

# FYRES Students 2013-2014

**In fall 2013, the FYRES class consisted of 20 students with diverse backgrounds and interests.**

## Carolina Angulo



**Major:** Geology

**Hometown:** Athens, GA

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**

"Getting to go out to the dunes, application of things learned in the classroom, and to research outside."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Thursdays are the highlight of my week because I get to go off campus and be in nature"

## Anna Camilleri

**Major:** Environmental Engineering

**Hometown:** Grandville, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I am the first engineering student to take this course.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The opportunity to do research outside of the classroom"

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Going out to the dunes every week and being off-campus for a little bit."



## Ethan DeVries



**Major:** Economics

**Hometown:** Wyoming, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I am an identical twin."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The hands-on aspect of research and being out in nature."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Jumping off a decent size scarp on the the ridge."

## Joshua DeVries

**Major:** Accounting

**Hometown:** Wyoming, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I'm a twin."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "I have always lived in Michigan and have enjoyed the dunes many times, but I really wanted to understand how they are shaped."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Throwing a frisbee down a dune and having Logan run down to get in... and then climb back up."



## Nichole Devries



**Major:** Spanish

**Hometown:** Allendale, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I spent six months last year in Peru!"

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "I love to be at the beach and see how beaches and dunes change."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "The lab periods out on the dunes have been great. It's very interesting to apply class-learning to actual research."

## Jonathan Gorter

**Major:** International Development and Environmental Studies

**Hometown:** Cutlerville, MI

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The opportunity to study in the field of Michigan's dunes."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Setting-up research equipment on a foredune."



## Lincoln Grevengoed



**Major:** Geology

**Hometown:** Vero Beach, FL

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The chance to get some field experience."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Seeing the views from the tops of the dunes."

## Matthew Haugh

**Major:** Political Science

**Hometown:** Salina, KS

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I have hiked forty miles in about five days, with a couple hundred feet of ascent and descent."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The thought of not only studying an interesting subject but also getting to witness the concepts first-hand while doing hands-on projects on the dunes."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Going out on a Saturday to help Professor van Dijk set-up equipment for her research."



## Abigail Hocking



**Major:** International Development and Psychology

**Hometown:** Highland, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I enjoy writing and reading poetry and hope to be published one day."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "I loved the idea of being able to actually get out of the classroom and conduct my learning while being immersed in the beauty of God's creation. In addition, I was always a mathematically challenged student, and this science class seemed like the wisest option for me, personally."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Professor van Dijk does an excellent job of explaining concepts to students who may not be scientifically minded or pursuing a science major. I personally have always despised and resented science courses, but this class helped me to approach the scientific field with a new perspective and new-found enjoyment."

## Barak Howell

**Major:** International Development

**Hometown:** Ann Arbor, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "My major is in International Development and yet I'm in a research program on dunes--draw your own conclusions."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "My amazing advisor brought this program to my attention during passport. I jumped at the chance to escape the Calvin bubble on a weekly basis and to dabble with the concept of experimental, hands-on learning for a science course."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Discovering a Calvin and Hobbes comic strip on our first midterm exam. Professor van Dijk is an amazing instructor and brings fun twists into an otherwise overlooked topic."



## Megan Koopman



**Major:** Business Marketing

**Hometown:** Grand Rapids, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I can whistle through my teeth."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "I love the dunes in Michigan and I also enjoy hand-on research, so this class seemed like a great fit."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "I really love just being on the dunes, but one specific one is walking back in the water on a beautiful day after surveying in the hot sand."

## Eric Medema

**Major:** Business Marketing

**Hometown:** Ada, MI

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The outdoor and off-campus aspect, as well as the dunes, because who doesn't like the dunes."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Just being out at the dunes soaking up the rays."



## Joel Newswanger



**Major:** Environmental Science

**Hometown:** Manchester, KY

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "Doing lab outside."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Using the total station."

## Isla Peterson

**Major:** Secondary Education with a focus in English and Spanish

**Hometown:** Holland, MI

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The idea of researching and learning about an environment on site was very exciting to me."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "I loved our surveying the dunes lab. Creating a profile graph of the dune, while challenging, was a lot of fun."



## Jacob Santucci



**Major:** Geology

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "A few years ago I raced BMX."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "It is a course in my major and we are able to get off-campus once a week."

**What is a highlight of your semester in the course thus far?** "A highlight was when I jumped off the dune one week."

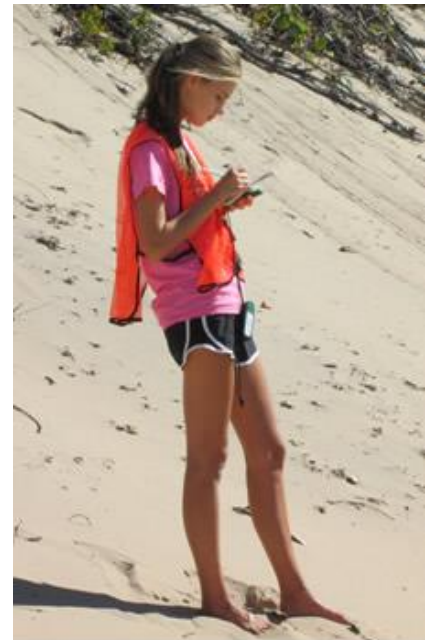
## Anna Selles

**Major:** International Relations

**Hometown:** Grand Rapids, MI

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The opportunity to go to the dunes and do research first-hand."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "Seeing the view of the lake from the top of the dunes."





## John Spykman



**Major:** Business Finance

**Hometown:** Lafayette, IN

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I can cook Minute-Rice in 50 seconds."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The opportunity to be outdoors as part of a class was very attractive! I love research and the ability to do so at the dunes is an awesome thing. Also, being from Indiana, going to the dunes is a special treat."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "The lab period has been a great part of the FYRES course. As part of the surveying team, I was able to use an Electronic Total Station to survey the topography of a major blowout in a dune system."

## Cal Thorne

**Major:** Undecided

**Hometown:** Farmington Hills, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I love travelling."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "The travelling to and studying on the dunes sounded fun."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "The great weather we've had at the dunes."



## Angela Tiemeyer



**Major:** Psychology

**Hometown:** Martin, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I love Laffy Taffy jokes."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?**  
"Having class outside."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "The incredible rainbow we saw coming back from one of the labs."

## Logan Walters

**Major:** Geography

**Hometown:** Hudsonville, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** "I like to be active and play lots of sports."

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** "I was initially attracted because I love being outdoors and having the ability to go to the dunes to learn is awesome."

**What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far?** "When my group and I did a wind measurement study on Dune 8 in Hoffmaster State Park."

