

In fall 2017, the FYRES class consisted of 23 students that researched a variety of topics on the dunes including sediment movement, deer impacts, and forest pathogens.

Camilla Bjelland

Major/subject interest: Biology

Hometown: St. Peter, MN

What is an interesting fact about you? I once ran in a 200 mile, 12 man relay!

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Getting outside and working hands on to collect data from the dunes.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Working on collecting wind data from Dune 8.

James Byker

Aidan Casillas

Major/subject interest: Environmental Science (Hom)11(19.22T(P)-T E

Hometown: Palatine, IL

What is an interesting fact about you? I am a great conversationalist.

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

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Finding a snake on Dune 8.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus

Andrew Crago

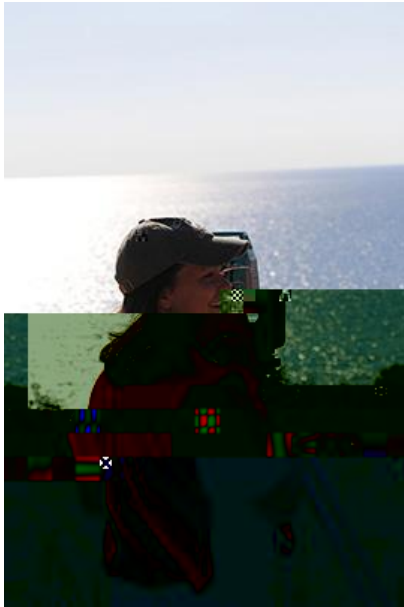
Major/subject interest: Geography

Hometown: Lewisburg, PA

What is an interesting fact about you? I lived in Prague for a year.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Sounded like a bag of Sounded

Robin Gelderloos



Major/subject interest: Environmental science, education

Hometown: Ada, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I have 8 toes (+2).

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The dunes!

What is a highlight that you have from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Relaxing at the top of the dune we had just measured.

Raleigh Haan

Major/subject interest: Undecided interested in environmental studies, art, and medicine

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I have photography
wards!

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I love the earth and I love hiking and any outdoor activities.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Labs on the dunes on Thursdays and swimming after long, hot labs.

Sam Jacobs

Major/subject interest: Accounting

Hometown: Rockford, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I can solve a Rubik's cube in under a minute.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Having fun in a science class and getting out of the classroom.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Enjoying the outdoors and observing how beautiful Michigan is.

Caroline Komodore

Major/subject interest: Environmental science/studies

Hometown: Denver, CO

What is an interesting fact about you? I love to ride horses.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Being outside, having a fun class.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? The lab on the 28th was a lot of fun for me. I really like to get off campus to be outside.

Chris Lantinga

Major/subject interest: Business and geology

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I mountain bike and surf.

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

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Nothing specific, just love all the things we are learning.

Gabriela Lantinga

Major/subject interest: Environmental science and French

Hometown: Toronto, Canada

What is an interesting fact about you? I used to be a competitive archer!

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The opportunity of doing hands-on research this early in my college career!

What is a highlight of your semester in the course thus far? Running down Mt. Baldy!

Allison Lee

Major/subject interest: Geography and international development

Hometown: Winona, MN

What is an interesting fact about you? I taught myself how to read when I was 5.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I really liked that it was a geography focused lab, and we got to be outside a lot observing our natural environment.

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? Vegetation Station! Also seeing the lovely Lake Michigan every Thursday.

Mitchell Niesar

Major/subject interest: Environmental sciences with minor in mechanical engineering

Hometown: Whitby, Ontario, Canada

What is an interesting fact about you? I play hockey for the Calvin team and have an 8 inch plate of titanium and 8 screws in my shoulder.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The hands-on studying, as well as getting hands-on experience with research.

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

Sam Van Berkel

Major/subject interest: Biology

Hometown: Rockford, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? I enjoy fish keeping and reptile keeping.

Kaitlyn Westra

Major/subject interest: Chemistry and public health with a minor in data analytics

Hometown: La Palma, CA

What is an interesting fact about you? Tuesday is my favorite day of the week!

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I liked the idea of getting to do research during my freshman year. I also enjoy being outdoors and I love that I can get out onto the dunes for 5 hours every week!

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? My two favorite parts of this class so far were becoming GPS certified and swimming in the lake after collecting our data!