

ANNUAL REPORT: June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015
(i.e., Summer 2014, AY 2014-2015)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOREST BIOLOGY
SUNY-ESF

NAME: ALEXANDER WEIR

I. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Regular Course Offerings

	<u>Course No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Credit Hrs.</u>	<u>No. Students</u>	<u>No. of Lab. Sections</u>
SUMMER:	EFB 202	Ecological Monitoring & Biodiv	3	150	both sections on Fungi
	EFB 500	Natural History and Nature Conservation in Ireland	3	7	
FALL:					
	EFB 440	Mycology	3	52	2
	EFB 640	Mycology	3	3	2
	EFB 495	Undergrad Exp. Coll. Teaching	3	1	
	EFB 498	Research Probs. Env. For. Biol	3	1	

SPRING:

NOTE: PLEASE INDICATE WHICH COURSE(S) HAD A SERVICE-LEARNING COMPONENT AND BRIEFLY EXPLAIN THE NATURE OF THIS COMPONENT. For examples of service-learning in courses, see: <http://www.esf.edu/students/service/courses.htm>. Service-learning is a form of structured experiential education in which students engage with the community to be active learners, to enrich their sense of civic responsibility, and to explore practical application for course content. Faculty oversight, reflective thinking, and reciprocity are key components of service-learning.

2. Non-Scheduled Course Offerings (e.g., 496, 899, 999)

	<u>Course No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Credit Hrs.</u>	<u>No. Students</u>
Fall 2014				
	EFB 999	Doctoral Thesis Research	3	2
Spring 2015				
	ESF 499	Honors Thesis Research	3	1
	EFB 999	Doctoral Thesis Research	3	2

3. Continuing Education and Extension (short courses, workshops, etc.)

4. Guest Lecture Activities

	<u>Course No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No. of Lectures</u>
Fall 2014	EFB 210	Diversity of Life I	6
	EFB 132	Freshman Orientation	2
Spring 2015	EFB 211	Diversity of Life II	1

II. STUDENT ADVISING

A. Number of undergraduates for whom you are the student's official advisor __19__ and unofficial advisor __5__

B. Graduate Students: (list name, degree sought, starting date, month & year; if a degree was completed, please give date and full citation for the thesis or dissertation).

MAJOR PROFESSOR

Lauren Goldmann, PhD, started January 2010 completed 06/15. Investigations of position specificity and the molecular phylogeny of the Laboulbeniomycetes.

Matthew DaRin, PhD, started August 2013

CO-MAJOR PROFESSOR

Tiffany Deater, PhD, started August 2013 (with Scott Turner)

MEMBER, STEERING COMMITTEE (other than those listed above)

Maureen Durkin, MS, Jonathan Cohen MP

CHAIRMAN OR READER ON THESIS EXAMS, ETC.

III. RESEARCH COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY

A. Departmental Research (unsupported, boot-legged; title - % time spent)

B. 1. Grant-supported Research (source, subject, amount - total award and current year, award period starting and ending dates; list graduate research assistants supported by each grant)

National Science Foundation - Macrofungi Collections Consortium - Grants to Advance Digitization of Biological Collections

Total Amount – Unknown

ESF Portion - \$34,000

2 Undergraduate students (Kristin Carey and Alex Kuhn) have been supported through this grant.

2. Research Proposals pending (include information as in B.1., above).

National Science Foundation – Microfungi Collections Consortium – Grants to Advance Digitization of Biological Collections

Total Amount – Unknown

ESF Portion – \$49,748 start date 7/1/15

3. Research Proposals submitted, but rejected (include information as in B.1, above)

IV. PUBLICATIONS (Full bibliographic citation, i.e., do not use "with Jones," or "Jones, et al."; please list only publications published, in press, or actually submitted during this reporting period --- **do not list manuscripts in preparation**).

A. Refereed Publications

Goldmann, L. and Weir, A. (submitted). Molecular analysis of Chantransiopsis and Tetrameronycha, provides further evidence of asexuality, and potential recognition of a new order within the Laboulbeniomycetes. Submitted to Mycologia.

B. Non-refereed Publications

C. Papers Presented at Science Meetings (give title, date, occasion, and location)

D. Public Service Presentations (lectures, seminars, etc. to and for the public; give group or occasion, date(s), and attendance)

V. PUBLIC SERVICE

A. Funded Service (include consulting activities)

1. Government Agencies (Federal, State, Local):

2. Industrial and Commercial Groups, etc.

B. Unfunded Service to Governmental Agencies, Public Interest Groups, etc.

National Science Foundation – Grant Application Reviewer and Panelist – Systematics and Biodiversity Science Panel, 04/15

Continued Liaison with Central New York Mycological Society

VI. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Professional Honors and Awards (for teaching, research, outreach, etc.)

B. 1. Activities in Professional Organizations (offices held, service as chairman, member, participant or consultant)

2. Professional Society Membership

Mycological Society of America – Member
British Mycological Society – Member
International Mycological Association - Member

3. Other Professional Activities

a. Editorial activity

Journal (s)

Responsibility

Other (books, symposia, etc.)

b. Reviewer

Journal(s)

No. of manuscripts

Mycologia
Fungal Diversity

1
1

Agency

No. of proposals

c. Participation (workshops, symposia, etc.)

Name of workshop, etc.

Date

Place

C. Further Education/Re-training Undertaken, Leaves, Workshops, etc.

D. Foreign Travel (Where, When, Purpose)

Ireland, May 2014 – Overseas Field Trip with 7 EFB students

UK, March 2015 – Visit to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES (include committee participation)

A. Department-level

Director, Cranberry Lake Biological Station 08/06-11/14 (see separate report for the Station)

Curator of the EFB Herbaria 09/03

Member, Field Programs Committee, EFB

Active Participant in EFB majors for Forest Health, Conservation Biology, Natural History and Interpretation, and Environmental Biology.

Member, Lowe-Wilcox Award Committee, Zabel Award Committee, Morrell Award Committee.

B. College-level

Director, Cranberry Lake Biological Station 08/06-11/14

C. University-wide, including Research Foundation

VIII. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD, ESPECIALLY THOSE MOST NOTEWORTHY AND RELATIVE TO THE COLLEGE'S AND DEPARTMENT'S MISSION.

One paragraph on each of the following (**i.e., three paragraphs total**) would be most helpful: this past year, what have you done for our students, department/college, and self professionally? NOTE: The information in this section (along with the supporting specific information elsewhere in this report) should be your strongest case for being considered for a discretionary raise (when available), which I'll continue to award based on your contributions to the department and college this reporting period.

STUDENTS

This year I contributed 6 lectures to the required EFB 210 Diversity of Life I and to both sections of the required EFB 202 Ecological Monitoring and Biodiversity Assessment at CLBS (8 full days of teaching). I taught my regular Mycology offering (55 students) and offered an International Field Experience trip to Ireland in May (7 students). I have continued to serve students in my capacity as Director of the Cranberry Lake Biological Station (until 11/14), answering many questions and queries throughout the year and dealing with programming, informational meetings, registration, budgeting, and day to day administration of the Station. I also had one Honors student complete requirements during this academic year.

DEPARTMENT/COLLEGE

My major contribution to EFB/ESF this past year has been my leadership role as Director of the Cranberry Lake Biological Station. Enrollments at the Station are still rising and we ran at almost full capacity for the summer of 2014, with similar enrollments expected for the summer 2015 program. Both the teaching and research programs were successful with almost 200 undergraduate students present at the Station during the summer of 2014, and research groups from Indiana State University, Cornell University as well as our own Grober Research Fellow (graduate) in residence. Since my departure as Director of CLBS in November 2014 I have worked hard to try to ensure a successful transition for the incoming Director. I have also served in an advisory capacity to the CLBS Advisory Committee.

I have also continued to serve the department as Curator of the Herbaria and have (along with Rebecca Rundell) hired students to help re-mount some of the specimens damaged during the Illick Hall flood on 1st February 2014.

SELF

Lauren Goldmann successfully defended her PhD thesis and we are expecting to send off 4 additional manuscripts (2 already published) from her thesis within the coming months. I have also continued my collaborative work with Professor Walter Rossi (Universita dell L' Aquila, Italy) on new species of Laboulbeniales on Gerridae (Heteroptera) – a novel host group for Laboulbeniales. I am also continuing with working on a generic overview of all known Laboulbeniales (150 genera, 2000 species) and have had undergraduate, Alex Kuhn, photographing my collection in preparation for this. Alex was also employed in the lab to continue digitization of our macrofungal collection through our sub-award with the New York Botanic Garden. We have now completed digitization of more than 8,000 specimens in the ESF Fungal Herbarium. The corresponding microfungi digitization grant, also a sub-award through the New York Botanic Garden, has just been funded and I have a new graduate (PhD) student, Patty Kaishian, coming in this summer to start work on this. Alex Kuhn, graduated in May 2015, and has just accepted a position as a data curator (based at the Illinois Natural History Survey) funded through this microfungi grant. Both Matt DaRin and Tiffany Deater continue to make progress in their respective PhD studies. Tiffany was also awarded the Grober graduate award this year and will be working at the Cranberry Lake Biological Station. I was also invited to serve on the Biodiversity and Systematics panel at NSF this past spring (April 2015).

IX. A. FUTURE PLANS, AMBITIONS, AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUR OWN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOREST BIOLOGY (brief summary)

I would like to further develop my teaching and research interests over the coming years. This was my last summer as Director of the Cranberry Lake Biological Station and my relinquishing this position will provide much additional time

for research and teaching activities. I remain committed to our field programs here at ESF and plan on expanding my overseas offerings to allow our students to work in other parts of the world. This should also raise the profile for international offerings at the College and enable us to attract SUNY students from outside of ESF and others from further afield.

I continue with my research on insect-associated fungi with more manuscripts for submission this year and have initiated work on a generic level monograph based on both morphology and molecular datasets. I am very excited at the possibilities for further growth in teaching, and scholarship and research available here at ESF.

B. PROJECTED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

1. Summer 2015

a. Course(s) to be offered

EFB 202 Ecological Monitoring and Biodiversity Assessment (1 section, 75 students)
Section A – Fungal component

EFB 342 Fungal Diversity and Ecology (15 students) CLBS

b. Proposed research activity

Manuscript preparation

Developing new research directions with 3 PhD candidates

On-going NSF funded digitization project

Re-mounting of damaged herbarium specimens related to Illick Hall flood

c. University, professional society, and public service

Curator, EFB Herbaria

2. Fall Semester 2015

a. Course(s) to be offered

Major contribution to EFB 210 Diversity of Life I

EFB 440 – Mycology (48 students pre-enrolled)

b. Proposed research activity

Manuscript preparation

Developing new research directions with 3 PhD candidates

On-going NSF funded digitization project

c. University, Professional society, and public service

Curator, EFB Herbaria

3. Spring Semester 2016

a. Course(s) to be offered

Potential overseas courses to Costa Rica and Russia
Potential new on-campus offering

b. Proposed research activity

Manuscript preparation
Developing new research directions with 3 PhD candidates
NSF funded digitization project

c. University, professional society, and public service

Curator, EFB Herbaria