
**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Congratulations, Accomplishments, Retirements, and New Faces

George Sundin - Congratulations to George Sundin for being appointed a University Distinguished Professor. The title of University Distinguished Professor is awarded by the MSU Board of Trustees at the recommendation of the provost and president to recognize the importance of their achievements. Way to go George!

Mary Hausbeck - After almost 5 years, Mary Hausbeck will be stepping down as Associate Chairperson in PSM. Mary played a key role in the preparation and submission of reappointment, promotion and tenure packages, created the SSAFE team, lead the process to develop PSM's Community Norms, provided leadership with PSM's Academic Programs Review and served as a valued advisor to the Chairperson. Mary has had a tremendous impact and PSM has benefitted greatly from her service as Associate Chairperson. Thank you Mary!

Congratulations to **Greg Bonito**, **Ashley Shade** and **Jessica Miesel** for being promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and **Tim Miles** for being reappointed.

Jim Crum, enjoy your retirement - with appreciation to Trey Rogers for crafting this wonderful summary of Jim's career highlights.

Jim Crum began his career at Michigan State University in 1984, 2 years before the Plant and Soil Science Building was built. As an original tenant of PSSB he is likely a record holder of building keys. Dr. Crum served the department as a soil scientist, primarily in the areas of teaching and research. His consistent teaching duty was CSS 210, Fundamentals of Soil Science, a core course for CANR. Tens of thousands of students took CSS 210 during Dr. Crum's tenure. He had a wonderful gift of making even the least likely of student gain an interest and certainly a respect for this great resource. This class consistently had between 175-225 students every semester, and Dr. Crum would personally take time with each student who asked for help. The table in the office foyer no doubt holds the record for most arms folded upon it with perplexed looks trying to make sense of non-intuitive concepts.

As the 21st century began and retirements ensued, Dr. Crum also would be called upon to teach both the soil resources and turfgrass soil fertility classes. These classes were filled with only students in the major, and these lucky individuals enjoyed a more intimate teaching experience. This statement is easy to make as many students have made the unsolicited comment in various forms and forums. No doubt, being in the classroom with Dr. Crum was a privilege.

Dr. Crum possesses the virtue of patience. While this is critical for teaching, it is even more critical in the area of university service. Dr. Crum served on all levels of the MSU curriculum committees, in particular CSS. The department and its graduates are in gratitude for his guidance and perseverance over the many years.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Crum was coerced into making an internship visit to golf courses in Northern Michigan. This sparked his interest in turfgrass, and particularly sand-based root zones. The idea of growing turfgrass in sand was relatively new, as was the adaptation by the turfgrass world. Dr. Crum researched and implemented specifications, in particular for the Michigan Turfgrass industry (and later adopted world-wide), helping to make it the gold standard in terms of successful root zone constructions. Many high profile turfgrass projects have been led by Dr. Crum's root zone specifications, including Spartan Stadium, an award-winning grass field since 2002.

The one consistent hobby over Dr. Crum's career was woodworking. (This does mean you could ask him about the short period in which he took up motorcycle riding.) He is a master craftsman with wood, and it is likely you have seen some of his work in PSSB, or more importantly, the work of proteges, as he loved to share his learned skills with others, as many could attest. Dr. Crum also was a torrid basketball player, and a pillar of the noontime basketball game in the Auxiliary gym of the Breslin Center, beginning with its opening in 1990. Many graduate students could attest not only to his shooting skills, but his ferocious picks, sometimes even days later. In fact, this love for the game led directly to one of his moonlights - clock operator for MSU basketball games. Many a former student delighted in remarking on a Dr. Crum sighting on television. His demeanor was perfect for this surprisingly high-pressure role.

Dr. Crum will be missed in many ways, but perhaps the most by those who utilized his greatest skill - listening. Judging by the number of students, colleagues, and administrators who sat in that office over the years seeking advice and counsel, it was prize worthy. Enjoy your retirement, Jim.

Kim McClung - Welcome to Kim McClung who will be joining our PSM accounting team as a Research Administrator on July 6th. Kim will be coming from the College of Engineering, where she has spent her career as a Research Administrator.

Seminars / Webinars

2021 Organic Field Day
Thursday, July 8, 2021, from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
W.K. Kellogg Biological Station
9702 N. 40th St., Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Learn the latest on organic, no till, cover crops, soil health, and market trends. Connect with other organic growers and share tips of the trade throughout the day. Registration required; fee is \$20 pre-paid or \$25 at the door. This includes continental breakfast, lunch, program, and parking.

Please see the flyer attached to this week's newsletter.
For more information, please contact **Sherrie McKinch** at 616-642-3016 or smckinch@herbrucks.com.

Seminars / Webinars

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:

- 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.

Professional Development

Upcoming Virtual Courses

Select Organization and Professional Development (OPD) courses are available in a live, online format. The following courses are available for registration in the EBS Portal. Employees may use available educational assistance funds to pay for these programs.

Mitigating Bias in Hiring

July 13, 2021, from 1:00-2:30 PM

Learn best practices and procedures for reducing potential bias in the screening and interview process and obtain tools for increasing understanding and self-awareness. [View Course Details](#)

New! Introduction to Process Mapping

July 21, 2021, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Gain the knowledge and skills needed to confidently begin your process improvement journey. Learn key terminology, common elements, and create a process map in this new program. [View Course Details](#)

Grammar Refresher

July 22, 2021, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Strengthen your grammar and usage skills and present a more polished, professional image. Topics covered will include common grammar errors, punctuation pointers, and correct verb forms. [View Course Details](#)

Maximizing the Spartan Experience

July 28, 2021, from 9:30-11:30 AM

Whether your customers are students, colleagues, or vendors, providing a high level of service - also known at MSU as Delivering Outstanding Spartan Experience - is key. Learn how to plan, develop, and maintain high customer service standards. [View Course Details](#)

Everything DiSC: Behavior Styles at Work

July 29, 2021 from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

Using a simple tool designed to help you understand yourself AND other people. *Everything DiSC* allows you to build more effective working relationships based on an understanding of different behavioral styles. [View Course Details](#)

Announcements

MSU ALERT

The Michigan State University Police Department is responsible for developing and distributing **Timely Warning** and **Emergency Notification** messages. These messages are intended to **warn the** community about certain crimes and **notify** it of potentially dangerous situations on or near campus. These messages inform community members about incidents that may pose an ongoing threat and provide information to promote safety and prevent similar crimes. The decision to issue a **Timely Warning** or **Emergency Notification** is based on a variety of factors.

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (or Clery Act) is intended to provide students and their families, as higher education consumers, with accurate, complete and timely information about safety on campus. One of the mandates of the Act is to provide these Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications to the campus community. These warnings and notifications can be delivered via three main platforms: voice messages to phones, e-mail and SMS text messaging.

How It Works

MSU uses the [Everbridge](#) mass notification platform to provide time-sensitive messages to our community.

Everbridge provides a self-help portal to manage your contact data and delivery methods. We have already established your account using your MSU e-mail and phone, but you may login with your MSU NetID and password to provide additional information. The portal also allows you to disable any delivery method as well as establish “quiet times” so alerts will not disturb you during class or at night.

Self Service Portal

MSU Faculty, Staff, and Students: [Login to the Everbridge self-help portal](#) to manage your contact data. You will be redirected to an MSU login page to use your NetID credentials for authentication. After a successful login, you will be on the everbridge.net site to manage your information.

All information provided is kept strictly confidential and private in accordance with the [Everbridge privacy policy](#).

Nixle Community Alerts

If you are not an MSU student or employee and would like to receive MSU ALERT notifications, you can subscribe to our NIXLE channel.

Text MSUALERT to 888777 (*Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies.*)

Self Service Portal

Login to the Everbridge self service portal to manage your contact data. You will be redirected to an MSU login page to use your NetID credentials for authentication. After a successful login, you will be on the everbridge.net site to manage your information.

[Portal Login](#)

Announcements

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) invites stakeholders to submit project suggestions for fiscal year (FY) 2022 Plant Protection Act Section 7721 (PPA 7721) funding. In total, APHIS will allocate approximately \$75 million to plant protection funding with at least \$5 million going to the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN).

PPA 7721's Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program is a cooperative agreement program established by the Farm Bill that allows APHIS and its partners to prevent, detect, and mitigate invasive plant pests and diseases. APHIS, along with the National Plant Board, State departments of agriculture, industry organizations, and other governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, developed the FY 2022 Implementation Plan, which outlines six strategic goal areas for funding projects:

1. Enhancing plant pest/disease analysis and survey;
2. Targeting domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the safeguarding continuum;
3. Enhancing and strengthening pest identification and technology;
4. Safeguarding nursery production;
5. Conducting targeted outreach and education; and
6. Enhancing mitigation and rapid response capabilities.

The open period for submitting suggestions for Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program funding will be seven weeks, from June 7 through July 23, 2021. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/ppa-projects to get resources and guidance, including the FY 2022 Implementation Plan, templates, help session webinar schedule, frequently asked questions, and more.

The FY 2022 Implementation Plan also describes priorities for projects supporting PPA 7721's National Clean Plant Network (NCPN). The NCPN establishes a network of clean plant centers for diagnostic and pathogen elimination services to produce clean propagative plant material and maintain blocks of pathogen-tested plant material in sites throughout the United States. NCPN program priorities include:

1. Promoting the introduction, diagnosis, treatment, establishment and release of clean plant materials for commercial development;
2. Conducting methods development to test and advance therapies designed to ensure plant material is healthy and clean;
3. Developing partnerships with university extension offices, state departments of agriculture, and other entities to interact with commercial nurseries, industry associations and producers; and
4. Developing and implementing best practices and quality control protocols for growing high quality propagative plant material.

The open period to apply for NCPN program funding will last for 12 weeks from June 7 through August 27, 2021. Funding is available for land-grant universities, non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, State agricultural experiment stations, State and Federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Proposals focused on specialty crops have funding priority. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/ppa-projects to learn more about the NCPN program.

To receive email updates, subscribe to the Plant Protection Act 7721 topic in the [APHIS Stakeholder Registry](#).

Job Announcements

Professional Aide

Job # 713836

Program Coordinator: Biochar Extension and Outreach

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/506930/professional-aide>

Additional information attached to this newsletter

Assistant Professor - Tenure System

Job # 706037

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.

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

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/cw/en-us/job/506404/research-associatefixed-term>

COVID-19 Updates

To align with state and federal guidance, MSU is lifting most of its own COVID-19 mandates, effective immediately, except for health care settings:

- Face masks are no longer required indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- MSU buildings, venues and services can operate without limitations. Buildings will return to normal public access building hours effective August 1st. If non-employee access is required earlier than August 1st, please contact [Facilities Planning and Space Management](#).
- Employees, students and others coming to campus no longer have to fill out the daily health screening form.
- The [COVID-19 Early Detection Program](#) is no longer mandatory for undergraduate students.
- All employees who have been working remotely should continue doing so until told otherwise by a supervisor.
- Federal rules still mandate face masks when traveling by plane, train and bus, including CATA buses on campus.
- MSU's domestic travel policy has returned to normal. For international travel, the level of review is dependent on vaccination status. Please visit the [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security COVID webpage](#) for further guidance.

Travel

MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar

If you missed the MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar or if you want to view this training session again, please use the following URL:

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

MSU's **domestic travel policy** has returned to normal. For **international travel**, the level of review is dependent on vaccination status. Please visit the [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security COVID webpage](#) for further guidance.

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

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

Watch for invitations to **upcoming Concur training webinars** designed specifically for MSU.

- July 20: Triplt & Travel + Office for Global Health, Safety and Security
 - August 3: Group and Guest
-

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

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

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	Full Session
July 2	Middle of Semester
July 5	Holiday - University Closed
August 19	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams
Summer 2021	Session One
July 1	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams
Summer 2021	Session Two
July 6	Classes Begin
July 28	Middle of Semester
August 19	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams
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 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 July 16th pay date (for time worked from June 20-July 3) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, July 6th.
- For the July 30th pay date (for time worked from July 4-17) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, July 20th.
- For the August 13th pay date (for time worked from July 18-31) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 3rd.

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

July 12, 19, 26 August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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

Meeting ID: 985 4966 6083

Passcode: 001550

PSM Chairperson

Brian Horgan horganb@msu.edu Monday-Friday 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
AnnMarie Guldner guldner1@msu.edu Assistant to the Department Chairperson

PSM Accounting Team

psm.accounting@msu.edu

Emily Williams emilywil@msu.edu Monday-Friday 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Lisa Bowen bowenli1@msu.edu Monday-Friday 8 AM-4 PM
Gina Centeno centeno@msu.edu Monday-Friday 8:15 AM-2:45 PM
Kim McClung mcclungk@msu.edu Monday-Friday 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM

PSM Human Resources Team

psm.hr@msu.edu

Hannah O'Mara omarahan@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
Mackenzie Graham graham2@msu.edu Monday-Friday 8 AM-12 PM & 12:30-4:30 PM
AnnMarie Guldner guldner1@msu.edu Monday-Friday 7 AM-3 PM

PSM IT Team

Dominic Colosimo colosi14@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

Newsletter Submissions

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