

PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT

Seminars / Webinars

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021

Sieglinde Snapp will be giving a presentation in the lead up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, her talk is on June 2nd at 9:00 AM EDT

The UK has launched the [*Transforming Agricultural Innovation for People, Nature and Climate*](#) campaign to catalyze a step change in agricultural innovation.

The [series of webinars](#) will present the findings of five evidence reviews commissioned under the *Research, Development and Deployment (RD&D)* strand of the *Sustainable Agriculture* component of the [COP26 Nature Campaign](#).

The second webinar in the series focuses on agroecology and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Agroecology is increasingly promoted as a means to transform food systems globally, yet the evidence for generating large-scale impacts on climate change adaptation and mitigation in developing countries has been unclear.

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summer Workshop Series

These workshops serve as an opportunity for faculty and staff to strengthen dialogues and collaborations among the MSU Community in the pursuit of developing a more inclusive MSU environment

ODEI Summer Workshop Dates:

- Thursday, June 10, 2021, from 12:00-1:15 PM
Melissa Elischer & Laurie Rivetto, Exploration of the MSU Extension Inclusion Guidebook
- Wednesday, June 16, 2021, from 12:00-1:00 PM
Jon'a Joiner, Reframing Wellness in the Workplace
- Wednesday, July 14, 2021, from 11:00 AM-1:30 PM
ADVANCEGeo Partnership, Bystander Intervention Workshop
- Wednesday, July 28, 2021, from 11:00 AM-1:30 PM
ADVANCEGeo Partnership, Code of Ethics Workshop

Registration for the ODEI Summer Workshop Series is currently open and closes at 11:59 PM on July 27, 2021. [Register Here](#). A Zoom link will be sent to attendees prior to each Workshop Session.

Announcements

Call for Hosts - Honors College Fireside Chats

For over 25 years, the Honors College (HC) has organized a series of student-faculty events for HC first year students called "Fireside Chats." In addition to providing a venue for informal interaction between faculty and new Honors students, the Fireside Chats serve to welcome the students to MSU and promote their participation in our scholarly community.

What is an HC Fireside Chat?

A typical Fireside Chat features a faculty member hosting six to twelve first-year Honors students on campus on an early fall evening or afternoon usually over a meal. Virtual Chats may be proposed as well. In some instances, faculty members invite colleagues or upper-level students. Again this year we will have an upper level Honors peer mentor meet with the students before and after your Chat to help to facilitate connections and conversation.

In planning for fall semester 2021, I am writing to ask whether you and/or faculty in your department/college would consider hosting a Chat between September 7 and October 22 on a date convenient for you. New and returning hosts are welcome. Based on many years of feedback, students and faculty alike value this time to get to know each other in a more informal setting.

Please let Dr. Bess German (germanr@msu.edu, 355-2326) know by June 15 if you are willing to host a Fireside Chat or if you would like to discuss the possibility of doing so. Our staff would be happy to work with interested individuals on the details.

IPF Building Notice: Fire Alarm Testing

PBL is scheduled for Tuesday, 6/1/2021

What is happening and why?

Testing of life-safety fire alarm systems. During the first hour of each test, technicians will test the speakers and strobes to ensure functionality. Technicians will then bypass the speakers and strobes in the facility to test all initiation devices on the fire alarm silently. Testing is an annual requirement of the National Fire Protection Agency.

When will this occur?

Between the hours of 6:00 AM and 4:30 PM, daily, Monday through Friday, beginning Monday, May 3. Specific building dates can be found here: [Monthly Fire Alarm Testing - May to July 2021 | Infrastructure Planning and Facilities \(msu.edu\)](#)

How will this impact me?

IPF will come through the building and test all the fire alarm devices throughout the facility. Please be aware they may need to access offices, closets, and laboratories during these inspections. Building evacuation will not be required.

Who can I contact for more information?

Corey Morris, Planner/Inspector/Analyst-Life Safety Systems at 517-898-6632 or morri504@msu.edu

Brian Powe, Supervisor-Life Safety at 517-899-7197 or powebria@msu.edu
IPF at 517-353-1760

MSU Staff and Faculty Development/Training

elevateU

Free online training for MSU faculty and staff

[Access elevateU here](#) or [log into EBS](#) and look for the "elevateU" tile under the "My Career & Training" tab.

Staff Development Programs

Organization and Professional Development (OPD) offers a wide range of learning opportunities to help support staff meet their professional development goals.

<https://hr.msu.edu/professional-development/support-staff/index.html>

Faculty/Academic Staff Development Programs

The Academic Advancement Network (AAN) works with all faculty, academic staff, and academic administrators at MSU as they join the university, establish professional trajectories, and move through various stages of review, promotion, and growth.

<https://hr.msu.edu/professional-development/faculty-academic-staff/index.html>

Additional Development/Training Programs

[Alumni LENS Program](#)

[Broad Executive Development Programs](#)

[Health4U Program](#)

[Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives](#)

[MSU IT Training](#)

[MSU Teaching Assistant Program](#)

[MSU WorkLife Office](#)

[Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies](#)

[MSU Regulatory Compliance Training](#)

Job Announcements

Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences

Assistant Professor - Tenure System

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences invites applications for a 9-month academic year, tenure-track Assistant Professor, in Soil Science with experience and special emphasis in soil genesis and classification.

Job # 706037

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/506718/assistant-professortenure-system>

Professional Aide

Professional Aide - MSU Agronomy Farm

Job # 702666

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/506422/professional-aide>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

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.

Job # 700439

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

COVID-19 Updates

- The MSU Health Care Pharmacy is now offering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to employees, students, and patients. Appointments are available and open to all individuals 12 years of age and older. [Additional Information](#)
- All employees who have been working remotely should continue doing so until told otherwise by their supervisor.
- As we plan for more in-person work, face coverings, health screening forms and other mitigation strategies (such as physical distancing) still are required by MIOSHA emergency rules and will continue.
- Thursday, the state announced that in June all outdoor gathering restrictions will be lifted and on July 1, the state's indoor and outdoor gathering restrictions and mask orders will all be rescinded. [Read more here](#)
- Also Thursday, MSU Athletics [shared](#) that it plans to have a full and robust Spartan Stadium and deliver as traditional a Spartan football experience as we possibly can after a year missing those traditions. [Watch their announcement video](#)
- The campus wide Spartan Health Screening form can be [Found Here](#).

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.

MSU Faculty, Staff, and Students with COVID-19 health-related questions, please call the MSU Health Care COVID-19 Triage line at 855-958-2678. The MSU Health Care COVID-19 Triage line is available 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM (Midnight), 7 days a week.

Campus Information and Updates: <https://msu.edu/coronavirus/>
CDC guidance regarding COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

Face Coverings

Effective May 10, 2021, masks will no longer be needed in outdoor settings on campus or MSU-affiliated properties for individuals or small gatherings. Per the MDHHS order, masks are not required outdoors unless a gathering has 100 or more people. **This change is for outdoors only.** Face coverings are still required while indoors on campus or MSU-affiliated properties. Off campus, the university continues to urge Spartans to follow [CDC guidelines](#).

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).

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.

Vehicle Use Policy

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

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 June 18th pay date (for time worked from May 23-June 5) your time is due by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 8th.
- For the July 2nd pay date (for time worked from June 6-19) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, June 22nd.
- For the July 16th pay date (for time worked from June 20-July 3) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, July 6th.

Travel

MSU's Office for Global Health, Safety, and Security has issued new guidelines and procedures for MSU-sponsored travel. Effective May 14, 2021:

- MSU-sponsored domestic travel authorizations will return to the processes used prior to the pandemic.
- Employees, students, and approved guests seeking to engage in MSU-sponsored international travel, must submit a [Waiver Application Form](#) for review at least 3 weeks prior to departure. A streamlined review process exists for those fully vaccinated.

For additional travel guidance, please visit the Office for Global Health, Safety and Security website at <https://globalsafety.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic>. 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.

For MSU's most current **Domestic Travel** information go to <https://globalsafety.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic/domestic-travel/>

Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic

For the most current MSU information regarding travel during the COVID-19 pandemic go to <https://globalsafety.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

Contact the Office for Global Health, Safety, and Security with questions at either 517-884-2174 or globalsafety@msu.edu

[Contact Us - MSU Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#)

UPDATED: Blanket Travel Request Forms

PSM has updated our policy on blanket trip request forms. Previously, we submitted our blanket request forms by fiscal year. **We have updated this policy to calendar year.** Please update your blanket request forms to reflect this change.

Assistance Resources

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

Travel@State - Frequently Asked Questions

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

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Concur Mobile](#)
- [My Travel Network, Triplt Pro](#)
- [Travel Bookings](#)
- [Connections](#)
- [Request](#)
- [Delegates](#)
- [Approvals](#)
- [Expense Reports](#)
- [Receipts](#)

MSU Academic Calendar

Summer 2021

May 31	Holiday - University Closed
July 2	Middle of Semester
July 5	Holiday - University Closed
August 19	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

Full Session

Summer 2021

May 31	Holiday - University Closed
June 9	Middle of Semester
July 1	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

Session One

Summer 2021

July 6	Classes Begin
July 28	Middle of Semester
August 19	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

Session Two

Fall 2021

September 1	Classes Begin
September 6	Holiday - University Closed
October 20	Middle of Semester
October 25-26	Break Days
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 Office Contact Information / Hours

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
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

Newsletter Submissions

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