

## FYRES Students 2019-2020

**In fall 2019, the FYRES class consisted of 23 students that researched a variety of topics on the dunes.**

### Addison Arendt



**Major/subject interest:** Undecided

**Hometown:** Rockford, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I was kissed by a president of the US.

**What initially attracted you to the FYRES course?** I like being outside. Exploring and understanding nature is important to me.

**What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far?** The wind study on the top of dune 8.

### Caleb Betten

**Major/subject interest:** Sciences or Pre-Law (Undecided)

**Hometown:** Grand Rapids, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**

I can solve Rubik's cubes. The largest so far is a 7x7x7.

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

I want to experience scientific research.

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

Going to dune 8 and placing sand traps.



## Afua Brantuo

**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.



## Paige Brodeur

**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.

## Katelyn De Young

**Major/subject interest:** Marketing and Graphic Design

**Hometown:** Jenison, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**

I love to wake surf.

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

Living here in West Michigan, I have noticed the beach and dunes have changed a lot recently. Therefore, I wondered why and how these changes, such as change in lake levels, effected the dunes.

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

I have never been to PJ Hoffmaster, so it was very interesting to learn about dunes in and new and different location. Also, collaborating was a key part of labs which I enjoyed.



## Clare Doss

**Major/subject interest:** Environmental Science

**Hometown:** Falls Church, VA

**What is an interesting fact about you?**

I lived in the UK for 11 years. I've traveled to many countries in Europe, my favorite place being Belgium.

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

The ability to have a hands-on learning experience was very intriguing and I wanted to learn about different environments as lacustrine dune environments are unfamiliar to me.

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

Learning about all of the different types of dune vegetation and the symbiotic relationship between some species and sand deposition.

## Josiah Eising

**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.



## Sam Fynewever

**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!

## Isaiah Hageman

**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.



## Jack Hiegel

**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.

## Andrew Hill

**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.



## Will Hofmann

**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.

## Onyinyechi Iheme

**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.



## Ben Kielar

**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.

## Robin Kollar

**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!



## Isabel Latvaitis

**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.



## Joshua Newhouse

**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.



## Grace Prom

**Major/subject interest:** Environmental Studies and Spanish

**Hometown:** Champaign, IL

**What is an interesting fact about you?**

I love to knit and play piano.

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

Doing research on the dunes because I've been to the Michigan dunes a number of times and don't know very much about them.

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

One highlight was being able to map the vegetation on Dune 8 at Hoffmaster State Park and seeing the GIANT Pitcher's Thistle.



## Katie Scholma

**Major/subject interest:** Undecided

**Hometown:** Hudsonville, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**

I'm on the swim team.

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

Hands-on research and all the trips to the dunes.

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

Getting to know people and learning about things I've never studied before.

## Taylor Smelker

**Major/subject interest:** Environmental Science, French Minor

**Hometown:** DeWitt, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**

I will be hurdling for Calvin in the spring.

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

I wanted to get out of the traditional classroom setting.

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

The dunes are so pretty! We've been blessed with amazing weather so far!





## Madeleine Snella

**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!

## Ike Start

**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.



## Rine Wakeman

**Major/subject interest:** Double/some combination of ecology and illustration

**Hometown:** Grand Rapids, MI

**What is an interesting fact about you?**

My team won 7th in the country out of 49 at the national FFA (Future Farmers of America) landscaping and nursery care competition.

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

The field research wasn't something I had much experience with and dune/arid ecosystems are a particular interest to me.

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

Being able to map out a rare, interesting plant I wasn't previously aware of and making a real impact.

