

**PLANT SOIL  
& MICROBIAL  
SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT**



**Wishing you and your family a  
safe and healthy Thanksgiving!**



**Announcement of Dissertation Defense**

**Monday, November 30, 2020 at 1:00 PM**

Announcement of Ph.D. Dissertation Defense Seminar

Crop & Soil Sciences

Candidate's Name: **Jaron Akins**

Title of Dissertation: Wildfire impacts on soil carbon pools and microbial communities in mixed-conifer forests of California

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98635785545>

Meeting ID: 986 3578 5545

Passcode: Adkins

**Seminars / Webinars**

**November 30, 2020 from 1:30-2:30 PM**

Plant Pathology Seminar

**Carly Hendershot**

Title: Michigan sugar beets; disease survey and winter storage trials

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97892001305>

Meeting ID: 978 9200 1305

Passcode: 156579

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**December 3, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 PM**

PSM/HRT Fall 2020 Seminar

**Dr. Maria del Mar Jimenez Gasco**, The Pennsylvania State University

Title: Diversity, ecology, and evolution of plant-associated *Fusarium oxysporum*

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98053375357>

Meeting ID: 980 5337 5357

Passcode: 149423

## Seminars / Webinars

**December 7, 2020 from 1:30-2:30 PM**

Plant Pathology Seminar

**Allie Watson**

Title: *Gnomoniopsis smithogilvyi*: An Emerging Pathogen in Michigan

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97892001305>

Meeting ID: 978 9200 1305

Passcode: 156579

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**December 8, 2020 at 1:00 PM**

Plant Resilience Institute Seminar Series

**Kevin Begcy**, Assistant Professor, University of Florida

Title: The heat is on: Maize pollen development under heat stress

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/6493093851>

Meeting ID: 649 309 3851

Passcode: 407501

## Announcements

### ACRS hosts Friendsgiving!

Your graduate student group, ACRS, is aware that not everyone can go home for Thanksgiving this year. That is why we would like to invite everyone in PSM to join us for our annual Friendsgiving Celebration. This year it will be on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 PM. We will catch up with one another, make handprint turkeys, pilgrim hats and buckles, and play Thanksgiving trivia. Please join us with whatever meal you want to eat!

Our Zoom link is <https://msu.zoom.us/j/96316601829> and the password is “friends”.

Please contact **Hannah Jeffery** at [jeffer90@msu.edu](mailto:jeffer90@msu.edu) with any questions.

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### Upcoming Family Affinity Group and Work and Wellness Connect Group

Mondays from 12:00-1:00 PM the MSU WorkLife Office will be hosting a Work and Wellness Connect Zoom. The goal of this group is for faculty, staff and postdocs to connect, combat isolation, share resources, and create community with others at MSU. Please consider joining.

- Work and Wellness Connect Zoom Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/98185043710> (password: connect)
- MSU WorkLife Office is starting a family affinity group in January. If you are interested in joining the group, please indicate your interest in the survey below.

Family Affinity Group Interest Form:

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8uWts52v3v7Dd8V](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uWts52v3v7Dd8V)

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### PSSB Entry Doors

Please remember that you can only access PSSB through doors 9 & 10 which are on the East side across from Vet Med along Bogue Street and doors 31 & 32 which are on the South side of the corridor that connects Plant and Soil to MPS.

## Announcements

### Traveling this holiday?

What we currently know is described in the following link of what you and your staff need to consider.

<https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic/health-protocol-inbound-travel/>

In summary

- In-state travel then returning to campus does not require a 14-day self-quarantine. However, we are responsible for the health of the campus community and not just our personal health. In other words, it is recommended but not required.
- Out-of-state travel for students (grad or undergrad) requires a 14-day self-quarantine prior to returning to campus if you are coming from an active outbreak COVID state (currently 42 out of 50 states, see the map in the link above).
- Out-of-state travel for faculty and staff, it is strongly recommended that you self-quarantine for 14-days prior to returning to campus if you are coming from an active outbreak COVID state (currently 42 out of 50 states, see the map in the link above).

Spartan Spit is undersubscribed, and everyone is encouraged to sign up and continue to utilize it throughout the holiday periods of November and December. Even if an individual is participating in the Spartan Spit, the return to campus travel protocol stated above still holds.

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### Flu Vaccines Now Available At Multiple Locations

By appointment, through December 31, 2020 while supplies last

- **MSU Health Care Pharmacy**      517-353-3500  
<https://pharmacy.msu.edu/pharmacy-news/flu-vaccine-offered-by-the-msu-health-care-pharmacies>
- **Internal Medicine**            517-353-4941  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/internal-medicine.aspx>
- **Family Medicine**            517-353-2562  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/family-medicine.aspx>
- **Pediatrics DeWitt**            517-353-4000  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/pediatrics-dewitt.aspx>
- **Pediatrics West Side**        517-622-1012  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/msu-pediatric-west-side.aspx#MSU%20Pediatrics%20-%20West%20Side>
- **Pediatrics Okemos**          517-349-6560  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/MSU%20Health%20Care%20Pediatrics%20Okemos.aspx>
- **Pediatrics Lansing**         517-364-5440  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/MSU%20Child%20Health%20Lansing.aspx>

## Announcements

**[NRT] Fellowship Application for NSF-Funded IMPACTS Graduate Training Program**  
[IMPACTS](#) is a program aiming at training doctoral students in the interface between computational and plant sciences. It is funded through the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program.

### Important dates:

*Application due:* 5 pm, March 1, 2021.      *Award announcement:* March 15, 2021.

**What's in the program:** The IMPACTS program focuses on training the next generation of scientists that can employ computational and data science approaches to analyze and interpret heterogeneous, multi-scale measurement data to predict plant responses in variable environments at local to global scales.

### Why should you apply:

- Obtain foundational knowledge in computational and plant sciences and develop and execute innovative research approaches to address them.
- Develop communication, management, leadership, and collaboration skills.
- Obtain a one-year fellowship, as well as travel and internship support.
- Be recognized as an NSF Fellow.

### Who is eligible to apply:

- A current doctoral student in their 1st-2nd year of doctoral training.
- A research project that has a clear need for integrating computational/data and plant sciences co-advised by a plant science-oriented and a computational/data science-oriented trainer.
- A US citizen or permanent resident.

**Special note:** [Women and persons from underrepresented groups in research](#) are especially encouraged to apply.

**How to apply:** See this [application document](#) for details.

If you have any question, please contact us via [nrt@msu.edu](mailto:nrt@msu.edu).  
NRT-IMPACTS program      [nrt@msu.edu](mailto:nrt@msu.edu)

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## Genome Editing Applications in Plant Breeding

Date: December 10-11th, 2020

**Registration Deadline: Monday, November 30, 2020**

### About the Symposium

This year's Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology (PBGB) symposium, 'Genome Editing Applications in Plant Breeding' will be held virtually on December 10-11th, 2020 via Zoom. The symposium features research talks presented by world-class experts from both academia and industry. In addition, registrants can participate in round-table discussions, graduate student research talks, a behavioral interview workshop, and a virtual poster gallery. To register, please click [HERE](#).

### Registration and Abstract Submission

Registration is free and required for anyone interested in attending the symposium. A confirmation email with Zoom link and Slack channel invitation will be sent out a week before the symposium. For the most up-to-date information, explore the website: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/pbgb/Symposium/> and follow [PBGB Twitter](#).

## Announcements

### Pcard Process Reminders

A reminder that while working from home or the office, complying with Pcard processes - including proper record keeping practices - are requirements of cardholders and fiscal officers.

- Please review and approve Pcard eDocs when they appear in your Action List. Don't let them auto approve.
  - Cardholders must approve within 14 calendar days.
  - Fiscal officers must approve within 31 calendar days.
- All Pcard purchases require receipts.
  - Scan and attach receipts to the Notes and Attachments tab of the eDoc.
  - Receipts must be itemized and legible.
- A business purpose must be indicated either on the receipt, the description line, or in the Notes and Attachments tab. Include details of how/why the item or service will be used or was needed.
- Refunds must be cross-referenced to the original eDoc.

### Using the COVID19 Project Code

Remember to use the COVID19 project code when applicable. Transactions identified with this code may qualify for Cares Act reimbursement. The COVID19 project code should be used if the purchase is necessary as a result of the pandemic.

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### PCard Reminder - Membership Dues

Membership dues are NOT to be paid from your MSU Procurement Card. Membership dues need to be processed by the Department Business Office where they generate a special letter and handle getting the information needed for approval and process payment. You just need to scan/forward your membership renewal request to **Lisa Bowen** at [bowenli1@msu.edu](mailto:bowenli1@msu.edu). Please be sure to provide the account number so that she can submit payment.

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### Building Access

If building access is needed, please remember to have your PI email **AnnMarie Guldner** ([guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)) directly with this request. Requests cannot be accepted from anyone other than the PI.

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### 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](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu) or 517-353-0120. No drop ins will be allowed.

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### Sign-in/out forms for PSSB and CIPS

The sign-in/out form for visiting PSSB and CIPS will no longer be required because it's largely redundant with the COVID-19 Workplace Health Screening (Updated 6/18/2020) form. Effective Immediately, you are only required to fill out the COVID-19 Workplace Health Screening (Updated 6/18/2020) form before you enter PSSB or CIPS. The health screening form provides the critical information for contact tracing in the event of potential COVID case or exposure in the building. The sign-in/out form has been removed from the PSM website. Note: Farms are still requiring sign-in/out form. The form can be found at this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MHEXli9k2UGSEXQjetVofRr5465eclGIAHCZg1x3UtUQU1EWTRBTkZTMzVESEJDTzRPMTBHNEFHVC4u>

## 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.

## Vehicle Use Policy

### One Person per Vehicle Policy

MSU has a standing policy of only one person per vehicle for all travel on MSU business. Exceptions to this rule were approved which allowed two persons per vehicle in two specific situations:

- 1) Short-distance travel on South Campus Research and Education Complex and Research Centers (June 14 memo)
- 2) Full size vans (September 2 memo)

Given the rapid increase in COVID cases in Michigan, including Ingham County, and the current MDHHS Emergency Order, these exceptions are no longer allowed. Effective immediately, all travel on University business by faculty, staff and student employees is **now limited to one person per vehicle**.

## 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.

### Face coverings

Individuals with COVID-19 are highly infectious for up to two days before the onset of symptoms. Thus, 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. Wearing a face covering, whether you feel ill or have been diagnosed with COVID-19, is critical to maintaining everyone's health and safety.

**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. For example, if you are indoors, exceptions are limited to when:

1. you are in your own place of residence and can therefore properly physically distance (at least six feet of physical separation between yourself and others);
2. 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); **or**
3. you are eating or drinking but still maintaining physical distance (at least six feet of physical separation between yourself and others).

If you are outdoors, exceptions are limited to when:

1. you are working outdoors and can maintain physical distance from others (but you will need to wear a face covering outdoors when interacting with others or when unable to maintain physical distance); **or**
2. you are exercising or engaging in high-intensity activities outdoors (for example, jogging, running, bicycling or golfing) and can maintain physical distance from others.

If you are working, an exception may be allowed in the following situations:

1. 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);
2. you can maintain physical distance from others; **and**
3. you have previously consulted with your supervisor to determine the appropriate face covering for your setting.

In addition, if you are working, an exception may be allowed if you need a fresh-air break outdoors **and**

1. you can maintain physical distance from others,
2. you will not interact with others **and**
3. you have previously consulted with your supervisor.

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.

## Face Coverings (Updated August 13, 2020)

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.

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

## MSU Academic Calendar

### Fall 2020

<b>November 26-27</b>	<b>Holiday - University Closed</b>
December 11	Classes End
December 14-18	Final Exams
December 24-25	Holiday - University Closed
December 31- January 1	Holiday - University Closed

### Fall 2020 Commencement Dates - Virtual Ceremonies

**Master's Degrees:** Friday, December 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM

**Doctoral Degrees:** Friday, December 18, 2020 at 2:00 PM

**Baccalaureate Degrees:** Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

For additional information go to <https://commencement.msu.edu/>

### Spring 2021

January 11	Classes Begin
January 18	Holiday - University Open, Classes Cancelled
March 2-3	No Classes
March 3	Middle of Semester
April 21	Classes End
April 26-30	Final Exams

### Spring 2021 Commencement Dates

Due to COVID-19, ceremony specific information is not available at this time.

For additional information go to <https://commencement.msu.edu/>

## New Version Fillable PSMS PDF Time Sheet

Attached to this newsletter is the [new fillable version of the PSMS PDF time sheet, this version replaces all other copies](#). The new time sheet has required fill-in areas (i.e. dates and signatures) and all areas are now fillable or a check box.

## 2021 PSM Payroll Schedule

Attached to this newsletter is the PSM 2021 Payroll Schedule

## 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 **12/04/2020 pay date** covering the 11/08/2020-11/21/2020 pay period, all time must be approved by 4 PM Wednesday, 11/25/2020. **Sheets are due to PSMS on Monday 11/23/2020 by 5 PM**, late time sheets will be held and processed on the next pay period.
- For the **12/18/2020 pay date** covering the 11/22/2020-12/05/2020 pay period, all time must be approved by 4 PM Wednesday, 12/09/2020. **Sheets are due to PSMS on Monday 12/07/2020 by 5 PM**, late time sheets will be held and processed on the next pay period.
- For the **12/30/2020 pay date** covering the 12/06/2020-12/19/2020 pay period, all time must be approved by 7 PM Monday, 12/21/2020. **Sheets are due to PSMS on FRIDAY 12/18/2020 by 3 PM**. Last payroll of the year. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to have your time sheets turned in on time.

## 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	<a href="mailto:guldner1@msu.edu">guldner1@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Ashley Lathrop	<a href="mailto:danas@msu.edu">danas@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Brian Horgan	<a href="mailto:horganb@msu.edu">horganb@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Christiina Donley	<a href="mailto:tymoszew@msu.edu">tymoszew@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Debbie Williams	<a href="mailto:williade@msu.edu">williade@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Dominic Colosimo	<a href="mailto:colosi14@msu.edu">colosi14@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Gina Centeno	<a href="mailto:centeno@msu.edu">centeno@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:15 AM-2:45 PM
Lee Duynslager	<a href="mailto:duynslag@msu.edu">duynslag@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM
Lisa Bowen	<a href="mailto:bowenli1@msu.edu">bowenli1@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-4 PM
Mackenzie Graham	<a href="mailto:graham2@msu.edu">graham2@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 12:30-4:30 PM
Rachel Jorgensen	<a href="mailto:eschrach@msu.edu">eschrach@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3:30 PM
Sandie Litchfield	<a href="mailto:litchfi9@msu.edu">litchfi9@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4:30 PM

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Send newsletter submissions to AnnMarie Guldner at [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)  
Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM