

FYRES Students 2020-2021

In fall 2020, the FYRES class consisted of 17 students that researched a variety of topics on the dunes.

Ben Adamson

Major/subject interest: Environmental Science

What is an interesting fact about you? I lived in 10 houses in my life.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The concept of doing hands-on, comprehensive research in just my first year of college.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? I've really enjoyed getting to work with different people in the class, specifically mentors. They all have their own subgroups within dunes that they specialize in knowing, so getting to work with many of them individually and here how passionate they are has been super awesome.

Jonathan Cooper

Major/subject interest: Computer Science

What is an interesting fact about you? I have an artificial ear bone.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I thought that the research aspect of the course seemed very interesting.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? It has been very fun to do some of the labs and be able to learn more about the unique aspects of Perseverence Dune.



Lauren Grantham

Major/subject interest: Environmental Studies

What is an interesting fact about you? I absolutely love potatoes.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? My advisors' intriguing descriptions of the class and its objective.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Definitely getting to use new skills and equipment to study and analyze Perseverance Dune along with the new friends I have met.



Isaac Jeong

Major/subject interest: Accounting

What is an interesting fact about you? I'm on the varsity tennis team for Calvin.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The hands-on learning experience.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Being able to go outside for classes.

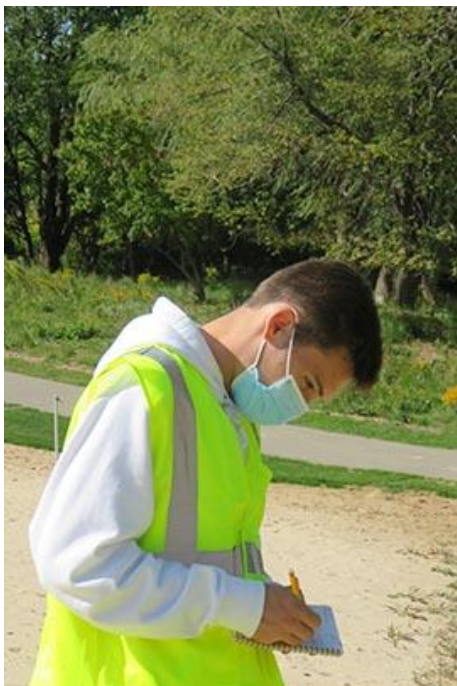
Jack Kelly

Major/subject interest: Human Resources Mgmt.

What is an interesting fact about you? I am from Chicago.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The off-campus research.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Dune research at Perseverance Dune.



Michael MacGillivray

Major/subject interest: Not sure, interested in business and science.

What is an interesting fact about you? I am from Boston.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I love the beach and am very interested about effects of erosion and dunes on the east coast. So I was really excited to see that I could learn about my interests for credit in college.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? The hands-on lab experience

Julia Machiela

Major/subject interest: Accounting

What is an interesting fact about you? I really like caramel flavored coffee.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The new environment of not being inside a “normal” classroom.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Meeting everyone that I was put into groups with. Each person had their own individual perspective on everything and that was enjoyable to be able to work together and get to know everyone. I would also say that the labs are pretty cool especially when you get to collect data because it feels professional.



Derek McClure

Major/subject interest: Business/undecided

What is an interesting fact about you? I am a big fan of the tv show *Outer Banks*.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The idea of studying on a dune and being outside instead of a classroom.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Meeting new people and having the chance to learn outside.

Noah Millen

Major/subject interest: Environmental Science

What is an interesting fact about you? I was once studying environmental health and conservation.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I really wanted to get some hands-on field research my first semester at Calvin, and FYRES was able to let me do that.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Going to North Beach dune and being able to see the sheer size and magnitude of a real dune.



Sadie Norman

Major/subject interest: Not decided

What is an interesting fact about you? I am a triplet.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I was interested in environmental studies and I believed this course could help me figure out if I wanted to go down that path.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? I have really enjoyed working on the labs with people in our class.

Hailey Postma

Major/subject interest: Psychology

What is an interesting fact about you? I LOVE plants! I have almost 50 of them (all alive).

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? My cousin told me about it. I wanted first year research experience and it sounded more interesting than any other science credit.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Meeting new friends from working with different people for labs.



Aubrey Rudy

Major/subject interest: Environmental Law

What is an interesting fact about you? I was once in an American Girl Doll fashion show.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I loved the idea of jumping into college and getting straight to a class with real experience and field work.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? I truly just love having the opportunity and ability to study and perform research outside.

Henry Schenkel

Major/subject interest: Digital Film and Media

What is an interesting fact about you? I am the third. Meaning I am Henry Schenkel III.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I really enjoy the outdoors and the beach.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? The first groups with me, Michael, and Derek.



Lynda Steen

Major/subject interest: Chemistry and Environmental Science

What is an interesting fact about you? I am a certified scuba diver.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I am interested in going into research, so this class seemed to have close connections to my future career goals.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Learning how to collaboratively work in a group lab to conduct research.

Emma Tuit

Major/subject interest: Business

What is an interesting fact about you? I don't like chocolate.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? I was attracted to the FYRES course because of the unique opportunity for hands on learning in an outdoor environment!

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? The highlight has definitely been conducting the final research project. All semester we have been learning practices and equipment used for dune management, with this project we had to create our own research question and plan. The past several labs have been very exciting as we gather data on the dune to analyze, putting our knowledge to use.



Ethan Tulp

Major/subject interest: Environmental Science

What is an interesting fact about you? I am Canadian.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? It is a rare opportunity for research for a freshman.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Having classes outside has been a highlight.

Will Weiss

Major/subject interest: Not decided

What is an interesting fact about you? I can skateboard.

What initially attracted you to the FYRES course? The outside factor, I like being out in nature.

What is a highlight that you have from your time in the course so far? Doing hands-on studies on the dune and around campus.

