

In fall 2015, the FYRES class consisted of 21 students that were engaging and were always ready for another challenge.

Christina Bohnet

Major: Japanese, Geography

Hometown: Herndon, VA.

What is an interesting fact about you? I love learning I will enjoy almost any class I take in the same capacity.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? It was a geography course for first-year students that was recommended for me to take as a geography major.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? The wind study (lab 4) on Dune 8 at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park. It was a perfect day, and we all had a great time working on the dune.

Nathaniel Bos

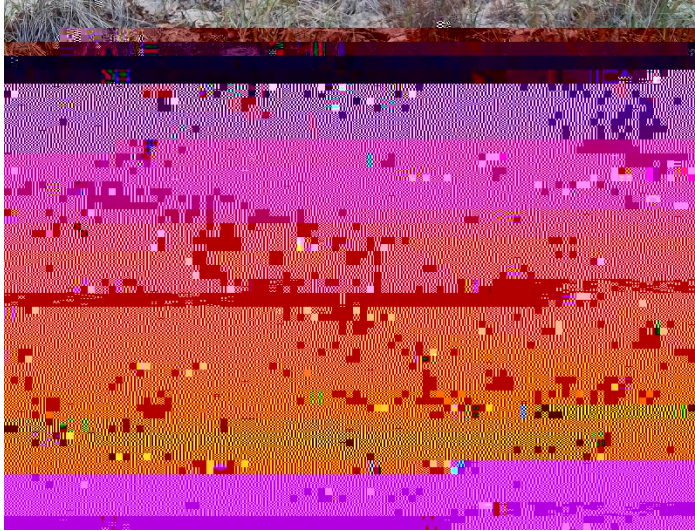
Major: Geology

Hometown: Hudsonville, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? Some of my earliest memories are of my dad playing metallica as we rode to my baseball games.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Its

Ellis Chalfant



Major: Geology (focus on paleontology)

Hometown: St. Louis, MO.

What is an interesting fact about you?
I play women's lacrosse at Calvin.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Being a geology major, I always knew I wanted to take the class. I love lab and field research, and I really want to hone my skills. FYRES was an obvious choice because it is an excellent class with excellent opportunities.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? The highlight for me so far has got to be lab #4. We traveled to Hoffmaster State Park and trekked up to the top of dune #8. It was one of the most beautiful sites I have ever seen.

Anna Clousing

Major: Recreational therapy

Hometown: Byron Center, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I ran a half marathon when I was seventeen.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?
Being able to do hands-on research and study instead of reading a book. I'd much rather be out there learning and collecting data than reading a book.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Going to the beach for a few hours a week is honestly the most relaxing, therapeutic thing. It is the highlight of my week every week.



DeAnna Clum



Major: Environmental science or Biology

Hometown: Sparta, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you?
I play the French horn.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I was thrilled to have the opportunity to take a research course as a freshman, especially one in a field that I'm interested in.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Going out to Lake Michigan is always the best. All of the cookies are nice too.

Rachel Conover

Major: Geology

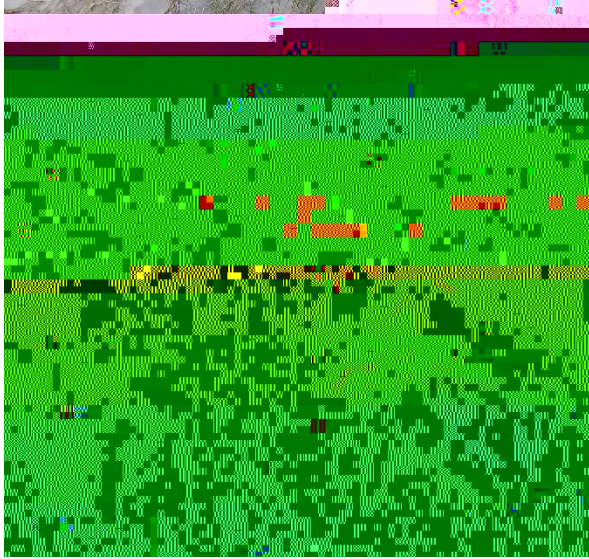
Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you?
I've been to Guatemala. **What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** The research that is done during class.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Looking at the data that we've collected.



Sarah DeGraaf



Major: Graphic design

Hometown: Rockford, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I took a gap year between high school and college and went to New Zealand, Thailand and Cambodia.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Class outdoors on the dunes.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? The extra credit trip to the dunes to set up Professor van Dijk's equipment on a cool and crisp morning.

Lauren Ebels

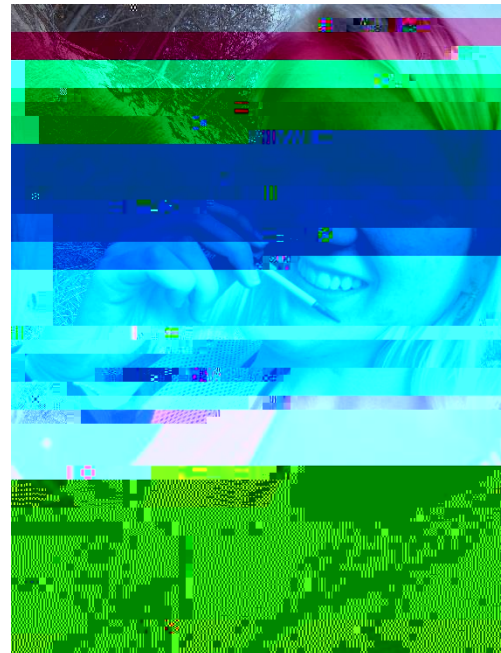
Major: Environmental science, Computer science

Hometown: Dearborn, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I want to keep bees as a hobby someday.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? It was a unique research opportunity that related to my interests (environmental science). Getting this experience early on will be very useful in the rest of my college and out-of-college career.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? It has been fun meeting all the different people who take this course.



Samuel Latimer

Major: English education

Hometown: Grass Lake, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I'm an author and poet.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?

Carolyn Lindemulder



Major: Environmental science

Hometown: Santa Clara, CA.

What is an interesting fact about you? I play clarinet, piano, and organ.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? It looked like an interesting, fun course that related to my major.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Using the total station on the dunes was really fun.

Jennifer McClellan

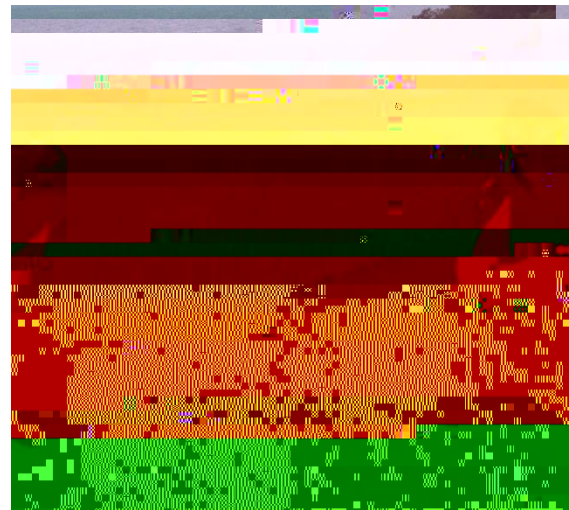
Major: Geology I'm also interested in astronomy

Hometown: Hudson, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I have been riding horses since I was seven years old. There was one time several years ago when my aunt and uncle took me on a trail ride in the mountains and that was awesome.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The fact that we would get real research experience and I wanted to learn more about dunes.

What is a highlight of your semester in the course thus far? Lab 4 working with the GPS to get data for other teams. I had a lot of fun working with everyone and being on the dune.



Meg McNamara



much to know about sand dunes!

Major: Psychology

Hometown: East Lansing, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I lived in Ireland for two months, and I love cheese.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I was interested in doing research.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? One lab period, my group finished early so a friend and I were able to roll down the dune, which was so much fun! And so far, my research paper is actually really interesting. Who knew there's so

Nathan Mulder

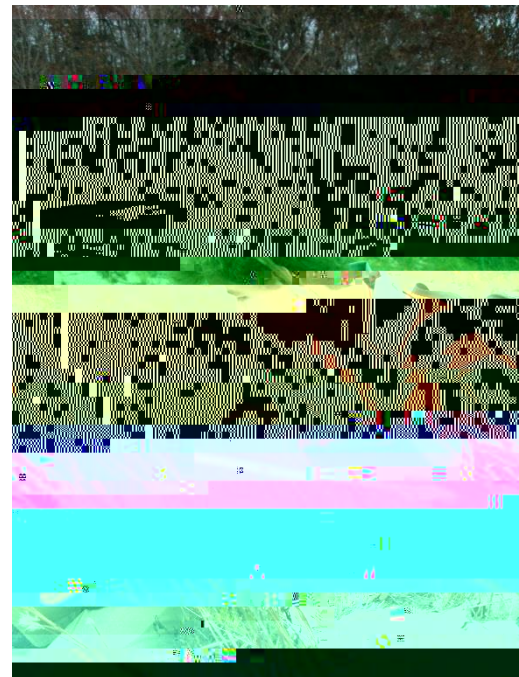
Major: Philosophy, Film

Hometown: Holland, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I have an extra bone in my right knee.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I have always liked going out to the dunes, so when I heard I could fulfill my science core by doing it I decided that sounded like the class for me.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Learning how to collect wind data from all over a dune with a team.



Stephanie Praamsma



Major: Undecided

Hometown: Vergennes, VT.

What is an interesting fact about you? I have an adopted sister from Bulgaria, and I traveled there with my family in 2010 to pick her up.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I love to be outside and I always wanted to learn more about environmental science.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Just going to the dunes in general getting to get off campus and be outside is awesome.

Madison Springer

Major: Environmental science

Hometown: Grandville, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I'm left-handed.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I learn most efficiently by hands-on activities and this class looked (and is!) interesting.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? I love working with others studying these beautiful dunes. It is encouraging knowing I may be helping the dunes with these studies.



Sam Sukaria



Major: Chemistry/geology

Hometown: Dearborn, MI.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? It was an outdoor lab course on the Lake Michigan dunes and looked fun.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course thus far? Being on top of the dunes and having a great view.

Adrienne Tauscheck

Major: Undecided but thinking somewhere in English

Hometown: Sheboygan, WI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I travel the world frequently I love traveling

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Being in the outdoors, with hands-on labs.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Getting to spend time with amazing people at the beach and in the classroom.



Andrew VanDeWalker



Major: Undecided

Hometown: Zeeland, MI.

What is an interesting fact about you? I won an award for problem-solving in the third grade... I also got a D in cursive writing.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? It seemed like a fun way to complete my science core requirement.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Finally getting the total station to stand level on the dune!