

FYRES Students 2013-2014

The FYRES class of 2014 consisted of 25 students- the largest class yet! Students came from all over the world with a wide variety of interests and experiences.

Bastian Bouman



Major: English-Writing

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I'm taking Japanese classes."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "Hands-on research sounded fun."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "We haven't gotten poured on yet!"

Melanie Compagner

Major: Business

Hometown: Dorr, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I live on a pickle farm."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "Being able to go off campus to do hands-on research."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "The views from the tops of the dunes!"



Jesse Damsteegt



Major: Classics

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I dance jumpstyle."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "Going to Lake Michigan every week. It doesn't get much better than that!"

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Using a GPS to make satellite maps. But, basically the entire course is a highlight."

Rachel DeHaan

Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Kentwood, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I play the banjo, rock climbing is my favorite thing, and I love my mom."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "I love to be outside and this sounded like a wonderful way to get away from the daily grind on campus. This also seemed like an awesome way to test the waters of the Environmental Science major."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Running down Dune 3 (at Hoffmaster State Park) after surveying it."



Jesse Dillon



Major: Geology

Hometown: Jackson, MI

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "I was told about it by my friend Barak Howell, who was in the course the previous year."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Photography with Grant was certainly an adventure."

Samuel Franklin

Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Milan, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I love nature and sleeping in hammocks."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I really liked the fact that the class goes to do research outside the classroom."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Learning how to use the Trimble GPS unit to collect data."



Brian Hess



Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Michalowice, Poland

What is an interesting fact about you? "I have a multicultural background: my mother is Swiss, my father American, and I was raised in Poland."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "The dunes and their natural beauty- it's always a pleasure to spend time on them."

Grant Hoekwater

Major: Environmental Studies

Hometown: Grandville, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I like fishing."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Seeing the different view from the dunes."



Maddie Hughey



Major: Literature; Environmental Studies

Hometown: Montpellier, France

What is an interesting fact about you? "I once stunt doubled in a movie with my horse."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "I'm not a huge science person but I love the outdoors, so FYRES seemed to be the best of both worlds."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Donuts and cider. No question."

Issac Jacques

Major: Geology

Hometown: Napanee, ON, Canada

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

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "The opportunity to learn how to use research equipment."



Ben Johnson



Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Hudsonville, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I can play the didgeridoo."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?
"I've always found the coastal dune system of the Great Lakes to be fascinating, so I jumped at the opportunity to study them in a course."

Ryan Kiper

Major: International Development Studies; Film & Media Studies

Hometown: Bloomington, IL

What is an interesting fact about you? "I am an Eagle Scout."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "The things and new skills I have learned; meeting a lot of cool and interesting people."



Jake McCusker



Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Hayward, WI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I play four instruments."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "Going on adventures every week looked awesome."

Lemuel Ong Chin Shan

Major: Film & Media Studies

Hometown: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

What is an interesting fact about you? "I think I like dogs and puppies more than anything else...including babies."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "My friend had been in the FYRES course before and she recommended it, as Geology was a subject we didn't cover in Malaysia. The field research was described as an enriching experience."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Given the opportunity to explore the dunes on our own is a great way of discovering and learning."



Aaron Pemberton



Major: Biology; Geology

Hometown: Peoria, IL

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "The fieldwork experience and being able to experience a research class that can help me in a future career."

What is a highlight of your semester in the course thus far? "Being able to go to cool places and explore more of the different environments on earth."

Jessica Petrie

Major: Interdisciplinary, with focus in Archaeology

Hometown: Seattle, WA

What is an interesting fact about you? "I have been to three Olympics."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Climbing to the top of Mt. Baldy in Hoffmaster State Park!"



Chace Scholten



Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Holland, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I can juggle knives and torches."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "I love to be outdoors, hiking or birding, so I was interested in learning more about the dunes that I have lived nearby my whole life."

Manny Schrottenboer

Major: Education

Hometown: Zeeland, MI

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "The out-of-class labs."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "The opportunity to learn about dunes firsthand."



Chloe Selles



Major: English Literature

Hometown: Beijing, China

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "I love Lake Michigan."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "All the times we have been at the dunes."

Philip Simonton

Major: Geography

Hometown: Peabody, MA

What is an interesting fact about you? "I have a twin brother, and I'm a HAZWOPER [Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard]."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "I have always been interested in fieldwork, so when I found out that Calvin had such a program I jumped on the idea."



Jen Lyn Sin



Major: Communications

Hometown: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

What is an interesting fact about you? "I can speak four languages."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "My sister recommended this class to me and told me great things about FYRES. I also wanted a class that allowed me to get outside and explore Michigan."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "My first time to the dunes. As I have never been to a dune, it was a major highlight."

Maddie Smith

Major: Undecided

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

What is an interesting fact about you? "I have lived in five different places around the country and in England."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "I love the idea of a hands-on approach. I learn better when I am not just in a classroom."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "The very first lab on the dunes. We got to watch a storm roll in and we were all beginning to become comfortable around each other."



Jake Van Wyk



Major: Geography

Hometown: Wantage, NJ

What is an interesting fact about you? "There is a road named after my family in Terra Cela, NC."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "The opportunity to learn about geography and get out of the classroom."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Climbing Mt. Baldy"

Arie Venema

Major: Undecided

Hometown: Westmont, IL

What is an interesting fact about you? "I really enjoy playing tennis and cooking and baking."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "The idea of actually being able to go out to the dunes on a regular basis and have such a hands-on experience was very drawing."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "The rides to the dunes are always fun. I love when we have a little free time and I can go dip my feet in the water and take a walk on the beach."



Matthew Wierenga



Major: Geology

Hometown: Alsip, IL

What is an interesting fact about you? "I have never been able to touch my toes."

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? "It was recommended to me by a professor."

What is a highlight from your time in Geography 181 thus far? "Going to the dunes every week."