

In fall 2019, the FYRES class consisted of 23 st

Major/subject interest: Math

Hometown: Windhoek, Namibia / Accra, Ghana

What is an interesting fact about you?

I would like to pursue film directing in the future.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

The opportunity to do research in the first year.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

I have enjoyed getting the opportunity to be outdoors and just appreciate nature without any distractions.

Major/subject interest: Secondary Education (Major: Environmental Science; Minor: Spanish)

Hometown: St. Charles, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?

I like chicken and waffles.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

I was interested in taking this course because I'm interested in environmental science, specifically how humans impact the environment, and biology, how the world and everything works together.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

It's given me the opportunity to get to know other adventurous people doing fun work on the dunes as well as in the van rides - jamming out to good tunes.

Major/subject interest: Geology

Hometown: Big Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?

I enjoy being outdoors doing fieldwork and climbing trees.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

Weekly field work attracted me to the FYRES course.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

GIS and GPS.

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Major/subject interest: Secondary Education, Spanish, and Math

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?

I love playing cello and singing in gospel choir.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

The possibility of going to the dunes as a researcher, and doing work that has real-world scientific importance.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

Mid-class stretches! Cookies on on-campus lab days!

Major/subject interest: Environmental Science and Music minor

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?

I am a numismatic editor and published author.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

My interests in earth sciences.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

Using the total station.

Major/subject interest: Economics and Finance

Hometown: Mundelien, IL

What is an interesting fact about you?

I was born on Friday the 13th.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

The hands-on learning initiative rather than just classroom learning.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

Traveling to the dunes and seeing the natural beauty.

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Major/subject interest: Finance and Statistics

Hometown: Muskegon, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?

I play the guitar and saxophone.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

Being from Muskegon, I have grown up around dunes my whole life. I thought the FYRES course would be an interesting way to learn about the world I've grown up in.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

Wind research on a blowout in Hoffmaster State Park.

Major/subject interest: Environmental Science

Hometown: Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?

I have traveled to Costa Rica and Cuba.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

Hearing about hands on research in the course interested me a lot because freshmen don't often get chances for this in-depth research.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

I have loved the beautiful views that we have every time we drive out to the dunes. Also, I'm grateful for the friends I have made during the course.

Major/subject interest: Geology

Hometown: Nigeria

What is an interesting fact about you?

I like food and outdoor activities.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

All of the outdoor activities that would be taking place.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

The snacks. The trips.

Major/subject interest: Environmental Science

Hometown: Sturgeon Bay, WI

What is an interesting fact about you?

I grew up on an orchard with four siblings.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

It was an opportunity to research during my freshman year! Also, the subject area seemed very interesting and relevant (because I've lived near two coasts my whole life).

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

The amount of snacks generously provided to us during lab periods.

Major/subject interest: Biology, Environmental Conservation

Hometown: Ada, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?

I love plants and experimenting with my fish tank.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

Dune research in itself seemed very interesting. Being able to go and do research on actual dunes as a first year.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

Taking data, seeing all the different kinds of plants and effects of dune movement on plants! And falling was funny!

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Major/subject interest: Biology

Hometown: Kentwood, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?

Certified scuba diver who can't dive, walking irony.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

The opportunity to do research as a freshman and being able to go out and enjoy the dunes weekly.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

Laughing (with Robin, not at her) as she fell while climbing up the dune.

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Hometown: Grand Junction, Colorado

What is an interesting fact about you?

I love fly fishing. My favorite fish is a Brook Trout.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?

The hands-on aspect of learning.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?

Getting off campus to spend time in the beautiful dune systems.

Major/subject interest: Environmental Studies and Spanish

Hometown:



Major/subject interest: Environmental Studies

Hometown: Elmhurst, IL

What is an interesting fact about you? I'm coming up on my 5th year working in the ecology and conservation department at a scout camp. (Shoutout to Camp Long Lake!)

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? Getting to do research as a freshman is pretty unique, so I wanted to take that opportunity. It sounded super fun!

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Making a topographic map was so cool!

Major/subject interest: Pre-Law (Philosophy, Sociology)

Hometown: Hudsonville, MI

What is an interesting fact about you?
TikTok famous ping pong star.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?
The hands-on aspect of the FYRES course was attractive to me. Especially with science classes. I prefer getting involved instead of just sitting in class. I like the idea of implementing what we learn in class directly and immediately in the labs.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?
I felt incredible satisfaction seeing the data from my GPS surveying. I loved doing the actual research too.

