

ANNUAL REPORT: June 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016
(i.e., Summer 2015, AY 2015-2016)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOREST BIOLOGY
SUNY-ESF

*****PLEASE DO NOT INSERT TABLES FOR ANY CATEGORIES*****

NAME: ALEX 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-342	Fungal Diversity and Ecology	3	16	
	EFB-202	Ecological Monitoring and Biodiversity Assessment	3	75	
FALL:	EFB 440	Mycology	3	43	2
	EFB 640	Mycology	3	5	2
SPRING:	EFB-496	Biology of Lichens	3	22	1
	EFB-796	Biology of Lichens	3	1	1
	EFB-500	Overseas Forest Biology Field Trip – Natural History and Nature Conservation in Ireland	3	8	

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>
SUMMER	EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	1	1

FALL

EFB-495	Undergrad Experience College Teaching	1	3
EFB-798	Research Problems Env. & For. Biol.	1	1
EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	1	1
EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	3	1

SPRING

EFB-420	Professional Internship in Environmental Biology	3	3
EFB-420	Professional Internship in Environmental Biology	1	3
EFB-498	Independent Research in Environmental Biology	2	2
EFB-498	Independent Research in Environmental Biology	3	1
EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	2	1
EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	1	1

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

National Science Foundation iDigBio digitization workshop, Washington DC, November 2015.

4. Guest Lecture Activities

<u>Course No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No. of Lectures</u>
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SUMMER

	Cranberry Lake Biological Station Seminar	1
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FALL

EFB-210	Diversity of Life I	6
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SPRING

EFB-211	Diversity of Life II	1
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II. STUDENT ADVISING

A. Number of undergraduates for whom you are the student's official advisor 12 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 June 2015. Investigations of position specificity and the molecular phylogeny of the Laboulbeniomycetes.

Matt DaRin, PhD, started August 2013.

Patricia Kaishian, PhD, started August 2015.

CO-MAJOR PROFESSOR

Tiffany Deater, PhD, started August 2013 (co-advised with Scott Turner).

MEMBER, STEERING COMMITTEE (other than those listed above)

Maureen Durkin, MS, Jonathan Cohen MP
David Bullis, PhD, Rebecca Rundell MP

CHAIRMAN OR READER ON THESIS EXAMS, ETC.

Rengasamy Kasinathan, PhD (Chair)
Rebecca Meissner, PhD (Chair)

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

1 graduate student (Patricia Kaishian), and one undergraduate student (Alex Kuhn) supported

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

Total amount – unknown

ESF Portion - \$49,748

1 graduate student (Patricia Kaishian) supported

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

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

EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Agricultural Watershed Management Implementation (EPA-R5-GL2015-AWM): Fungal Bioremediation of Agricultural Runoff. PI. Funds requested \$402,363. Unfunded.

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 Nova Hedwigia)

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.

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

<u>Journal (s)</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
<u>Other (books, symposia, etc.)</u>	

b. Reviewer

<u>Journal(s)</u>	<u>No. of manuscripts</u>
Mycologia	1
Nova Hedwigia	2
<u>Agency</u>	<u>No. of proposals</u>
<u>Other</u>	

c. Participation (workshops, symposia, etc.)

<u>Name of workshop, etc.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>
iDigBio digitization workshop	Nov 2015	Washington DC

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

D. Foreign Travel (Where, When, Purpose)

Ireland, May 2016 – overseas field trip with 8 EFB students

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES (include committee participation)

A. Department-level

Cranberry Lake Advisory Committee
Curator of EFB Herbaria
Active participant in EFB majors for Forest Health, Conservation Biology,
and Environmental Biology

Member, Lowe-Wilcox, Zabel, and Morrell Award Committees

B. College-level

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 past year I taught Fungal Diversity and Ecology (16 students) at the Cranberry Lake Biological Station and also contributed to one of two sessions of EFB-202 at the Station. In the fall semester I taught my regular Mycology class (48 students) and also contributed significantly to EFB-210 Diversity of Life I with 6 lectures. During the spring semester I offered an additional two classes, EFB-496 Biology of Lichens (23 students), and EFB-500 International Field Trip – Natural History and Nature Conservation in Ireland (8 students). The Biology of Lichens class built on a similar offering (Topics in Lichen Biology) offered a few years ago and this time included both weekly lecture and lab. The class attracted a significant enrollment (as pointed out by visiting instructors in lichenology from Cornell University) and was very well received by students.

DEPARTMENT/COLLEGE

I have continued to assist with the current transition at the Cranberry Lake Biological Station serving on the Cranberry Lake Advisory Committee and attending programming meetings with physical plant. I have also, this year, taken a lead role in overseeing digitization of our important mycological collections. This work has been funded by NSF and has involved 6 undergraduate, and one graduate student. We have digitized almost 11,000 items and these are available for viewing in the MycoPortal. I have also continued in my role as curator of the Plant and Fungal Herbaria at ESF and have facilitated both loans, and scientific visits to the collections. I also worked with Rebecca Rundell and two graduate students to oversee the remounting of damaged vascular plant specimens following the recent Illick Hall flood.

SELF

This past year has been a milestone event as I submitted materials documenting my activities here at ESF since my original hire in 1999, and was successfully promoted to Professor (effective 9/16). During the year, Lauren Goldmann successfully defended her PhD thesis (6/15), Tiffany Deater (PhD) won the prestigious Grober Award, and I accepted a new PhD student, Patricia Kaishian, who was also the recipient of a major award from the Lowe-Wilcox fund. I also submitted a grant proposal to the Great Lakes Research Initiative with grad student Matt DaRin (and Russ Briggs) to develop a mycofiltration project around Otisco Lake. Unfortunately, this proposal did not receive funding this time around.

I also attended an NSF-funded training workshop on digitization of biological collections and have coordinated a huge effort involving 6 undergraduates and one graduate student to digitize our microfungus collections in the ESF Mycological Herbarium.

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)

This coming year my request for a sabbatical leave (Fall 2016) has been approved and I intend to devote time to finishing off two major manuscripts on Laboulbeniales and to develop an outline for a potential textbook for our Diversity of Life courses. I also plan on spending some time this fall at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (England) working with their fungal conservation specialists, and will offer a course on Insect associated Fungi in Costa Rica (January 2017)..

B. PROJECTED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

1. Summer 2016

a. Course(s) to be offered

b. Proposed research activity

Manuscript preparation

Wrapping up digitization project

Overseeing remounting of damaged vascular plant specimens

c. University, professional society, and public service

2. Fall Semester 2016

a. Course(s) to be offered

b. Proposed research activity

Sabbatical leave (see above)

c. University, Professional society, and public service

3. Spring Semester 2017

a. Course(s) to be offered

Insect- associated Fungi (Costa Rica, January 2017)
Biology of Lichens

b. Proposed research activity

On-going research on Laboulbeniales systematics

c. University, professional society, and public service