

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Congratulations

Members of MSU's Turfgrass Club traveled to San Diego February 2-4 to participate in the 2022 Turf Bowl Competition at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) conference, where they placed 6th in a field of 44 teams.

Seminars/Webinars

March 3, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Plant Resilience Institute Director Candidate

Presenter: **Dr. Carolyn Young**, Principal Scientist, Nature's Fynd, Bozeman, MT

Title: Diversity Matters: Endophytes and pathogens that impact agriculture

PBL 247

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/95397319431>

Password: primsu

March 3, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Presenter: **Dr. Jessica Waite**, USDA

Title: TBD

PSSB A149 (Hybrid Format)

March 14, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Spring PLP 894 Seminar

Presenter: **Nancy Sharma**

Title: Assessment of fungicide resistance of Grape powdery mildew and Grape downy mildew populations in vineyards of the Great Lakes region in the United States of America

Room 162 Food Safety and Toxicology Building (Hybrid Format)

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99481126925?pwd=bWVWVXc0MTFscWU5Nmh6VWx2L1UwUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 8112 6925

Passcode: plp

March 17, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Presenter: **Dionardo Pizana**, MSU

Title: TBD

PSSB A149 (Hybrid Format)

Seminars/Webinars

March 21, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Spring PLP 894 Seminar

Presenter: **John Spafford**

Title: Evaluating new fungicides with the TOMCAST forecasting model to limit *Stemphylium vesicarium* on asparagus fern

Room 162 Food Safety and Toxicology Building (Hybrid Format)

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99481126925?pwd=bWVWVXc0MTFscWU5Nmh6VWx2L1UwUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 8112 6925

Passcode: plp

March 24, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Presenter: **Dr. Francesca Cotrufo**, Colorado State University

Title: TBD

PSSB A149 (Hybrid Format)

March 28, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Spring PLP 894 Seminar

Presenter: **Lexi Heger**

Title: Advances in molecular and optical detection strategies for grape downy mildew

Room 162 Food Safety and Toxicology Building (Hybrid Format)

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99481126925?pwd=bWVWVXc0MTFscWU5Nmh6VWx2L1UwUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 8112 6925

Passcode: plp

March 31, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Presenter: **Dr. James Olmstead**, Driscoll's

Title: Blueberry Breeding in 2020: Challenges and Opportunities

PSSB A149 (Hybrid Format)

April 4, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Spring PLP 894 Seminar

Presenter: **Alexandra Hernandez**

Title: Integrated strategies to improve management of Cercospora leaf spot of sugar beet

Room 162 Food Safety and Toxicology Building (Hybrid Format)

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99481126925?pwd=bWVWVXc0MTFscWU5Nmh6VWx2L1UwUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 8112 6925

Passcode: plp

April 7, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Presenter: **Dr. James Simon**, Rutgers University

Title: Progress and Challenges in Breeding for Natural Products: From a Case Study in Developing Downy Mildew Resistance in Sweet Basil, to Aromas and Insect Repellency

PSSB A149 (Hybrid Format)

Seminars/Webinars

April 11, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Spring PLP 894 Seminar

Presenter: Ethan Tippett

Title: Evaluation of Table Beet Cultivars for Resistance to Rhizomania Caused by Beet Necrotic Yellow Vein Virus

Room 162 Food Safety and Toxicology Building (Hybrid Format)

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99481126925?pwd=bWVWVXc0MTFscWU5Nmh6VWx2L1UwUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 8112 6925

Passcode: plp

April 14, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Presenter: Dr. Todd Gaines, Colorado State University

Title: The shifting landscape of herbicide resistance evolution: Causes and consequences of new auxinic resistance traits in crops

PSSB A149 (Hybrid Format)

April 18, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Spring PLP 894 Seminar

Presenter: Doug Minier

Title: Pathogenesis and virulence factors of *Rhizoctonia solani* AG 2-2 causing root and crown rot of sugar beet

Room 162 Food Safety and Toxicology Building (Hybrid Format)

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99481126925?pwd=bWVWVXc0MTFscWU5Nmh6VWx2L1UwUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 8112 6925

Passcode: plp

April 21, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Presenter: Dr. John R. Clark, The University of Arkansas

Title: A Career of Public University Fruit Breeding: Dreams Fulfilled and Associated Stories

PSSB A149 (Hybrid Format)

April 25, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Spring PLP 894 Seminar

Presenter: Karan Chahal

Title: Oak Wilt: When Picnic Beetles Bring Along a Deadly Fungal Pathogen

Room 162 Food Safety and Toxicology Building (Hybrid Format)

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99481126925?pwd=bWVWVXc0MTFscWU5Nmh6VWx2L1UwUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 8112 6925

Passcode: plp

April 28, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar

Presenter: Dr. Roger Chetelat, UC Davis

Title: TBD

PSSB A149 (Hybrid Format)

Announcements

2022 POE 3rd Annual Summit

The Prevention, Outreach and Education (POE) Department would like to invite all faculty, staff, graduate students and professionals to register for the POE 3rd Annual Summit titled “Prevention as Action: Strategizing our Individual and Collective Influence” on March 1, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (morning and afternoon sessions) at the MSU Union (3rd floor). We will be hosting a hybrid event and we will be offering virtual attendance also. We hope you can join us for interactive and action-oriented workshops around prevention of gender-based violence, harassment, and discrimination. [Register Here](#).

Additional details are on the POE website [2022 POE 3rd Annual Summit | Prevention, Outreach and Education Department | Michigan State University \(msu.edu\)](#). Flyer attached to this newsletter.

IPF Building Notice: Red Water Notice

Where?

Campus wide

What is happening and why?

Fire pumps throughout campus will be tested as required annually for fire pump certification

When will this occur?

Monday, March 7th through Friday, March 11th

How will this impact me?

Pump testing will take place throughout campus, Monday through Thursday. During this work and for up to a couple of days after, some discoloration of the water supply may occur throughout campus. This discoloration is harmless in terms of sanitation and safety, but may discolor clothing if used for laundry.

What do I need to do?

The temporary discoloration of the water may discolor clothing if used for laundry. We apologize for the inconvenience.

To find out more about how IPF is working to improve campus water quality and reduce the amount and severity of discoloration events, [please visit or page about the new water treatment plant](#).

Who can I contact for more information?

Corey Morris, Planner/Inspector/Analyst, at 517-898-6632 or morri504@msu.edu, or IPF at 517-353-1760.

Join ACRS for their Monthly Meeting & Cookie Decorating

Friday, March 4, 2022 at 4:00 PM

MPS Atrium

Enjoy a cookie and connect with fellow students!

Announcements

Upcoming PCard Program Changes

A friendly reminder that on March 1, 2022, several PCard process improvements will become effective that affect both cardholders and fiscal officers. [Read more about the upcoming PCard changes.](#)

1-2-3 Strike Policy

As a cardholder, compliance with the Manual of Business Procedures and the PCard Manual are required - and policy violations may result in the loss of PCard privileges. A 1-2-3 Strike policy is in place, aimed to correct PCard infractions. The cardholder and their FO will be notified of all strikes given; however, a warning may be given to cardholders only prior to the incurrence of a strike. Strike 1 will result in a 30-day card suspension; Strike 2, 90-day card suspension; and Strike 3 will result in card cancellation, and the employee will not be able to apply for a new PCard for a period of 12 months.

Example policy violations that may incur a strike include:

- Any violation of any section of the MSU Manual of Business Procedures
- Missing business purpose or itemized received on the eDoc
- Purchase of a restricted item, without prior approval from the PCard team
- Splitting charges to skirt the single transaction limit
- Failure to have the PCDO fully approved within the 45-day time limit
- Failure by fiscal officer to ad hoc route their own Pcard transactions to supervisor
- Exceeding the monthly spending limit
- An audit finding by the Office of Audit, Risk and Compliance
- Inappropriate charge of sales tax
- Sharing card information

Note that certain violations, such as fraudulent or intentional misuse, will result in immediate revocation of the PCard, possible criminal charges, and discipline up to and including termination.

PCard FAQs

Q: Will new PCards be mailed out as part of the March 1, 2022 update?

A: No. You will use the same PCard until it expires in July 2023.

Q: What happens if the eDoc does not get fully approved in 45 days - even if the delay is on the part of the FO?

A: This may result in a strike against the cardholder, as part of the 1-2-3 Strike policy.

Q: After what period of time does the strike count reset to zero?

A: One year without a PCard violation will remove all strikes.

[Additional PCard FAQs are available here](#)

Woman's Day Virtual Event: Breaking the Bias

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 from 2:00-3:30 PM

You are invited! Celebrate International Woman's Day with Million Women Mentors, STEMx, and Learning Blade. Join us for this special #BreakTheBias event with keynote speaker, MWM Champion, **Kate Marshall**, Former Lieutenant Governor of Nevada.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Announcements

The MSU Graduate Women In Science are seeking presenters and volunteers for Girls Math and Science Day 2022 held on Saturday, May 21st, 2022 from 1-5pm. The event is an opportunity for middle school girls to participate in science demonstrations while working with enthusiastic graduate students and researchers. The day is composed of four 30-minute sessions where girls participate in hands-on workshops on a range of topics in science. Please note that GMSD 2022 will likely be held outdoors; activities should be engineered with this in mind.

For those interested in submitting an activity and presenting a workshop, please fill out this form (<https://forms.gle/vzUemgVsFGKrxk639>). For those interested in volunteering, please fill out this form (<https://forms.gle/3ageBEopaMjRujEy9>).

If you have not completed a Background Check Form in the past year you must fill out the attached Background Check Form and upload it in the Google Form. The deadline for signing up to present an activity is Friday, March 18th, 2022.

If you want more information, please email MSU Graduate Women in Science at gmsd.gwis.msu@gmail.com and we look forward to your participation!

Insurance Reimbursement for At-Home COVID Tests

The federal government recently issued new requirements for the reimbursement of at-home COVID-19 tests. Information about qualifying tests and the process for reimbursement is available based on your employee type and insurance plan. [Coronavirus Benefit Resources \(msu.edu\)](#)

Booster Verification Process is Now Live

Booster verification process is now live using MSU's [vaccine verification form](#). Individuals also can request an exemption to the booster mandate using the verification form.

Custodial Update

There are new procedures that will be implemented throughout the building. To eliminate as many touch points as possible, custodial will no longer be servicing recycling bins in offices. In turn, they are asking that you please use the mailroom, or other central locations near the elevator for recycling drop off. They can also take shredded paper from these locations as long as it is bagged, tied off, and set aside near the bins.

The custodial team is also using an autonomous floor machine for cleaning of all hallways. With that being said, they are asking that all unnecessary items stored throughout the halls be removed as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance in this process.

Weekly Coronavirus Communications Updates

Every week, University Communications prepares a summary of all the recent coronavirus-related information. To help employees stay up to date on announcements and activities, those summaries are now available on the Together We Will website. [Weekly Coronavirus Communications Update | TOGETHER WE WILL | Michigan State University \(msu.edu\)](#)

Announcements

Upcoming Switch to New Antivirus Software (ESET)

MSU is moving away from the old antivirus software called Symantec Endpoint Protection (SEP) to a new antivirus called ESET Cloud Protect (ESET).

What does this mean for me?

If you are using a Windows computer:

- For most university-owned Windows computers, SEP will be uninstalled and ESET will be installed automatically through the Software Center on February 28, 2022, and you will not need to do anything.
- If for some reason this does not occur, [Instructions for Installing ESET Manually](#) through the Software Center are available.

If you are using a Mac:

- Ensure your macOS is updated to Catalina, Big Sur, or Monterey.
- For Macs that are currently connected to JAMF with the Self Service App, [Instructions for Installing ESET using the Self Service App](#) are available which will also automatically uninstall SEP.
- For Macs that are not currently using JAMF, please contact either **Dominic Colosimo** (colosi14@msu.edu) or **Lee Duynslager** (duynslag@msu.edu) to set up a time for them to assist you with manual installation of ESET.

Free Courses Available from the MSU IT Training Team

The MSU IT Training Team is offering no-cost virtual instructor-led trainings for all students, faculty, and staff to become more familiar with the technology available at MSU. A mix of beginner and intermediate courses are available about several of our primary collaboration tools: Zoom, Spartan 365, and specific Microsoft applications like Teams, OneNote, and OneDrive.

[Technology at MSU - Free courses available from the MSU IT Training Team | Michigan State University](#)

Complimentary On-Campus Parking Extended

Due to the temporary reduction in CATA service frequency on campus, complimentary parking at pay-by-plate and metered pay stations has been extended through March 13. [Read More](#)

Career Services Network Online Workshops Spring 2022 Semester Series

April 7, 2022, 6:00-7:00 PM via Zoom

Writing Resumes and Cover Letters

Writing professional documents can seem overwhelming. Let us help you share your unique story by writing and formatting effective resumes and cover letters.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION & ZOOM LINKS

To register for any of the workshops and to receive the Zoom link for participation, log into Handshake at msu.joinhandshake.com.

Job Announcements

Research Technologist

Job # 762388

Conducts research experiments under the direction of a researcher in order to generate data for support of research projects.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509540/research-technologist-i>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 761103

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences invites applications from outstanding candidates for a fixed term Research Associate position in the area of: Plant responses to nutrient deficiency, with a main focus on organelle crosstalks.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509487/research-associatefixed-term>

Botanical Technologist I

Job # 762515

Participates in the collection, development, and maintenance of diverse plant materials to assist in or independently participate in the maintenance of the botanical garden, greenhouse operations, and associated field research.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509484/botanical-technologist-i>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 760374

This individual will coordinate on-farm research and outreach/extension for a competitively-funded project involving 19 states. The project seeks to quantify resilience of diverse, perennial, circular forage systems to environmental, economic, and social stressors using a paired-farm design with 50 farm pairs across the USA.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509436/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Assistant II

Job # 759179

The Potato and Sugar Beet Pathology program in Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University is seeking a highly motivated individual to work as a member of the pathology research program.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509218/research-assistant-ii>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 749382

A postdoctoral position is available in the Day Lab at Michigan State University in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508788/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 738547

The (Merewitz) Holm plant physiology laboratory at MSU is looking for a post-doctoral researcher. The research will focus on winterkill and other abiotic stresses of turfgrasses and agricultural grass species such as wheat and barley.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508268/research-associatefixed-term>

Job Announcements

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 737350

We seek an excellent post-doctoral associate to conduct research exploring plant-microbiome mediators of plant stress resilience. Strong quantitative skills and experience with bioinformatic and statistical analyses of microbial communities is expected. The successful applicant will be independent, motivated, and able to work as part of a collaborative team.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508193/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 733007

Postdoctoral research associate position is available to work with the Dr. **Alexandra Kravchenko** and Dr. **Andrey Guber** team.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/kravchenko_alexandra

https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/andrey_guber

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508029/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 700439

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences invites applications from outstanding candidates for a fixed term Research Associate position in the area of: Plant responses to nutrient deficiency, with a main focus on phosphorus starvation.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/506404/research-associatefixed-term>

Travel

Domestic Travel Authorizations:

MSU's sponsored domestic travel authorization process has returned to the process used pre-pandemic.

International Travel Authorizations:

At least 21 days prior to trip start date, employees, students, and approved guests seeking to engage in MSU-sponsored international travel must submit an International Travel Waiver Request. To view the most up-to-date procedures, timelines, forms, and details regarding the International Travel Review Process, please visit the [International Travel Waiver Process](#) website.

More travel guidance can be found on the [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security website](#). MSU encourages all travelers to stay informed about health and safety conditions at their destinations, policies on border closings, quarantine on arrival, and airline policies.

TRAVEL SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Travel related questions: travel@ctrl.msu.edu
- Concur and Expense related questions: concurhelp@ctrl.msu.edu

Travel

MSU is continuing to review all international travel proposals on a case-by-case basis. However, with the high campus COVID-19 vaccination rate and many international borders starting to reopen, the provost, associate provost and dean of ISP, and the university physician have approved streamlining the review process for *most* international travelers. Travel requests for faculty, staff and guests no longer require additional review by the [Faculty and Staff Travel Review \(FASTR\) committee](#), *unless* the traveler is unvaccinated or the destination is considered high-risk for non-COVID safety and/or security reasons.

PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

For faculty, staff, and sponsored guests traveling on official MSU international travel, please review the [international travel waiver process](#) managed by ISP's [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#).

STEP 1—MAU APPROVAL:

1. The traveler fills out and submits the MAU Form to their dean, associate dean or relevant MAU administrator for approval.
2. Once the MAU Form is signed, the traveler must submit an online International Travel Waiver Request detailing their health and safety plan.
3. The MAU can be found [here](#).

STEP 2—REVIEW:

1. Following the submission process, ISP's Office for Global Health, Safety and Security will review the request, focusing on the country's COVID-19 and security risk factors.
 - Non-higher-risk: Vaccinated travelers will receive approval notification.
 - Higher-risk: The travel request will be referred to FASTR for full review. This includes travel to [high-risk destinations](#) and/or travel by unvaccinated individuals.
2. ISP's Office for Global Health, Safety and Security will email the traveler detailing next steps specific to the travel in the follow-up communications, including:
 1. Registration in MSU's Global Travel Registry
 2. Resources regarding international health and travel insurance
 3. Acknowledgement of Risk Form
 4. Options for supplemental trip interruption insurance to offset Quarantines or trip interruptions

Please refer to the [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#) for additional detail regarding the review process, higher-risk travel and a tip sheet.

Enterprise and National Car Rental reminder:

Recently, there have been some issues related to MSU travelers running in to higher-than-expected rental car pricing or, worse, loss damage waiver insurance not included with reservations. In each case, it was because the MSU renter had not updated their Emerald Club profile per the September 2021 listserv email. If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to review the information attached to this newsletter and follow the steps outlined there.

Concur resources -- [Travel@State](#):

Whether you have experience with Concur or easing back in to Concur Request / Travel / Expense, [Travel@State](#) provides a host of helpful resources in the [Education Reference Library](#). User guides, How To's, new videos, and more. We hear frequently that users are rusty because it has been a year or 2 since accessing Concur. [Travel@State](#) has the tools and tips that will help refamiliarize you with Concur.

PSM Chairperson

Brian Horgan 517-353-0120	horganb@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
AnnMarie Guldner 517-353-0120	guldner1@msu.edu	Assistant to the Department Chairperson	

PSM Accounting Team psm.accounting@msu.edu

Lisa Bowen 517-353-0161	bowenli1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely on Thursdays & Fridays	7:00 AM-3:30 PM
Gina Centeno 517-353-0105	centeno@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely on Mondays & Tuesdays	8:15 AM - 2:30 PM
Kim McClung 517-353-0102	mcclungk@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely on Wednesdays	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
Emily Williams 517-353-0106	emilywil@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM

PSM Human Resources Team psm.hr@msu.edu

Jordan Davis 517-353-0139	davis432@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Christiina Donley 517-242-0473	tymoszew@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Mackenzie Graham 517-353-0111	graham2@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
AnnMarie Guldner 517-353-0120	guldner1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-4:00 PM
Hannah O'Mara 517-353-0104	omarahan@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Communications

Patty Bonito	bonitopa@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	9:00 AM-1:00 PM
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PSM IT Team

Dominic Colosimo 517-353-0107	colosi14@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely on Tuesdays & Thursdays	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Lee Duynslager 517-432-5296	duynslag@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-4:30 PM

MSU Academic Calendar

Spring 2022

March 7-11, 2022	Spring Break
April 29, 2022	Classes End
May 2-6, 2022	Commencements

Summer 2022 Full Session

May 16, 2022	Classes Begin
May 30, 2022	Holiday - University Closed
July 1, 2022	Middle of Semester
July 4, 2022	Holiday - University Closed
August 18, 2022	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

Summer 2022 Session One

May 16, 2022	Classes Begin
May 30, 2022	Holiday - University Closed
June 8, 2022	Middle of Semester
June 30, 2022	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

Summer 2022 Session Two

July 5, 2022	Classes Begin
July 27, 2022	Middle of Semester
August 18, 2022	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

PSM 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 March 11th pay date (for time worked from February 13-26) your time is due by Tuesday, March 1st.
- For the March 25th pay date (for time worked from February 27-March 12) your time is due by Tuesday, March 15th.
- For the April 8th pay date (for time worked from March 13-26) your time is due by Tuesday, March 29th.

2021 W2s Are Available Online

2021 W2s are now available online in EBS. There are now two links to W-2 documents in the EBS portal. If you are unable to see the tile, please contact the IT Help Desk.

- The tile "W-2 Reprint" is for the new W-2 system, which will contain W-2 documents for the tax year 2021 and onward.
- The link "W-2 Archive" (below the tiles) is to the prior W-2 system and contains W-2 documents for the tax year 2020 and prior.

Newsletter Submissions

Send newsletter submissions to **AnnMarie Guldner** at guldner1@msu.edu

Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM