

FYRES Research Mentors 2019-2020

The FYRES Research Mentors for 2019-2020 are five excellent students in the Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies department.



Nathan Hilbrands

Nathan Hilbrands is a Junior studying Environmental Health and Conservation and Geography with a Writing minor. He took FYRES his freshman year and studied the characteristics of a Lake Michigan blowout. In the future, Nathan is interested in working with the Land Conservancy, NPS, or other environmental nonprofits. He enjoys reading, writing, playing Settlers of Catan, hiking, and bird watching.

Peter Duimstra

Peter Duimstra is a Junior studying Geography. He's from Appleton, Wisconsin, and will gladly tell you anything you want to know about the cheese state. Peter has a couple years of FYRES experience, as a previous FYRES student and now second year mentor. He has also participated in research at the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve, continuing studies on the tree populations, small mammals and birds. Currently, he's on the fence about career options but he dreams of working at a government agency such as the NPS or NASA. When not in class, working at the Calvin Preserve or Climbing Wall, Peter enjoys outdoor recreation, reading, gaming, memes, and the arts.





Allison Lee

Allison Lee is a senior studying geography and international development. She hails from Winona, Minnesota, and is a huge fan of all things Minnesota. Aside from serving as a dual mentor and coordinator for FYRES, Allison also took the course as a freshman studying dune blowouts. This past summer Allison worked as a GIS analyst for Winona County, Minnesota, making maps for the MN

DNR and others, as well as developing an interactive mapping site for tourists. She hopes to continue her geography experience in the future by exploring the intersections between human geography and GIS. If she's not in the GEO department, you will find Allison climbing, embroidering, reading, backpacking, or playing volleyball.

Janay Faulkner

Janay Faulkner is a senior majoring in Environmental Science with a focus in Biology. She grew up in Naples, Italy before moving to Michigan to attend Calvin. Janay was in FYRES her freshman year, and has since taken part in other research opportunities, including a study done for the DNR in which her team studied the reforestation of oil and gas drilling sites. In the future, she hopes to work in restoration and environmental education. When she is not studying or working, she enjoys reading, rock climbing, dancing, and painting.



Katherine "Katie" Benedict



Katherine "Katie" Benedict is a sophomore double majoring in environmental science with a biology focus and international relations. She is also minoring in writing. She has lived in Seattle, San Diego, and the Ann Arbor area, but now calls Grand Rapids home. Katherine is excited to be a FYRES mentor this year after taking the course last year, where she studied a blowout in the Kitchell-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes preserve. Besides being a FRYES mentor, Katherine is involved on campus with the student newspaper and snow sports club. Some of her favorite things to do include reading, gardening and hiking.