

ANNUAL REPORT: June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017
(i.e., Summer 2016, AY 2016-2017)
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 500		Natural History & Nature Conservation in Ireland	3	8	0
FALL:		Sabbatical Leave			
SPRING: EFB-496/796		Biology of Lichens	3	9	1
	EFB-500	Forest Biology Field Trip	3	12	0

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 2016	EFB-420	Prof. Internship Env. Bio.	3	2
	EFB-798	Research Problems Env. Bio.	1	1
	EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	1	1
	EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	7	1
SPRING 2017	EFB-420	Prof. Internship Env. Bio.	1	3
	EFB-495	Undergrad Exp. Coll. Teaching	2	1
	EFB-798	Research Problems Env. Bio	1	1
	EFB-899	Master's Thesis Research	1	3
	EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	1	1
	EFB-999	Doctoral Thesis Research	1	3

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>
EFB-211	Diversity of Life II	1

II. STUDENT ADVISING

A. Number of undergraduates for whom you are the student's official advisor 20 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

Matt DaRin, PhD, started August 2013

Patricia Kaishian, PhD, started August 2015

Benjamin Zink, MS, started January 2017

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.

Leah Harnish, MS (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)

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

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

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.

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

3. Other Professional Activities

a. Editorial activity

Journal (s)

Responsibility

Other (books, symposia, etc.)

b. Reviewer

Journal(s)

No. of manuscripts

Mycoscience

2

Nova Hedwigia

1

Agency

No. of proposals

Other

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)

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES (include committee participation)

A. Department-level

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 an overseas course (EFB-500 Natural History and Nature Conservation in Ireland) with the usual enrollment of 8 students, and also helped coordinate a second overseas course (EFB-500 Fungi of Bolivia) led by my grad student Patty Kaishian. This latter course took place over winter break, and had an enrollment of 12 students. I was absent for the fall semester (sabbatical leave) and did not teach my regular EFB 440/640 Mycology class. During the spring semester (2017) I again taught an EFB-496/796 Biology of Lichens (9 students) and contributed to EFB-211 Diversity of Life II. I also accepted one additional graduate student, Ben Zink (MS) who will be working on the ultrastructure of Laboulbeniales.

DEPARTMENT/COLLEGE

I have continued to oversee digitization of our important mycological collections at the college. This work has been funded by NSF and will continue until March 2018. To date we have digitized more than 11,000 items. This coming fall semester I will have 6 undergraduates helping with this project with the goal of completing documentation of 18,000 specimens by the end of the project. 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. This past spring we had 2 researchers from Cornell University who studied our impressive collections of mostly North American lichens. I also contributed to ongoing efforts to remount damaged vascular plant specimens in the Plant Herbarium. I have also participated in the Cranberry Lake Biological Station Advisory Committee, worked with an undergraduate student and ESF Library staff on digitizing CLBS photographs in the College archives, and taught the mycology section of EFB 202 at the Station during May 2017.

SELF

During the fall semester 2016 I took my second sabbatical leave since my arrival at ESF in January 1999. During the sabbatical leave I completed work on three manuscripts (see Publications) and I am at an advanced stage on a fourth manuscript that I hope to complete this summer. One of the submitted manuscripts (Molecular phylogeny of the Laboulbeniomycetes) is a culmination of more than 15 years of work and is the first higher-level phylogeny of this group of fungi based on molecular datasets. I also began work on an outline for a potential textbook for our required Diversity of Life (EFB 210, 211) sequence. I have focused my efforts on a detailed chapter on fungal diversity that could be used as a blueprint for contributions by other teachers in the class. The sabbatical leave also afforded me the opportunity to network with colleagues in Europe on initiatives regarding the conservation of fungi. In addition, I spent time documenting, photographing, and experimenting with lichens and have incorporated much of this activity into the EFB-496/796 Biology of Lichens class that I taught this past spring semester. Finally, I also took the opportunity to co-lead a fungus walk for the general public and was interviewed on foraging of wild mushrooms for an article that appeared in an Irish national newspaper, the Irish Examiner. The final activity outlined in my sabbatical proposal was to co-lead a week-long workshop on insect-associated fungi in Costa Rica. Unfortunately, this was cancelled by the University of Costa Rica and has been re-scheduled for January 2018.

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 I intend to devote time to complete at least two additional manuscripts, one of which will be the description of a new genus of Laboulbeniales, I also hope to complete work on an outline for a textbook for Diversity of Life and will be working to complete the microfungi digitization project by March 2018.

B. PROJECTED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

1. Summer 2017

- a. Course(s) to be offered
EFB 202 Fungi component, Cranberry Lake Biological Station
- b. Proposed research activity
Finishing off manuscript for submission
Collecting new Laboulbeniales material for TEM and DNA work
Overseeing remounting of damaged vascular plant collections in Plant Herbarium
Possible fungal inventory of Riley Woods Natural Nature Reserve, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland
- c. University, professional society, and public service
Lead organizer 2017 Peck Foray – AEC Newcomb
ESF Plant and Fungal Herbarium curatorial duties

2. Fall Semester 2017

- a. Course(s) to be offered
EFB 440/640 Mycology
5-6 guest lectures covering fungal component of
EFB-210 Diversity of Life I
- b. Proposed research activity
Continued development of Fungi chapter for possible Diversity of Life textbook
Continued work on new genus description and manuscript preparation
Working with 1 grad student and 6 undergrads on microfungi digitization project
- c. University, Professional society, and public service
Lead organizer 2017 Peck Foray weekend at AEC Newcomb
Leader, Fungus Weekend event, Linwood Gardens, Rochester, NY
ESF Plant and Fungal Herbarium curatorial duties

3. Spring Semester 2018

- a. Course(s) to be offered
EFB 496/796 Biology of Lichens
Guest lecture in EFB-211 Diversity of Life II
- b. Proposed research activity

Completion of microfungi digitization project

Work on ultrastructural (TEM) study of Laboulbeniales and possible manuscript preparation.

c. University, professional society, and public service

ESF Plant and Fungal Herbarium curatorial duties