when examining vegetation.

Olivia denDulk

Major: Undecided (Environmental Studies)

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I interned at an outdoor education based elementary school last year.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I like science, hands-on learning and research. I think the best way to learn is to get out and actually learn while doing something. Also, I just love the beach and I thought it would be interesting to study.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? I liked taking measurements when surveying a dune for the first time. I'm excited to study dune characteristics in the next lab period.



Cameron Doan



Major: International development

Hometown: Ludington, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I like taking long romantic sunset walks on the beach.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Learning how to do research at a college level and to spend time outdoors.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Surveying Hoffmaster State Park Dunes.

Araceli Eikenberry

Major: Environmental Studies

Hometown: Muskegon, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I love spiders and enjoy learning about and identifying them.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Field research!

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Making hypotheses about vegetation trends in my own thoughts.



Janay Faulkner



others who live there.

Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Naples, Italy

What is an interesting fact about you? I can make origami dragons.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I was initially attracted to the FYRES course because it gave me the opportunity to spend time in God's creation while learning about it and various hands-on research methods.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? A highlight of the course so far for me was seeing the wildlife on the dunes. The butterflies, seagulls, ladybugs and

Liam Ferraby

Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Hiram, OH and Pitman, NJ

What is an interesting fact about you? I have a pet snake.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I met Deanna and she told me about what we do.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Meeting new friends and learning about new technology.



Taylor Grasman



Major: Environmental Geology

Hometown: Hudsonville, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I enjoy hunting whitetail deer. What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Taking research in the outdoor/wildlife.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Learning how to correctly create a "to-scale" dune sine view profile.

Taylor Hartmann

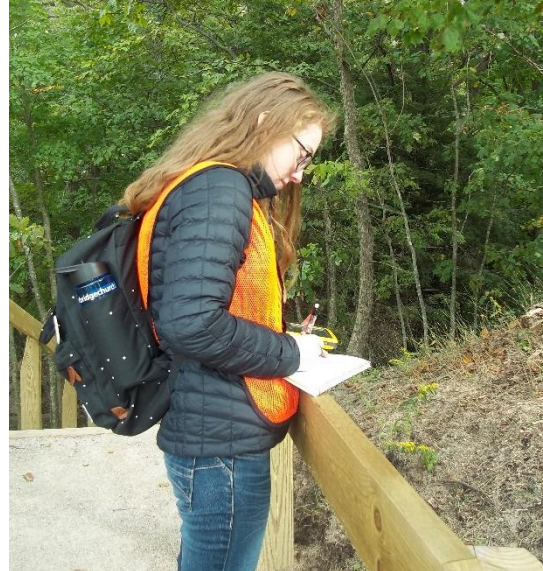
Major: Undecided

Hometown: Ypsilanti, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I love dogs and musicals.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I really liked the idea of hands-on science and after talking to Professor Van Dijk I wanted to take the class. She was really excited about the class which make me excited too.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Getting GPS certified!



Mallory Hoatlin



Major: Secondary Education- Integrated Science,
Minor: Spanish

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I'm on the Calvin softball team.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Learning about how to research.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Learning how to survey elevation.

Tanner Huizenga

Major: Earth Science, Secondary Ed,
Psychology

Hometown: Hudsonville, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?
I'm not Eddie, even though I want to be. :)

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The opportunity to do research work on the dunes. Also, a chance to meet people.

What is a highlight of your semester in the course thus far? Blowing the "dune" around on the table with Hudson, Cam and Kyle.



Eddie Lambert



Major: Geography

Hometown: Spokane, WA

What is an interesting fact about you? I have been to Greece and Italy.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I love physical geography and I wanted to learn more about how to conduct field research.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? My highlight so far was learning how to use survey equipment.

Major: Biochemistry/Pre-Medicine

Hometown: Lowell, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I have memorized 72 digits of pi.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I am interested in gaining research experience and am personally attracted to hands-on research, especially in the outdoors.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Creating an accurate profile view using calculations and technology was exciting for me.

Hunter Pham



Joshua Polanski



Major: Communications, Biblical Studies

Hometown: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

What is an interesting fact about you? I play hockey.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? It looked fun and I enjoy being outside.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Making new friends.

Kyle Post

Major: Business, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship

Hometown: Hudsonville, MI

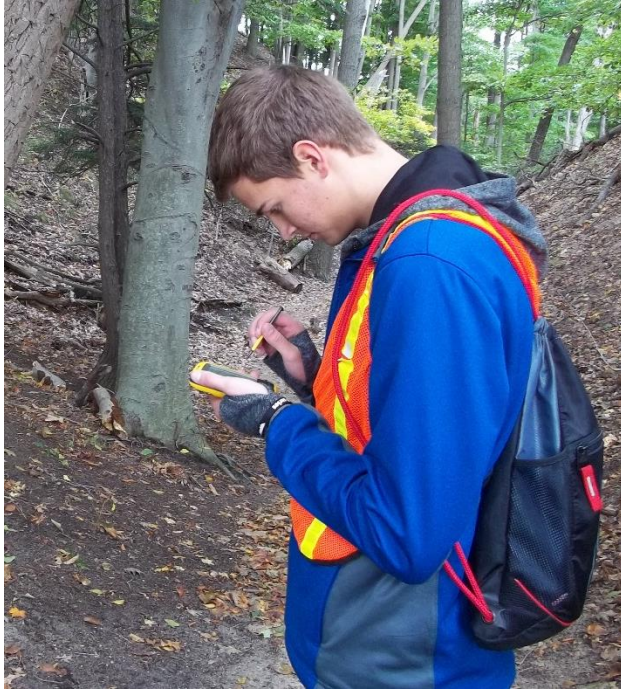
What is an interesting fact about you? I play varsity lacrosse at Calvin.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Studying hands-on outdoors.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Meeting new friends.



Hudson Siegers



Major: Buisness

Hometown: Holland, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I am a ski instructor in the winter.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Being outdoors for a class.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course thus far? Surveying on our second trip to the dunes.

Hannah Spaulding

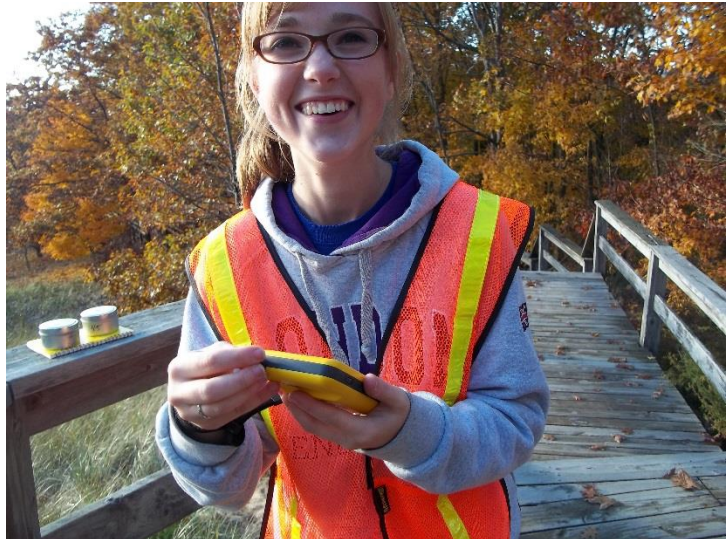
Major: Writing, Minor: Dance

Hometown: Wabash, IN

What is an interesting fact about you? I've recently started knitting.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I needed a core science course and I harbour a strong dislike for chemistry/math; FYRES offers an interesting opportunity for hands-on outdoor learning.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Seeing dunes for the first time.



Benji Steenwyk



Major: Biology, maybe International Development

Hometown: Hudsonville, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I surf, I breed shrimp, I play 9 different instruments, I knife throw.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Field work experience, getting out of the classroom, 5 credit class.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Hanging out on the dunes.

Jaimie Van De Burg

Major: Pre-Med

Hometown: Lowell, MI

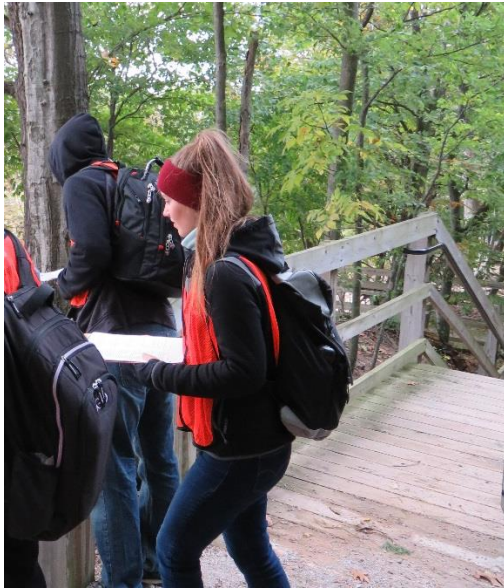
What is an interesting fact about you? I play lacrosse.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I really wanted to be out of the classroom.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Using the stadia rod and hand level to make a dune profile.



Camille Vander Veen



Major: Environmental Studies

Hometown: Portland, OR

What is an interesting fact about you? I spent two weeks learning about conservation and helping masters students do research in South Africa.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The chance to do hands-on research.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Going to the dune!

Ben VanderWindt

Major: International Relations

Hometown: Hamilton, ON, Canada

What is an interesting fact about you? I have three citizenships.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Hands-on experience with God's creation.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Time on the dune.



Jonathan Walt



Major: Biology, Plant Biology, Environmental Sciences

Hometown: Jenison, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I pole vault.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I am interested in environmental science research.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Eating a sandwich on the dune and studying them.

Erick Westphal

Major: Undecided

Hometown: South Lyon, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I like to go camping, hunting, and fishing.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Working outside for the labs and I also love sand dunes.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Lab 2 when John and I were using the stadia rod. We had a lot of fun.



Elizabeth Wiley



Major: Public Health and International Development Studies

Hometown: Indianapolis, IN

What is an interesting fact about you? I play lacrosse and am happiest in other cultures with fellow Christians who think deep.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Hands-on research opportunities I have never had the chance to try. I also really love the beach and enjoy being in that setting as much as possible.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? The highlight has been sitting on top of

the dune after surveying, which we didn't reach the end tree, but still took time to chill and gaze at the lake and just slow down.