

**PLANT SOIL  
& MICROBIAL  
SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT**



### Welcome Patty Bonito!

Please join us in welcoming Patty Bonito to PSM. Patty is our new Communications Coordinator and will be working Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Patty is located in PSSB A278 and her email is [bonitopa@msu.edu](mailto:bonitopa@msu.edu).

### Seminars/Webinars

November 15, 2021, 12:00-1:30 PM

Mutant, Creole, Hybrid, Queer

The Deadly Politics of Agricultural Biodiversity and Biotechnology

Emma Gaalaas Mullaney

National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow

MSU Department of Community Sustainability

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93657657136>

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November 15, 2021, 1:30-2:30 PM

2021 Fall Semester Plant Pathology Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Seminar

Speaker: Nikki Lukasko

Title: Fungicide resistance in *Botrytis cinerea* from ornamental greenhouses

Location: 162 NFSTC

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/94357844874>; Meeting ID: 943 5784 4874;

Passcode: plp

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November 17, 2021, 12:00-1:00 PM

Women's Networking Association

Mitigating Bias in Hiring with Tina Alonzo

<https://worklife.msu.edu/events/wna-mitigating-bias-hiring>

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November 18, 2021, 4:00-5:00 PM

2021 PSM/HORT Fall Seminar Series

Tammy Long, Ph.D.

MSU Department of Plant Biology

Title: What can modeling-based instruction teach us about student thinking?

Zoom Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/96750048949>

Passcode: seminar

## Seminars/Webinars

**November 22, 2021, 1:30-2:30 PM**

**2021 Fall Semester Plant Pathology Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Seminar**

**Speaker: Tara Watkins**

Title: Evaluation of fungicide applications on Fusarium head blight and grain quality parameters of winter barley in Michigan

Location: 162 NFSTC

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/94357844874>; Meeting ID: 943 5784 4874;

Passcode: plp

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**November 29, 2021, 1:30-2:30 PM**

**2021 Fall Semester Plant Pathology Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Seminar**

**Speaker: David Perla Martinez**

Title: Vegetables disease management using host resistance and fungicides

Location: 162 NFSTC

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/94357844874>; Meeting ID: 943 5784 4874;

Passcode: plp

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**December 2, 2021, 4:00-5:00 PM**

**2021 PSM/HORT Fall Seminar Series**

**Michael Gore, Ph.D., Cornell University**

Title: Building a nutritious and resilient food system through advances in crop genomics and phenomics

Zoom Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/96750048949>

Passcode: seminar

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**December 7, 2021, 12:00-1:00 PM**

**Women's Networking Association**

**Trivia on Famous Women/Winter Networking**

[Women's Networking Association: Holiday Fun/Trivia on Famous and Historical Women | MSU WorkLife Office](#)

## DEI Events

**Virtual National Native American Summit**

**November 16, 2021, 9:00 AM-2:30 PM**

[2021 Native American Summit - Michigan Diversity Council](#)

## Announcements

**Call for ANR Award Nominations**

CANR is seeking individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the university, community, state and nation. Please consider submitting a nomination for a leader for the Distinguished Service Award or one of the CANR Alumni Association Awards. Award recipients are honored during the ANR Month celebration in March. Nominations for the 2022 awards are due December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Announcements

### Nominations Open for CANR Teaching Awards

Faculty, staff and students are asked to submit nominations for the CANR teaching awards. The link below provides forms to nominate candidates for four different awards.

[Teaching Awards in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources \(office.com\)](#)

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### Campus Influenza Immunization Clinics

The Office of the University Physician will be hosting influenza immunization clinics for MSU faculty, staff and benefits-eligible family members in October and November.

#### 2021 Public Influenza Immunization Clinic Schedule

11/15/2021	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Vet Med - A174
11/19/2021	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Administration - Board Room 401

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### IT Related Purchases - Policy and Process Reminder

All IT related purchases, irrespective of the dollar amount, are required to be purchased following the IT Procurement Process. This includes all software and computers/laptops among other items listed in the following link. The policy/process is outlined on the Procurement website - see this link

<https://upl.msu.edu/procurement/it-procurement/index.html>

Faculty, staff, and students obtaining IT related items for MSU business purposes must follow this policy/process. These items cannot be purchased out of pocket and then submitted for reimbursement. Section 75 of the Manual of Business Procedures specifically prohibits these items on a Disbursement Voucher. Link to MBP policy <http://www.ctrl.msu.edu/combp/mbp75EBS.aspx>

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### MSU IT Service Alert

MSU IT has scheduled several improvements in October and November to enhance network security, stability and functionality. Please note, you may experience intermittent interruptions in service during the following dates and times:

- Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:59 PM to 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

Off-Campus Users: Access to MSU internet-based services including the virtual private network (VPN), also known as Campus VPN, MS secure remote access, or F5 BIG-IP Edge, may experience a disruption in service during the posted times.

ON-Campus Users: If you are located on MSU's campus during these maintenance windows, your internet connectivity may be impaired intermittently, including access to cloud-based services such as Spartan 365 and D2L.

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### 2021 ACRS & HOGS Friendsgiving Dinner

**November 20, 2021 at 5:00 PM**

Please see attached flyer for details.

## Announcements

### ACRS Monthly Meeting & Dinner

- December 3, 2021, from 4:00-5:00 PM  
Dinner to follow. Location TBD.
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### WC Speaker Series - Storytelling as Activism

Join over Zoom from 1:00-2:30 PM for talks from:

#### Dr. Andrea Riley-Mukavetz

- January 27, 2022 "An Affinity for Spiky Things: Stories on Making Indigenous Space in Higher Education"

#### Dr. Travis Webster

- February 27, 2022 "Queerly Centered Stories: LGBTQIA+ Writing Center Leadership, Twenty-First Century Activism, and Disciplinary Sustainability"

#### Dr. Aja Martinez

- April 1, 2022 "The Responsibility of Privilege: A Critical Race Counterstory Conversation for Allies and Accomplices"  
Keynote Address at ECWCA Conference

RSVP for each event by going to <https://tinyurl.com/WC-Storytelling-Activism>

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### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Avian Science Club Thanksgiving Turkey Sale!

Order a delicious Thanksgiving turkey from the MSU Avian Science Club. Turkeys are raised by Avian Science Club members, which provides hands-on poultry experience with live birds and processing. Proceeds from your purchase allows the MSU Avian Science Club to continue providing opportunities for students who are passionate about the poultry industry. This year, turkeys will be ranging from 14-18 pounds at \$2.85 per pound and will be fresh. Order soon as these turkeys will be gobbled up fast! Please contact [sachssha@msu.edu](mailto:sachssha@msu.edu) with any questions.  
(Order form attached to this newsletter)

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### Worklife Office Family Group

The WorkLife Office will resume Family Affinity Group meetings. This group provides a virtual place for Spartans to connect and share about parenting and caregiving for the children in our lives. We will discuss related family topics with the goal of educating, sharing best practices, and building community.

Please make sure to mark your calendars to join us on the upcoming dates. Presenters will be announced soon. Meeting time: 12:00-1:00 PM

December 9th : <https://worklife.msu.edu/events/family-affinity-group-3>

January 13th : <https://worklife.msu.edu/events/family-affinity-group-4>

February 10th : <https://worklife.msu.edu/events/family-affinity-group-5>

March 10th : <https://worklife.msu.edu/events/family-affinity-group-6>

April 14th : <https://worklife.msu.edu/events/family-affinity-group-7>

May 12th : <https://worklife.msu.edu/events/family-affinity-group-8>

## Announcements

### **Invitation to Participate: Community-building in the classroom: Including DEI principles as part of the curriculum**

We are inviting all educators to this Faculty Learning Community (FLC) who are interested in moving from having conversations about DEI in the classroom to applying and practicing DEI in the classroom. We will brainstorm, develop, ponder different strategies that can be implemented to building community through an in-class student mentorship program. We will provide tools and strategies to empower undergraduate students to be co-creators of the learning experiences.

- **Jeno Rivera**, Associate Professor RCAH & CANR Community Sustainability; Director CANR Bailey Scholars Program
- **Maria Rubino**, Professor, CANR School of Packaging

Meet virtually in Wells Hall 303 or virtually via Zoom one Wednesday a month from 3:00-4:30 PM on November 17 and December 15 . [RSVP Here](#)

## IT News

### **Action required: Download Okta Verify mobile app**

Symantec VIP will no longer work to receive MFA (mutli-factor authentication) codes for MSU applications after December 5, 2021. You must register a new MFA method (Okta Verify mobile application) to continue receiving MFA codes.

Do not uninstall the Symantec VIP mobile app until after December 5, 2021.

## Upcoming MSU Professional Development Opportunities

### **Register for Upcoming OPD Classes**

Offered in a live, online format via Zoom, the following courses are available for registration in the EBS portal. Employees may use available educational assistance funds to pay for these programs.

#### **The Power of Habit**

**December 1, 2021, from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM**

The ability to align your behavior with your intentions and automate effective habits is essential to progress. Changing bad habits and creating healthy ones is not an innate trait but rather a skill that can be developed.

[Watch a brief video overview of The Power of Habit](#)

[View Course Details](#)

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#### **Building Cohesive Teams**

**December 9, 2021, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Explore strategies to increase team cohesiveness and establish positive day-to-day interactions to enhance communication, building team awareness and cultivate trustworthiness in the work culture.

<https://hr.msu.edu/professional-development/courses/management/building-cohesive-teams.html>

## Job Announcements

### Research Technologist I

Job # 746446

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is seeking a Research Technician.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508551/research-technologist-i>

### Research Technologist II

Job # 745176

A Research Technologist II to work in the laboratory of **Dr. Gregory Bonito** in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences. This research technologist position is integral to lab research programs focused on fungal cultivation, mycotechnology development, and fungal symbioses with photobionts and bacteria.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508486/research-technologist-ii>

### 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>

### 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/kravchenko_alexandra)

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/andrey\\_guber](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>

## COVID-19 Updates

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

For the 2022 Spring semester, MSU will be requiring:

- All students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Limited exemptions for medical or religious reasons will continue to be provided, as well as online-only exemptions for students.
- All students, faculty or staff who have received a medical or religious exemption to take part in MSU's Early Detection Program or other regular testing if they aren't near a location offering EDP. Students with online-only exemptions cannot come to campus for any reason.
- At the start of the semester, all individuals to continue wearing face coverings indoors in all campus buildings and other MSU facilities in East Lansing and throughout the state.
- New students will be required to fill out the vaccine verification form before the spring semester starts. More information is being sent directly to those students.
- Students who currently have an online-only exemption will need to re-apply for an exemption for spring semester if they wish to continue learning only online. Remember, students with online-only exemptions cannot come to campus for any reason. A new exemption application process will be introduced later this semester.
- Employees and students who have received a religious or medical exemption do not need to re-apply for an exemption unless they had a medical exemption with an end date. Those individuals with a medial end date or medical deferral will have to receive a vaccine or be approved for a new exemption.
- For employees, we continue to evaluate how and where we best perform our work. While our university education modalities will largely be in-person this spring, some units that are not student-facing may have different work locations. More detailed guidance will be issued on this topic. Please contact your supervisor with any questions.
- Vaccine boosters have been approved for many in our community. MSU urges everyone eligible to receive a booster when they can. While the CDC has not changed its definition of "fully vaccinated" and boosters are not at this time required as part of the MSU vaccine verification process, boosters provide additional protection from COVID-19. You can find a COVID-19 vaccine or booster opportunity near you by visiting <https://www.vaccines.gov>.

## Travel

Please make sure to add both **Christiina Donley** and **AnnMarie Guldner** as your travel delegates. This way if you need assistance, we are able to log into your travel profile to review. Please see the "Assistants vs Delegates" PDF which is attached to this newsletter.

## 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.

### STUDENT TRAVEL

For details regarding travel with Education Abroad programs, please refer to the [COVID-19 Guidance for EA Programs](#) and the [Office for Education Abroad](#).

Students on non-Education Abroad travel should follow the initial steps in the waiver review process above. Their travel may be subject to additional review by the [Risk and Security Assessment Committee \(RSAC\)](#).

### STAYING UPDATED

ISP's [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#) is in regular contact with RSAC and FASTR leadership to ensure these processes and procedures are updated according to MSU's COVID-19 guidance, as well as federal guidance. Regular updates will be posted at: [globalsafety.msu.edu/covidintl](https://globalsafety.msu.edu/covidintl).

Questions can be directed to Elke Schmidt, coordinator for the Office for Global Health, Safety and Security, [globalsafety@msu.edu](mailto:globalsafety@msu.edu).

## Travel

The CDC has updated their guidance related to travel requirements to enter the United States, starting November 8, 2021.

For more information:

- Michigan State University's TOGETHER WE WILL Travel landing page:
  - ✓ <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/travel/>
- CDC updates regarding November 8, 2021 requirements and recommendations:
  - ✓ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>
  - ✓ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

### MSU TRAVEL and CONCUR SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Travel related questions: [travel@ctrl.msu.edu](mailto:travel@ctrl.msu.edu)
  - Concur and Expense related questions: [concurhelp@msu.edu](mailto:concurhelp@msu.edu)
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### **MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar: Request, Travel, Expense Session 1**

[https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar+-+Request+%7C+Travel+%7C+Expense/1\\_yj5018bi](https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar+-+Request+%7C+Travel+%7C+Expense/1_yj5018bi)

### **MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar: Booking Travel and Triplt Pro App Session 2**

[https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar+-+Booking+Travel+and+Triplt+Pro+App/1\\_zy9owobv](https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar+-+Booking+Travel+and+Triplt+Pro+App/1_zy9owobv)

### **MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar: Groups and Guests Tools Session 3**

[https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar-Guests+and+Groups/1\\_4r9e8ake\\](https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar-Guests+and+Groups/1_4r9e8ake\\)

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Download and view all of the **Concur User Training Guides** from this page:

<https://ctrl.msu.edu/COTravelNew/Guides.aspx>

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**Want the latest news in regard to travel and Concur?** Register for the Travel Listserv at: [https://ctrl.msu.edu/Join\\_Listserv.aspx?id=UNIVTVL](https://ctrl.msu.edu/Join_Listserv.aspx?id=UNIVTVL)

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**MSU's Travel Policy** is published at: <http://ctrl.msu.edu/COMBP/mbp70ebs-July2019.aspx>

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### **Assistance Resources**

Travel policy and travel program support: [travel@ctrl.msu.edu](mailto:travel@ctrl.msu.edu) or 517-355-5000

Concur: [concurhelp@msu.edu](mailto:concurhelp@msu.edu)

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### **Travel@State - Frequently Asked Questions**

<https://ctrl.msu.edu/COTravelNew/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.aspx>



## MSU Academic Calendar

### Fall 2021

November 25-26	Holiday - University Closed
December 12	Classes End
December 13-17	Final Exams
December 24-27	Holiday - University Closed
December 17-18	Commencements
Dec 31 - Jan 3	Holiday - University Closed

### 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 December 3<sup>rd</sup> pay date (for time worked from November 7-20) your time is due by 3 PM Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Early Due Date and Time 3 PM.**
- For the December 17<sup>th</sup> pay date (for time worked from November 21-December 4) your time is due by 3 PM on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. **Early Due Date and Time 3 PM.**
- For the December 30<sup>th</sup> pay date (for time worked from December 5-18) your time is due by Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. **Early Due Date.**

**Payroll Assistance with Christiina** at 12:00 PM on the following Mondays:

November 15, 22, 29

December 6, 13, 20, 27

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98549666083>

Meeting ID: 985 4966 6083

Passcode: 001550

### Newsletter Submissions

Send newsletter submissions to **AnnMarie Guldner** at [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)

Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM