

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Seminars/Webinars

March 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute PRI Fellow Candidates

Daniel Anstett, University of British Columbia

Seminar Title: Evolution of plant resilience across latitudinal gradients in an era of climate change

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98293674925>

Meeting ID: 982 9367 4925

Passcode: PRIFELLOW

March 22, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Jill Check

Title: Epidemiology of Tar Spot of Corn

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

March 22, 2021 at 3:00 PM

**Ask the experts: MSU Employee COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall -
Local Distribution Efforts**

Panel:

Norman Beauchamp, Jr., M.D. - Executive Vice President MSU Health Sciences

Linda Vail, M.P.A. - Health Officer Ingham County

LeKeeya Tucker, D.O. - Medical Chief of Staff - Elect, Sparrow Hospital

Register for the town hall:

https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZNb6A_RhRle8j7irSAQrZg

Submit questions in advance:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MHEXli9k2UGSEXQjetVofbWgaDdJbX9FkSjs_j9b1dxUN0lMkdZNEc4Q0hYQ0pZOUdBUIhNTFdaRy4u%2B

March 24, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute PRI Fellow Candidate

Stephanie Schmiede, Columbia University

Seminar Title: Carbon conundrums: Plant respiration in a changing climate

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98293674925>

Meeting ID: 982 9367 4925

Passcode: PRIFELLOW

Seminars / Webinars

March 29, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Ross Hatlen

Title: *Diaporthe humulicola*: and Emerging Threat to the Michigan Hop Industry

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

March 31, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Women's Networking Association Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series

Assertiveness: The Secret Ingredient to Self-Care & Unlocking Your Untapped Power

NiCole Buchanan, Ph.D. Professor in the Department of Psychology at MSU

Register: [https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk)

[2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk)

April 5, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Stanley Berly

Title: Examination of Factors impacting *Cercospora beticola*.

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

April 12, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Tara Watkins

Title: Utilizing RNAi to Manage Fusarium Head Blight in Barley

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

April 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Bryan Rennick

MS Defense Seminar: "Target Mycorrhizal Fungi Utilization in Nursery and Forest Cropping Systems"

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

Upcoming MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events

APIDA/A Virtual Listening Space

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 1:00-2:00 PM

A virtual listening space facilitated by CAPS staff. Register [here](#).

Have questions? Email BaoChun at hindbaoc@msu.edu.

Upcoming MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events (continued)

APIDA/A Virtual Listening Space

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 from 1:00-2:00 PM

A virtual listening space facilitated by CAPS Staff. Register [here](#).

Have questions? Email BaoChun at hindbaoc@msu.edu.

Announcements

HVAC maintenance

Where: Plant and Soil Science

When: From 5 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. each day, on Tuesday, March 23, and Wednesday, March 24

What is being done: Service of belts and filters on HVAC equipment.

Why this is being done: Preventative maintenance.

How this will impact building occupants: During this shutdown, Fume Hood exhaust will be affected. Please see fume hood special precaution notice below. Building ventilation will also be affected. Building occupants may notice a change in building temperature.

Special precautions that need to be taken:

- Please cover/contain all hazardous materials within the fume hoods and close all fume hood sashes during this shutdown

Who to contact for more information: Steve Dowker, Skilled Trades Supervisor, at 517-432-0508 or dowkers@msu.edu, or IPF at 517-353-1760.

Additional information:

- Please notify all personnel in your department. Your cooperation during this time is appreciated.
- For a complete listing of scheduled IPF maintenance and construction notices, visit the [IPF Notices](#) web page.

Plant Science Graduate Student Research Symposium

Friday, April 16, 2021 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Oral and Poster Presentations (Virtual)

Present research and win cash prizes! Please see the attached flyer for additional information. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/psgsrs/>

Pcard Holders - New Update

Amazon Business Reminder - Holders of Pcards can register in Spartan Marketplace's Amazon Business account to take advantage of Business Prime Shipping.

Bank of America Global Access Info - Pcard holders have access to Bank of America's new and improved Global Card Access portal to help manage your Pcard.

PSM Office Coverage

We will be staffing the PSM office on Wednesdays for essential needs only (Ex: keys). An appointment needs to be made prior by contacting AnnMarie Guldner at either guldner1@msu.edu or 517-353-0120. No drop ins will be allowed.

Announcements

Reminder: Spring semester classes end on Wednesday, April 21. April 22 and 23 will be designated Study Days for students to prepare for final exams. There will be no classes, assignments, exams or quizzes for students on these Study Days.

Spring 2021 Commencement - Baccalaureate Degrees

Spring 2021 Commencements are for Spring 2021 Semester Graduates Only. Each graduate will receive an email invitation mid-March to which you **MUST RSVP**. Each graduate will be allowed 2 guests. Ceremonies are ticketed events this semester. Please be sure to follow the instructions you will receive via email. Please visit the "Graduate Information" tab for updates. Instructions and information will be posted by mid-March. For additional information go to <https://commencement.msu.edu/>

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Friday, April 30, 2021 - Breslin Center Parking Lot

8:00 AM - Agricultural, Food, & Resource Economics; Animal Science; **Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences**

11:00 AM - Entomology; Horticulture; Institute of Agricultural Technology; Packaging; Planning, Design, & Construction

2:00 PM - Community Sustainability; Fisheries & Wildlife; Food Science & Human Nutrition; Forestry

LEED Training Special - Spring Online Webinars

LEED is simply a sustainability scorecard for green buildings. As buildings can become LEED Certified, people can become LEED accredited! The best way to break into the sustainability space is to attain the LEED Green Associate. It also shows employers and clients you have certified knowledge in the field. Since the LEED GA exam doesn't have a stellar pass rate, the value of the extra letters behind your name will carry even more weight. The LEED Professional Designation has helped past participants attain internships and jobs and now is a great time to add this credential.

LEED Green Associate (GA) Training - Webinar and Online self-paced options:

1. March 27, 2021 1:00PM - 5:30PM EST
 2. April 16, 2021 3:00PM - 7:30PM EST
 3. May 8, 2021 1:00PM - 5:30PM EST
 4. June 5, 2021 1:00PM - 5:30PM EST
 5. July 17, 2021 1:00PM - 5:30PM EST
 6. August 26, 2021 5:00PM - 9:30PM EST - OR -
 7. On-demand recordings completed at your own pace
- A. LEED AP BD+C (Level 2) - May 15, 2021
The above options (1-7) are all identical.

Register for a live webinar or start today with an on-demand recorded workshop completed anytime at your own pace here - <https://leadinggreen.com/online>

This course is instructed by a USGBC Faculty member and is the most effective way to pass. The USGBC charges a \$100 (reduced for students) fee for the actual exam which can now be taken online from home. Save money by reserving your spot today and make a positive difference in your career!

Cost: \$200 - Students can use the coupon code 'green' for \$50 off (Discounted course price \$150). Save your seat by registering here for our live or self-paced options <https://leadinggreen.com/online>. Please contact the instructor Lorne directly with any questions at info@leadinggreen.com

Announcements

Caregiver Crises and Resources

Services available:

- [Care.com/msu](https://www.care.com/msu): Find trusted care providers. MSU faculty and staff can get free access to search for childcare, special needs care, tutoring help, private lessons, housekeeping, pet care and more. [Learn how to get free access](#)
- [Consultations](#): contact the WorkLife Office about work, career, and family questions, gather resources, and get referral information based on the conversation.
- [Backup Dependent Care for children and adult dependents](#): subsidized support for in-home and center-based care
- [Classes](#) for breastfeeding, infant care, and more on the WorkLife Office calendar.
- [Other resources for parents and guardians](#) on the WorkLife website
- [EAP](#) Counseling services and courses

Support for managing boundaries with kids and work at home:

- Spartans can form [pods and quarateams](#) for shared childcare and tutor assistance, and managing boundaries with kids and work at home
 - [Quaranteam Tips](#)
 - [Building a Quaranteam: Could It Work For You?](#)
 - [A Glimpse Into A Learning Pod](#)
 - [Back-to-School 2020 resource guide for parents and caregivers](#)
 - [The pros and cons of home schooling](#)
- [Family Email Listserv](#)
- **Caregiver Affinity Group**: This group is intended to virtually connect MSU faculty and staff who have caregiving responsibilities for adults in their lives and those navigating assisting a senior in their life with changing care needs. Meetings will be the fourth Thursday of the month from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. See the [WorkLife Calendar](#) for the next event. For questions contact hutchj@msu.edu
- **Family Affinity Group**: A place for Spartans to connect on family related topics with the goal of connecting, building community and share best practices regarding raising or caregiving for children and caregivers. Every second Tuesday of the month. See the [WorkLife Calendar](#) for the next event. For questions contact hutchj@msu.edu
- **Work and Wellness Connect**: A [weekly conversation](#) open to all Spartans on Monday's at noon. See the [WorkLife Calendar](#) for the next event. For questions contact hutchj@msu.edu

Please contact worklife@msu.edu with any questions.

Job Announcements

Kelly Feister, Asset Management and Preventative Maintenance Coordinator for MSU Infrastructure Planning and Facilities, is looking for two freshman/sophomore students that would like a long-term student position on her asset management team. It is mostly data entry into work order and equipment management software with some reporting needs through excel and could sometimes require going out on campus to verify equipment that is in buildings. For additional information, the job is posted in Handshake: <https://app.joinhandshake.com/jobs/4545226>

Summer 2021 Research Assistant Positions Available

The Landis Lab in the MSU Department of Entomology is hiring up to 4 research assistants to help with a study of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for additional information.

Face Coverings

Face coverings should:

1. be non-medical grade to maintain supplies for health care use,
2. fit snugly against the side of your face,
3. cover your nose and mouth,
4. be secured with ties or ear loops **and**
5. allow for breathing without restriction.

Cloth face coverings should only be worn for one day at a time, and they must be properly hand washed or laundered with soap/detergent before subsequent use. Face coverings may vary (for example, disposable non-medical masks or neck gaiters are acceptable).

In addition to wearing face coverings, whether you are on- or off-campus, you also must adhere to the guidelines and recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) as well as federal and [state government](#) authorities, in order to protect your own health and the health of the entire MSU community.

Vehicle Use Policy

Please see the attached COVID-19 Vehicle Occupancy Guidance. (September 2020)

Protocol - MSU COVID 19 Testing and Reporting

Please see this link <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/students-parents/> and <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/faculty-staff/> for current COVID-19 testing and reporting protocol.

Mental Health Resources for Employees

Health4U Resources

The following MSU Health4U virtual courses and meetups are available (some require registration):

- **MSU Grief and Loss Support**: Specialized counselors facilitate weekly on-line support sessions on Tuesdays for those experiencing grief and loss.
- **Naming and Navigating Ambiguous Loss**: Join this webinar on Friday, Feb. 19 to learn about the idea of ambiguous loss and unresolved grief, particularly regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Breaking Free from the Monkey Mind**: This is a four-week course beginning on March 3, based on the book “Don’t Feed the Monkey Mind: How to Stop the Cycle of Anxiety, Worry and Fear” by Jennifer Shannon, LMFT.
- **Essential Skills for Navigating Difficult Times**: The purpose of this eight-week course is to build emotional resilience and psychological flexibility skills to help you navigate the work/life challenges we face, especially as our work and home life have been combined.

Employee Assistance Program Counseling Services

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential counseling service provided at no cost to MSU faculty, staff, retirees, graduate student employees, and their families. Learn how to make an appointment on the [EAP website](#). These appointments are offered virtually through Zoom.

COVID-19 Updates

- MSU announced it will hold graduation ceremonies this spring for 2021 graduates. There will be more than 50 limited-attendance ceremonies scheduled by each college based on student’s majors and last names. They will be spread across large MSU parking lots to allow for physical distancing.
- The university announced its next employee town hall on the COVID-19 vaccines will be held March 22nd at 3:00 PM. This town hall will focus on local Ingham County vaccine distribution efforts. If you are unable to attend, a recording will be made available the following day on the Together We Will website. <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/covid19-vaccine/>
- Go to <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/covid19-vaccine/> to learn how to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine, to register for the March 22nd COVID-19 vaccine town hall, information regarding vaccine prioritization, and information regarding how to volunteer and receive the vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is expanding access to the COVID-19 vaccine. On Monday, March 8th Michiganders who are age 50 and older with medical conditions or disabilities, caregiver family members and guardians who care for children with special health care needs are eligible to receive the vaccine. On March 22nd, eligibility will extend to all Michiganders age 50 and older. If you are eligible and need help finding a vaccine site, the state has an online resource at https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214_104822---,00.html

COVID-19 Testing

Any member of our community exhibiting signs of COVID-19 must seek immediate medical attention. If you are feeling ill or have tested positive for COVID-19 and have questions, contact MSU's COVID-19 Triage Hotline at 855-958-2678 or your primary health care provider.

If you are ill or test positive, you should self-isolate and avoid close contact with others. For students who live on campus, [space for isolation](#) will be provided. More information on what to do if you feel sick can be found on the [CDC website](#).

MSU has activated the following testing locations for students, faculty and staff to be tested (please have your insurance information available when going for a test):

Olin Health Center (by appointment only; for students experiencing symptoms)
Regular hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

Spartan Stadium, Southeast Concourse, Gate B. No appointment necessary; for all members of the MSU community (faculty, staff and students) whether symptomatic or not.
Regular hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday;

For those individuals outside of the MSU community, testing is available at the stadium only for those with a doctor's note and are either symptomatic or have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

MSU is utilizing its [Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to perform COVID-19 diagnostic testing](#) for the MSU community. MSU also is maintaining our close partnership with the Sparrow Health System to help process test samples.

Changes to Travel and Approval Process

Recent modifications were made related to travel waivers.

- Those with an **approved essential research project** or an **approved essential non-research activity** that are occurring in the State of Michigan will receive automatic travel waiver approval. An additional travel waiver request is not required.
- Travel waiver requests are still required for out-of-state and international travel.
- The attached table includes links to the various forms needed for each scenario.
- When submitting for reimbursement within the Concur Travel System, the approved essential research email/pdf is what will be attached to your travel reimbursement request.
- For those that already have approved essential research and also have a travel waiver approved, continue to use the approved travel waiver in the Concur system.
- Continue to route essential research requests using the online platform (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/coronavirus/research>) which is also hyperlinked from the table.

CANR has updated the college website (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/coronavirus/travel>) to include the table that you should use to determine what needs to be approved, or not.

The table also attached to this newsletter.

Travel

Assistance Resources

Travel policy and travel program support: travel@ctrl.msu.edu or 517-355-5000
Concur: concurhelp@msu.edu

Inbound travel

- Travelers coming to any of MSU's campuses are asked to follow the applicable protocol outlined on our Office of International Health and Safety's website: <https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic/health-protocol-inbound-travel>.
-

University-sponsored travel

- For employees and students engaged in university-sponsored projects, **all non-essential outgoing domestic and international travel is suspended indefinitely.**
- If you feel you have essential travel needs, you can submit a waiver for review at least 3 weeks prior to departure. Prior to submitting the waiver, you will be required to obtain documentation from your unit administrator and, for students, from the cognizant advisor, college administrator or program director, affirming that the travel is essential in the context of both programmatic priorities and financial considerations. Note: The health and safety context for travel is currently very fluid, rapidly evolving by location and significantly impacted by frequent issuances of local, national, and international policies.
- Links to appropriate waivers can be found here: <https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Food and Drink Policy

Food and Drink Policy - Addendum to the PSSB Reopening Plan 7/23/2020

Based on the changing Executive Orders and needs of the MSU community, food consumption will be allowed in PSSB in posted designated areas. Please keep in mind that this change in policy may pose an increased risk of exposure and it is important to observe physical distancing, follow disinfecting protocols and spend minimal time in the room.

To meet these goals and maximize safety, the PSSB building SOP plan has been modified to:

- Note that it is always preferable to eat outside of the building when possible
- Conference and break rooms on the second floor will be open for food consumption. Please limit your time to 30-min to accommodate colleagues/other building occupants.
 - A279 - Horticulture conference room - maximum occupancy is 5
 - A271 - PSM conference room - maximum occupancy is 6
 - A246 - Break room - maximum occupancy is 5
- Maximum occupancy signs will be posted on each door. If the room is fully occupied, please check another designated space. If all conference and break rooms are fully occupied, check back later.
- Masks must be worn in each room unless actually consuming food.
- Kitchenettes will continue to be closed. There is no microwave or refrigerator usage allowed.
- Everyone should bring and remove all personal supplies for eating.
- The user is required to disinfect the space before and after each use following EPA approved guidelines (70% alcohol for 5-min; Sani-wipes for 3-min). Disinfectants will be present in the room.
- Snacks and community food to share should not be brought to work.

MSU Academic Calendar

Spring 2021

April 21	Classes End
April 22-23	Study Days
April 26-30	Final Exams
April 30	Commencement
	Breslin Center Parking Lot
	8:00 AM - Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
	For additional information go to https://commencement.msu.edu/

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 April 9th pay date (for time worked from March 14-27) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, March 31st.
- For the April 23rd pay date (for time worked from March 28-April 10) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 13th.
- For the May 7th pay date (for time worked from April 11-24) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 27th.

PSM Office Contact Information / Hours

Effective March 24, 2020 the PSM Administration Offices are closed. During this time of uncertainty, please be patient with any request that you may have placed with a PSM support staff member. Know that PSM support staff will get to your request as quickly as possible.

AnnMarie Guldner	guldner1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Brian Horgan	horganb@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Christiina Donley	tymoszew@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Debbie Williams	williade@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Dominic Colosimo	colosi14@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Emily Williams	emilywil@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Gina Centeno	centeno@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:15 AM-2:45 PM
Hannah O'Mara	omarahan@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Lee Duynslager	duynslag@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM
Lisa Bowen	bowenli1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-4 PM
Mackenzie Graham	graham2@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 12:30-4:30 PM
Rachel Jorgensen	eschrach@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	6:30 AM-3:00 PM

Newsletter Submissions

Send newsletter submissions to AnnMarie Guldner at guldner1@msu.edu
Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM