

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Congratulations

Frances Trail leads multi-funded investigation into the evolution of infectious fungi

Frances Trail will lead the 3-year, \$730,000 USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant that focuses on the disease-causing fungus *Fusarium graminearum* and a cool season grass fungus pathogen, *Epichloë festucae*. **Carolyn Young**, professor at the *Noble Research Institute* in Oklahoma, is co-investigator on the grant. For additional information regarding Frances' research, please see the following link. <https://natsci.msu.edu/news/msus-frances-trail-leads-multi-funded-investigation-into-evolution-of-infectious-fungi/>

Monique Sakalidis' lab featured in Futures magazine

Monique Sakalidis, assistant professor in the Forestry and Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences departments at MSU, builds molecular tools to help identify exotic and native pathogens that have the potential to cause plant health emergencies. Please see the write up on Monique's lab in *Futures* magazine, *Vigilance against the invisible: building molecular tools to identify pathogens* at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/better-understanding-diseases-in-trees-and-forests>

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.

Summer hours are in effect from May 10 - August 2. Updated hours noted below.

AnnMarie Guldner	guldner1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Ashley Lathrop	danas@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Brian Horgan	horganb@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Christiina Donley	tymoszew@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-12 PM & 1-4 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
Gina Centeno	centeno@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:15 AM-2:45 PM
Lee Duynslager	duynslag@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM
Linda Colon	colon@msu.edu	Monday-Thursday Friday	8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM 8 AM-12 PM
Lisa Bowen	bowenti1@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 Esch	eschrach@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Sandie Litchfield	litchfi9@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4:30 PM

Webinar

CANR State of the College

Monday, July 27, 2020 at 3 PM

Please join **Dean Hendrick** and his leadership team for a State of the College webinar on Monday, July 27th at 3 PM on Zoom. Register in advance at

https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4Q2oabdhR7qikGHM8EzsgA

Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences

Announcement of Ph.D. Thesis Defense Seminar

Crop and Soil Sciences - Environmental Toxicology

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 from 9-11 AM

Candidate's Name: **Jianzhou He**

Title of Dissertation: Environmental Application and Implication of Engineered Nanomaterials in Soil, Water and Plant Systems

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/2180163006>

Password: 194478

WorkLife Daily Coffee Conversations

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 from 10-11 AM

Panel Discussion: Furloughs and Lay Offs

Please see the MSU WorkLife Office Calendar at worklife.msu.edu/calendar for Zoom login and password information.

NCORE Webinar (sponsored by Baker College)

Behind the Masks: Uncovering Assumptions, Biases and Stereotypes

Wednesday, July 29, 2020 from 4-5 PM

Masks are supposed to keep us safe, but that safety does not look the same for everyone. When you intermingle facial coverings, physical distancing, race, gender, and class, some of our students and faculty become at risk. How do we position our campuses in a way that these disparities are not magnified, and our faculty and students feel safe? Our panelists will discuss privilege, colorism, and concerns some of our students and faculty of color may face this fall.

Announcements

Six MSU programs in top 25 globally

Six academic programs at Michigan State University are ranked in the top 25 in the world - with several others improving in the top 50 - according to a widely used international ranking of universities. The Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2020, released in July, is compiled by the ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, an independent organization focused on higher education research. More than **1,800 universities across 90 countries are ranked annually based on indicators that include measures of research quality, extent of international collaboration, research with top quality and the highest academic recognitions.**

"I am pleased Michigan State's excellence and competitiveness once again are validated with a high rank among our research university peers" said **MSU President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D.** "The criteria considered in this ranking **demonstrate the breadth and depth of our faculty members' expertise**, as well as the ubiquity of their research around the world."

Programs appearing in the top 25 in the world are:

- Education: No. 2
- Communication: No. 4
- Environmental Science and Engineering: No. 6
- **Agricultural Sciences: No. 11**
- Management: No. 21, an improvement of four spots over last year
- Business Administration: No. 22, an improvement of two spots over last year

Announcements

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.

Travel

The Re-Opening Travel Sub-committee has developed a travel guidance framework that has been approved by **Drs. Weismantel, Beauchamp, and President Stanley**. The “goalposts” in developing guidance and tools can be found at oihs.msu.edu/principles.

The most updated travel guidance for both international and domestic travel is found at oihs.msu.edu/covid19. Guidance is provided for both inbound and outbound travel.

A waiver process has been established for essential outbound travel. **International travel** waivers will be implemented the university level. The waiver process for outbound **domestic travel** (except student groups) will be reviewed and approved at the Major Administrative Unit (MAU) level. Each MAU will be responsible for implementing the approved domestic travel guidance framework.

All inbound MSU travelers must comply with the MSU protocols for inbound travelers which may trigger self-quarantine/isolation depending on point of origin. Inbound travelers are responsible for self-monitoring and enforcement.

As the situation changes, the travel site will be updated. Please refer back to the travel site for the most up-to-date information and guidance.

Please direct any questions to oihs@msu.edu.

Face Covering Update as of July 15, 2020

Face coverings are a crucial public health measure and help protect others by reducing exposure to droplets if someone is unknowingly infected with COVID-19.

FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN BY EVERYONE (including all faculty, staff, students, vendors, and visitors) indoors and outdoors while you are on property owned or governed by MSU and while participating in MSU-related or MSU-sponsored activities. If you have a medical condition that may prevent you from safely wearing a face covering, you should contact MSU's Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to begin the accommodation process.

Exceptions to the requirement for face coverings will be limited.

If you are indoors, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are in your own place of residence and can therefore properly self isolate.
- You are in a private, single-occupancy office or lab space with a closed door and can reasonably expect other individuals not to enter (but if you leave your private, single-occupancy office or lab space and proceed into a common area or hallway - even if there are no other individuals present - you must wear a face covering)
- You are eating or drinking but still maintaining proper distance (at least six feet of physical separation between yourself and others)

If you are outdoors, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are an outdoor worker and can maintain social distance from others (but you will need to wear a face covering outdoors when interacting with others or when unable to maintain social distance)
- You are exercising or engaging in high-intensity activities outdoors (for example, jogging, running, bicycling, or golfing) and can maintain social distance from others

If you are working, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are working in a setting where a face covering may increase the risk of a hazard (for example, the face covering could become wet, the face covering could get caught in machinery or the face covering could become contaminated with chemicals used in the work environment)
- You can maintain social distance from others
- You have previously consulted with your supervisor to determine the appropriate face covering for your setting

Face coverings should (a) be non-medical grade to maintain supplies for health care use, (b) fit snugly against the side of your face, (c) cover your nose and mouth, (d) be secured with ties or ear loops, and (e) allow for breathing without restriction. Cloth face coverings should only be worn for one day at a time, they must be properly hand washed or laundered before subsequent use. Face coverings may vary (for example, disposable non-medical masks or neck gaiters are acceptable).

Please adhere to the guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as federal and state governmental authorities, in order to protect your own health and the health of the entire MSU community.

In addition to wearing face coverings, you also must take the following personal precautions:

- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good personal hygiene, including washing hands frequently with soap and water or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap is unavailable
- Routinely clean and sanitize your workspace and shared equipment

<https://msu.edu/together-we-will/keeping-spartans-safe/>

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 August 14th pay date (for time worked between July 19-August 1) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 4th
- For the August 28th pay date (for time worked between August 2-15) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 18th
- For the September 11th pay date (for time worked between August 16-29) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, September 1st.

MSU Academic Calendar

Summer 2020 - Full Session

August 13

Classes End

Final Exams are scheduled for the last class day

Summer 2020 - Session Two

August 13

Classes End

Final Exams are scheduled for the last class day

Fall 2020

September 2

Classes Begin

September 7

Holiday - University Closed

October 21

Middle of Semester

November 25

All in-person instruction ends (see note below)

November 26-27

Holiday - University Closed

December 11

Classes End

December 14-18

Final Exams

December 24-25

Holiday - University Closed

December 31- January 1

Holiday - University Closed

MSU plans to end all in-person instruction on November 25th, with remaining instruction, study sessions and final exams taking place remotely for the remaining 3 weeks of the semester. There will be no in-person commencement this December. The task force is planning a virtual commencement for December graduates.

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