

**PLANT SOIL  
& MICROBIAL  
SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT**



**Congratulations to:**

At the STMA Annual Conference, 8 IAT Sports and Commercial Turf students attended and participated in the annual quiz bowl. MSU placed 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams from around the country. 2 weeks later, at the Golf Industry Show, GIS, 18 IAT Golf and CSS turfgrass management students made the trip and 5 teams participated in this quiz bowl (54 teams). MSU placed 3 teams in the top 20 and had a 6<sup>th</sup> place best finish. In the essay portion of the exam, an MSU student had the overall best score of 95%!

Please congratulate these students on their hard work and overall representation of the Turf Program, Department, College, and University. Also, a special thanks to MSU personnel **Thomas Green, Ryan Bearss, Thomas Nikolai, and Nancy Dykema** as well as superintendents **Kyle Barton, Rob Steger, Jason Zimmerman, John Nachreiner, and Eric Davey** for their efforts in preparing the students for their respective quiz bowls. Finally, we recognize financial support of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and MiGCSA for student travel to the conferences.



Front row (l-r): Clayton Hoekwater, Cam Wyatt, Seth Storm, Joe Stosio; Back row - Steven Bowers, Josh Olrich, Karscen Sutliff, & Joe Trautner.



Front row (l-r) Jerry Pell, Alex Scott, Kyle Lake; r2 Spencer Cole, Steven Bowers, Jarett Weirich, Colin King, Nancy Dykema, (MSU staff), Zach Reid, Brennen Kuhn, Nick Worley, Evan Miller; r3 Devin Bilek, Bob Mandrink, Jon Siler, Connor Paul, Ty Barschdorf.

**Funding**

**Dr. Monique Sakalidis** was recently awarded funding through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISG)

Oak wilt management; evaluating options to reduce collateral damage. They will evaluate the effectiveness of tactics to reduce the expansion of oak wilt, the loss of healthy oak trees and the cost of oak wilt treatments and further our understanding of the relationship between xylem anatomy in oaks, inoculum dosage and associated likelihood of disease development.

Principal Investigator: **Dr. Monique Sakalidis**

Co-Principal Investigator: **Dr. Deb McCullough and Dr. Bert Cregg**

Award Amount: \$399,800

## Seminar / Webinar Announcements

**2020 Vision: MSU Extension in the Next Decade**, Room 110 - Radiology Building

All presentations will begin at 4 PM and will follow with a Q&A period at 4:45 PM.

A short networking reception with light refreshments will immediately follow.

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2020Vision/>

➤ **February 10: Dr. Mona Hannah-Atisha**, pediatrician, professor, and public health advocate whose research exposed the Flint water crisis.

➤ **March 5: Amy Pienta**, research scientist with the University of Michigan Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

➤ **April 20: Keith Creagh**, former director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

➤ **May 5: David Mortenson, PhD**, professor of Weed and Applied Plant Pathology, Penn State University

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**February 10, 2020** at 4:10 PM in A155, Plant and Soil Sciences Building

**Dr. Luis Miguel Rodriguez-Rojas**, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta

Molecular Microbial Ecology Position Faculty Candidate

Title: *Bioinformatic Tools for Testing Microbial Ecology Theory in Natural Environments through Environmental Genomics*

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**February 10, 2020**

**Silvia Ramundo** - *Chloroplast unfolded protein response*

<https://plantbiology.natsci.msu.edu/2020-faculty-candidate-seminars/>

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**February 11, 2020** at 11:00 AM in 162, Food Safety & Toxicology Building

**Dr. Mark Harris**, ToxStrategies, Inc.

Title: *Consulting - Another Path for a Toxicologist*

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**February 13, 2020**

**Joshua Strabel** - *Leveraging developmental genetics to improve agriculture by modifying plant architecture*

<https://plantbiology.natsci.msu.edu/2020-faculty-candidate-seminars/>

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**February 13, 2020** at 3:30 PM in 1420 Biomedical Physical Science

**Ehab Abouheif**, Department of Biology, McGill University

Title: *Eco-Evo-Devo and the Origin of Obligate Endosymbiosis Between Ants and Bacteria*

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**February 13, 2020** at 4:10 PM in A149, Plant and Soil Sciences Building

Refreshments served at 4 PM

**Shelley Jansky**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Title: *Where the wild genes are - tales of potato germplasm enhancement*

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**February 17, 2020** at 1:30 PM in 247, Plant Biology Building

**Nikki Lukasko**

Title: *Fungicide Resistance to Botrytis cinerea in Michigan Floriculture Greenhouses*

## Seminar / Webinar Announcements

**February 20, 2020** at 4:10 PM in A149, Plant and Soil Sciences Building

Refreshments served at 4 PM

**Dr. Julie Dawson**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Title: *Participatory variety trialing for direct-market vegetable growers in the Upper Midwest: the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative*

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**February 24, 2020** at 1:30 PM in 247, Plant Biology Building

**Derrick Grunwald**, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Graduate Student Exchange Seminar

Title: *Soybean SNAPs back: the role of vesicle trafficking in soybean cyst nematode resistance*

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**February 27, 2020** at 4:10 PM in A149, Plant and Soil Sciences Building

Refreshments served at 4 PM

**Dr. Karen Cichy**, Plant, Soil & Microbial Sciences, Michigan State University

Title: *Genetic Control of Cooking Time in Dry Beans*

## Career Fairs

**February 19, 2020** from 2:00-6:00 PM, Natural Resources Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Hallways

### Environmental Natural Resources & Sustainability Opportunity Fair

This event is open to all students with an interest in sustainability, the environment, natural resources, conservation and the out-of-doors. Alumni and industry professionals will be there to share information about internship, summer, temporary, entry level and volunteer opportunities.

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**March 11 & 12, 2020**, 3:00-6:00 PM

**MSU's largest spring semester career event representing all majors.** Sponsored by Auto-Owners Insurance, this two-day event includes internship, summer job and full-time career opportunities for students. Day 1 session: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 3-6 PM. Large companies with over 50 employees are encouraged to attend the Day 1 session. Day 2 session: Thursday, March 12, 2020, 3-6 PM. Companies with less than 50 employees are encouraged to attend the day 2 session.

Location: Huntington Club, Spartan Stadium

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**Career Advising Appointments** - all CANR students can register for one-on-one career advising appointments for resume & cover letter reviews, job or internship search or for career assessments in helping develop a focus for their career. To sign up - log in on Handshake, click on career center, then appointments.

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**Job & Internship Postings** - If you have students still looking for summer 2020 internships or full-time jobs - please remind them to check for new postings on Handshake - [msu.joinhandshake.com](https://msu.joinhandshake.com).

## Announcements

### Driver's Certification Forms

This is a last call to submit your Driver's Certification Form! These forms were due by January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't turned yours in yet, please either email to [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu) or drop off to AnnMarie in PSSB, A286 today. Thank you!

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**The MSU Agronomy Club's annual merchandise sale is open!** This year they have a web-based site where you can purchase and pay online. You can have orders shipped to your home or to PSS for pickup. Orders can be submitted **until 2/16/2020**. If you have any questions, please contact club president, **Brianna Wiemer** at [wiemerbr@msu.edu](mailto:wiemerbr@msu.edu)  
To order: [https://gologoit.com/msu\\_crop\\_and\\_soil\\_sciences/shop/home](https://gologoit.com/msu_crop_and_soil_sciences/shop/home)

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Please share widely! In celebration of **World Pulses Day (Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>)**, we want to know how people around the world cook pulses (beans, chickpeas, lentils, etc.)! **Also, don't forget to participate, too!** If you have not cooked pulses before, here is your chance! Link to the survey: <https://pulses.org/pulses-cooking-times>  
Questions: Contact **Karen Cichy** at [cookbeans@usda.gov](mailto:cookbeans@usda.gov)

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### February 10, 2020

Proposals for the PSM graduate student support awards for the 2020-2021 academic year are due by Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> by 5 PM. Please contact **Mackenzie Graham** at [graham2@msu.edu](mailto:graham2@msu.edu) for additional information.

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### February 12, 2020

The XR Symposium is coming up on February 12<sup>th</sup> in the Digital Scholarship Lab in the MSU Library!  
Additional information: <https://lib.msu.edu/XRS/>  
Registration: [bit.ly/XRS2020](https://bit.ly/XRS2020)

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### February 20, 2020

Save the Date - Michigan National Features Inventory Annual Slide Show and Networking will be held at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM on February 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information on Michigan Natural Features Inventory please visit their website at <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/>. For any additional questions regarding this event, please contact **Josh Gunn** at either [gunnjosh@msu.edu](mailto:gunnjosh@msu.edu) or 517-355-2361.

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### February 20, 2020

February virtual office hour with **Brad Day** in the division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS)! Additional information: <https://iosblog.nsfbio.com/2020/02/04/february-virtual-office-hour-with-the-division-of-integrative-organismal-systems-ios/>

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### March 6, 2020

The MSU Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is inviting nominations for two important distinctions: the 2020 Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship (EAIS) and faculty and professional staff election to the Society. Nominations should be sent to the Chapter's office in 93 Kellogg Center. The deadline for all nominations is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Additional Information: <https://pkp.msu.edu/excellence-award-in-interdisciplinary-scholarship-eais>  
Please contact **Burt Bargerstock** with additional questions at 517-353-8977 or [bb@msu.edu](mailto:bb@msu.edu)

## Announcements

### March 13, 2020

MSU Ballroom in the Union from 9 AM-5 PM

POE Annual Summit “*Navigating Change: Building Our Future Together*”

The summit promotes and educates members of the MSU campus community on eliminating gender-based violence on campus, empowering the MSU community to become advocates for a non-violent community, and positively affecting social change.

Additional information: [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_djzbCk27pFPI75z](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_djzbCk27pFPI75z)

Questions/Concerns: Contact **Rae Chaloult** at [chaloul2@msu.edu](mailto:chaloul2@msu.edu)

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### March 17, 2020

Michigan pesticide applicator certification exams will be given to **Howard Russell’s** ENT 111 class on March 17<sup>th</sup>. He has seating for an additional 10-12 people. The exams will be given in 352 Natural Science Building at 8:00 AM. Please contact **Howard Russell** at [bugman@msu.edu](mailto:bugman@msu.edu) if you are interested.

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### March 25, 2020

**Conversation on MSU Strategic Planning Process**

9:00-11:00 AM, Kellogg Center, Room Big Ten A

Registration [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6qW4EzHsrAbmnpX](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6qW4EzHsrAbmnpX)

**President Stanley** recently charged the Strategic Planning Steering Committee with gathering input from campus and external stakeholders, including alumni and community leaders, about the university’s vision, values and strategic direction. This will enable MSU to consider our current state and identify underlying themes, strengths and trends across campus as we consider new opportunities and respond to emerging challenges. Co-chairs **Vennie Gore** and **Joe Salem** will discuss the strategic planning process and options to offer input on creating a shared MSU vision.

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### March 27, 2020

**The University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF)** registration is now open and will close on **February 13<sup>th</sup>** at 11:59 PM. If you have a student completing their undergraduate research project or a student working in your lab in undergraduate research, please encourage the student to submit to present a poster or paper. If you are faculty, please consider volunteering to judge. This is a great place to recruit undergraduate students to your research program.

Additional information: <http://urca.msu.edu/uuraf/reg>

Upcoming workshops: <http://urca.msu.edu/events>

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### March 30-31, 2020

USDA Rural Development, Montana State University, and Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE), is announcing the inaugural **Soil Health Innovations Conference**. This national conference will be held at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Conference registration (to attend in person):

<https://soilinnovations.ncat.org/register/>

Conference registration (livestream): <https://soilinnovations.ncat.org/universities/>

## Announcements

**April 1-4, 2020**

### **2020 MANRRS 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference**

Minneapolis, MN

Our relationship with MANRRS is an important part of both our support of our current and future diverse CANR student body, and our ongoing efforts to diversify our CANR faculty, academic staff and students. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the MSU group by **February 1, 2020** ([ANR.DEI@msu.edu](mailto:ANR.DEI@msu.edu) or 517-432-1349).

Additional information <https://www.manrrs.org/nationalconference>

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/student\\_organizations/majorities-in-agriculture-natural-resources-and-related-sciences](https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/student_organizations/majorities-in-agriculture-natural-resources-and-related-sciences)

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**April 13, 2020**

### **Conversation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Planning at MSU**

9:00-11:00 AM, Kellogg Center, Room Big Ten BC

Registration [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_emSupiTRbvNw9GB](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_emSupiTRbvNw9GB)

**President Stanley** recently charged the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee to examine, among other areas, the composition and success of our faculty, staff and student body; research and scholarship; curriculum and educational programs; community engagement; and the culture our community members live and experience each day. The committee will inventory efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion across campus; identify potential synergies; pinpoint existing gaps; and establish a framework for making MSU a national leader in this area. Co-chairs **Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore** and **Luis Garcia** will discuss the committee's work and options to offer input on these critical issues.

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**April 26-28, 2020**

**Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture and Natural Resources**, University of Florida (Gainesville). The abstract deadline has been **extended to Friday, February 14**.

Abstract submission information: <https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/applied-stats/call-abstracts.html>

Registration: <https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/applied-stats/registration-information.html>

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**May 7-8, 2020**

### **Dimensions of Plant Resilience Inaugural Symposium**

Submit abstracts by **March 31, 2020**

Additional information: <https://plantresilience.msu.edu/events/symposium-2020/>

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**May 30-June 13, 2020**

2020 Practical Summer Workshop in Functional Genomics, Ohio State University  
Now accepting applications for undergraduate, master's and new Ph.D. students.  
The upcoming workshop will focus on plant-microbe interactions.

Further information regarding the workshop: <https://caps.osu.edu/FGW-2020>

Please contact **Jason Slot**, Coordinator, 2020 PSWFG at [caps@osu.edu](mailto:caps@osu.edu) with any additional questions.

## Announcements

June 21, 2020

### Art in Phytopathology

Categories: Arts-n-Crafts, Nature, Data Presentation, Humor Magnified

To Enter: Attach a digital copy of your artwork and email to [phytopathart@gmail.com](mailto:phytopathart@gmail.com)  
Include your full name, job title, employer address, title of your artwork, brief description of your artwork (how the artwork was produced, what it depicts, etc.), and permission for APS to reproduce or publish your submission. Current ASPS membership required for all applicants. Limit of 3 entries per person.

Deadline: June 21, 2020

Prize: Category winner awarded \$50, "Best in show" wins an extra \$50!

Winners will be announced at APS Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado

Organized by: APS Graduate Student Committee, Art in Phytopathology Sub-Committee  
Cecilia Freitas, Amelia Lovelace and Emma Wallace

Some of our  
previous winners:



July 12-August 7, 2020

CANR is calling for summer mentors for the **2020 ANR Multicultural Apprenticeship Program (MAP)**. The program runs from July 12-August 7, 2020 and the mentor application is **due by April 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please see the MAP faculty information and participation form that was emailed out to faculty on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Further information regarding the program:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/pre\\_college/multicultural\\_apprenticeship\\_program\\_map/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/pre_college/multicultural_apprenticeship_program_map/index)

### Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program Website

A new website has been launched that will provide information and resources for undocumented students, refugees and recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. MSU affirms our commitment to admit and support students from all backgrounds, consistent with our values and policies that include nondiscrimination. <https://undocumented.msu.edu>

## Job Opportunity

### Job opportunity in Maine: Extension Crops Specialist

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the University of Maine at Presque Isle College of Arts and Sciences invite applications for a full-time, fiscal-year, continuing contract eligible faculty appointment as Assistant or Associate Extension Professor and Assistant or Associate Professor of Crop Production.

For a complete job description and to apply: <https://umaine.hiretouch.com/job-details?jobID=60315&job=assistant-or-associate-extension-professor-assistant-or-associate-professor-of-crop-production>

## Professional Development Opportunities

Current Organization and Professional Development (OPD) courses are available this semester for yourself and/or faculty and support staff in your unit.

<https://hr.msu.edu/professional-development/courses/personal-development/index.html>

### Upcoming Professional Development Courses

February 4	New Supervisor Essentials
February 5	From Distracted to Productive
February 5	Creating and Sustaining a Positive Workplace
February 6 & 7	Sustainable High Performance
February 12 & 13	Crucial Conversations
February 12	Managing Meetings
February 13	NEW! Inclusive Culture: A Primer for Leaders
February 19 & 20	Crucial Accountability
February 19	Honing Your Emotional Intelligence
February 19	Emotional Intelligence in Leadership
February 20	Building Capacity for Resilience as a Leader
March 11	Fundamentals of Supervision
March 11	Communicating and Influencing Up

## Travel

Travel Health Message: Coronavirus from the Office of International Health and Safety  
[https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/news\\_article/22573](https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/news_article/22573)

We received the following from **Brooke Stokdyk**, Assistant Director of MSU's Office for International Students and Scholars:

OISS has been closely following the coronavirus outbreak in mainland China and the tremendous impacts it has had on travel between the U.S. and China. At present, commercial flights between our two countries have been cancelled for weeks into the future, perhaps months, and a U.S. travel restriction is in place that will bar any non-immigrants (which includes J-1 scholars) from entering the U.S. if they have been physically present in mainland China during the 14 days prior to their intended entry date.

MSU normally sees scholars arriving and departing almost every day, so the impacts are immediate. We have scholars who are here who can't get home and scholars scheduled to arrive who can't get here.

OISS will be reaching out individually to scholars and departments who have scheduled departures or arrivals in the near future. If you have scholars in either of these situations, you will hear from us soon with specific information for each individual situation.

For further information and specific questions or concerns, please contact OISS at [jvisas@msu.edu](mailto:jvisas@msu.edu).

## **HR / Payroll Notices**

Employees now have access to their **2019 W2s** in EBS. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Payroll at either [payroll@ctrl.msu.edu](mailto:payroll@ctrl.msu.edu) or 517-355-5010.

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### **Changes to the Federal 2020 Form W4**

Click here for further information

<http://www.ctrl.msu.edu/download/Payroll/Federal-2020-W4.pdf>

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### **Payroll Time Reporting**

Due Date Reminders for biweekly payroll (includes labor and student)

Reminder: If your employee's time is not submitted, they will not be paid.

- For the **2/14/2020 pay date** covering the 1/19/2020-2/1/2020 pay period, all time must be approved by **4:00 PM Friday, 2/7/2020**.
  - For the **2/28/2020 pay date** covering the 2/2/2020-02/15/2020 pay period, all time must be approved by **4:00 PM Friday, 2/21/2020**.
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### **Upcoming Changes to MSU Temporary and On-Call Employee Hiring Process**

MSU will require all temporary and on-call (TOC) support staff jobs to be posted publicly and processed through the PageUp applicant tracking system (ATS) beginning November 2020. In-person training opportunities and resources will be available closer to November.

Additional Information: <https://hr.msu.edu/ua/hiring/support-staff/oncall-temporary.html>

TOC project lead, **Cheleane Clerkley** can be reached at 517-884-0131 or [chambe78@hr.msu.edu](mailto:chambe78@hr.msu.edu) for further questions.

## **MSU Academic Calendar**

Wednesday, 2/26	Middle of Semester
Monday, 3/2 - Friday, 3/6	Spring Break
Friday, 4/24	Classes End
Monday, 4/27 - Friday, 5/1	Final Exams
Friday, 5/1 - Sunday, 5/3	Commencements

Send newsletter submissions to [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)  
Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM