

John F. Weishampel is the Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies (CGS). He is a Professor in the Department of Biology where he served as the graduate program director for seven years and led the development of the Conservation Biology PhD. He received his bachelor's degree in biology at Duke University and his master's and doctoral degrees in environmental sciences at the University of Virginia. He was a National Research Council Research Associate in the Biospheric Sciences Branch at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. His research focused on using remote sensing techniques to characterize forest ecosystem properties to understand global environmental change.

Dr. Weishampel joined UCF in 1995 teaching courses in environmental science, ecology, and global change biology. He has mentored scores of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. He secured federal funding from ED, EPA, NSF, NASA, NOAA, and USDA and received the NSF CAREER and NASA New Investigator awards. He served as a Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and as a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Freiburg in Germany. He has had appointments as a visiting professor at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris, as a Charles Bullard Fellow at Harvard University, and as a Fulbright Intercountry Scholar at the University of Zaragoza in Spain. His research career expanded into coastal and marine environments, focusing on sea turtle ecology. Collaborating with anthropologists, he pioneered the use of LiDAR remote sensing to detect archaeological features below forest canopies.

From 2015-24, he was the CGS Senior Associate Dean and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies responsible for new degree program development, implementing and overseeing the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and serving as the principal investigator on grants funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Council of Graduate Schools. From 2019-21 he served as a Program Officer at NSF in the Division of Graduate Education. He administered the cross-directorate NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) and Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) programs, which supported over 100 institutions and thousands of graduate students. He is currently a member of the AAAS SEA (STEMM Equity Achievement) Change and Sloan Exemplary Pathways Partnership (EPP) programs.