PLANT SOIL & MICROBIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Weekly Beet

MS & PhD Defense Announcements

Announcement of MS Defense
May 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Candidate: **Kerry VerMeulen**
Title of Thesis: An Evaluation of Streptomyces Pathogenicity in Turnip
https://msu.zoom.us/j/94780807311
Meeting ID: 947 8080 7311
Passcode: 344828

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Announcement of MS Defense
May 5, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Candidate: **Ryan Farmer**
Title of Thesis: Industrial Hemp Production in Michigan: Potential Grain, Fiber, Seed Oil, and Theoretical Ethanol Yield
https://msu.zoom.us/j/96874877631
Meeting ID: 968 7487 7631
Passcode: Farmer

Seminars / Webinars

May 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Plant Resilience Institute Spring Seminar Series
Dr. Diane Rowland
Seminar Title: UF's Center for Stress Resilient Agriculture: transdisciplinary approaches help accelerate the understanding of root and whole plant stress tolerance
https://plantresilience.msu.edu/events/2021-events/

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May 12, 2021 at 11:30 AM
Women's Networking Association Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series
Processing Change through Reflective Writing
Dr. Denise Acevedo, MSU Writing Rhetoric and American Culture
Register: https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kc-qrqD0tHNQBOX9wigfcIt9wF-Fz-kz0

MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events

May 19, 2021 at 6:00-7:00 PM
Please join an online conversation between MSU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D. and newly appointed Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Jabbar R. Bennett, Ph.D. This live, interactive discussion will address current events and the future of Michigan State University, especially focused on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Register Here

Announcements

Suzanne Tegtmeyer is the plant sciences librarian at the Main Library. She is always looking for new materials and resources to help students and researchers with their educational and research needs. Later this week she will be talking with Cabi.org about their developing a website of international resources on mycology, both open access and subscription materials.

As leading researchers in mycology, are there resources that you find are lacking that we could possibly include in this site? Research articles, atlases or maps, dictionaries or encyclopedias, databases or datasets, or other materials? Any materials in print format you'd like to have electronically? Abstract and concrete suggestions are welcome. She would appreciate any input you could provide.

Please respond to Suzanne Teghtmeyer at teghtmey@msu.edu, that way she can compile the list of interests and send it around to everyone to look over.

Town Hall on Open Access Hosted by the University Committee for the Library
The University Committee for the Library (UCL), which has been engaging in discussions about Open Access publishing. Open access as defined by the Bethesda Statement is a publication model based on free and unrestricted access to scholarly research output that is archived in at least one online repository supported by an academic, scholarly, or government agency.

The traditional model of scholarly publication relies on publishers to facilitate the process of selection, peer review, editing, and dissemination. Libraries, in turn, purchase and provide access to these published books and journals. Open Access is an alternative publishing model that retains the selection, peer review, editing and dissemination, but makes the published work available for free to all users from the point of publication. The costs of publishing are borne not by the readers but by the authors themselves, government grants, universities, and other agencies. For more information on Open Access please visit: Open Access information. The University Committee for the Library has been engaging in discussions about Open Access publishing with the ultimate goal of improving dissemination and access to knowledge. Recently, faculty were surveyed about their thoughts on Open Access. We would like to share the results of that survey with the faculty as well as provide updates on steps the Library is taking to facilitate Open Access publishing.

A town hall is scheduled for May 11th from 3:00 to 4:00pm via Zoom.
Please send any questions or comments to the UCL Chair, Dr. David Ferguson (fergu312@msu.edu).

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://msu.zoom.us/j/95795135402?pwd=MC9VUHVIU1p4eE9UdTVBQXhXLzVSUT09
Passcode: 387166

Announcements

IPF Building Notice: Red Water Alert
What is happening and why?
The water tower will be taken offline so work can be performed on the interior of the tank, possibly resulting in water discoloration.

When will this occur?
Noon, Friday, April 23 through May 13.

How will this effect me?
During this work, water discoloration and pressure fluctuations may occur throughout campus. This discoloration is harmless in terms of sanitation and safety, but could affect clothing if used in laundry.

To find our more about how IPF is working to improve campus water quality and reduce the amount and severity of discoloration events, please read more about the water treatment plant at https://ipf.msu.edu/water-quality-updates?utm_source=email&utm_medium=cmpswd&utm_campaign=rdwtralrt.

Upcoming MSU Professional Development Opportunities

The Power of Habit – Limited Space Available!
May 19, 2021 from 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
Habits are predictors of long-term performance, but many of us struggle to manage our habits and achieve the outcomes we want. Discover how habits are created and how to replace undesirable habits with productive ones.
The Power of Habit (msu.edu)

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Maximizing the Spartan Experience
May 20, 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 Experiences – is key. In this updated version of the popular *The Spartan Experience* training, participants will learn how to plan, develop, and maintain high customer service standards.
Maximizing the Spartan Experience (msu.edu)

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Crucial Conversations
Multi-day course begins May 24, 2021
Learn step by step tools for promoting open, honest dialogue around high-stakes, emotional, or risky topics – at all levels of your organization.
Crucial Conversations (msu.edu)

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Query Studio
June 9, 2021 from 1:30-4:30 PM
An adhoc reporting tool, Query Studio can be used to produce queries against data. After receiving this training, participants will have access to the query Studio tool.
Query Studio (msu.edu)

Job Announcements
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences

Professional Aide
Professional Aide – MSU Agronomy Farm
Job # 702666
https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/506422/professional-aide

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Professional Aide
Wheat Research Assistant
Job # 702668
https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/506421/professional-aide

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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 are of: Plant responses to nutrient deficiency, with a main focus on phosphorus starvation.
Job # 700439
https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/506404/research-associatefixed-term

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Research Assistant I
The Wheat Breeding and Genetics Program at Michigan State University is seeking a highly motivated individual to work as a member of the wheat variety development and research program.
Job # 698499
https://careers.pageuppeople.com/782/cw/en-us/job/506257/research-assistant-i

COVID-19 Updates

➢ No appointments are needed at the COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the MSU Pavilion this week, April 26-30, with the Ingham County Health Department. Just drive up between 9 am and 2:30 pm. Plenty of appointments are also available if you want to book a time. Vaccines are at no cost to you and open to all Michigan residents. People remain in their vehicles the entire time. You may also schedule at http://hd.ingham.org/coronavirus/r_1013.aspx

➢ University Physician David Weismantel asked all students, faculty and staff to complete a survey to determine interest levels in receiving the COVID-19. This is part of the university's efforts to ensure it is doing the best job to meet the needs of the community. Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management

➢ The campus wide Spartan Health Screening form can be found at https://covidresponse.msu.edu/health-screening.

Vehicle Use Policy
Please see the attached COVID-19 Vehicle Occupancy Guidance. (September 2020)

PSM IT Update – April 2021

What is happening?
➢ Security update support for **Windows 10 version 1809** is ending after May 2021's Patch Tuesday (Windows lifecycle fact sheet). All department owned Windows computers must be updated to a newer version of Windows 10 in order to continue receiving security updates after May.
➢ Windows 10 Enterprise versions released in the spring are supported for 18 months. Versions released in the fall are supported for 30 months. PSM IT will be upgrading workstations to version 20H2, which is supported until May 2023.

When is this happening?
➢ Starting Monday, April 26 through Friday, May 21, 2021 the update will appear in Software Center for those that need to update. During this time, you will need to launch the update yourself in Software Center.
➢ After Friday May 21, 2021, the update will install automatically.

What do you need to do?
➢ From Start date to End date you will be able to run this update manually. After the end date please leave your computer on after work to run the version update automatically.
➢ Below are instructions on where to go to manually run the install:

1. Click the **Updates** category in the left window pane, select the desired update, and click **Install**.
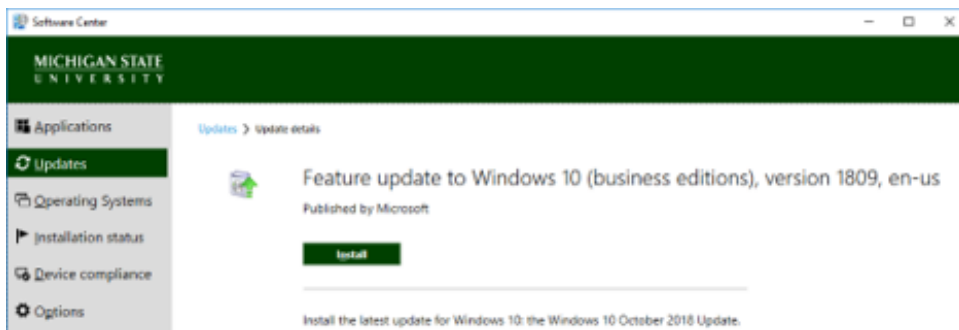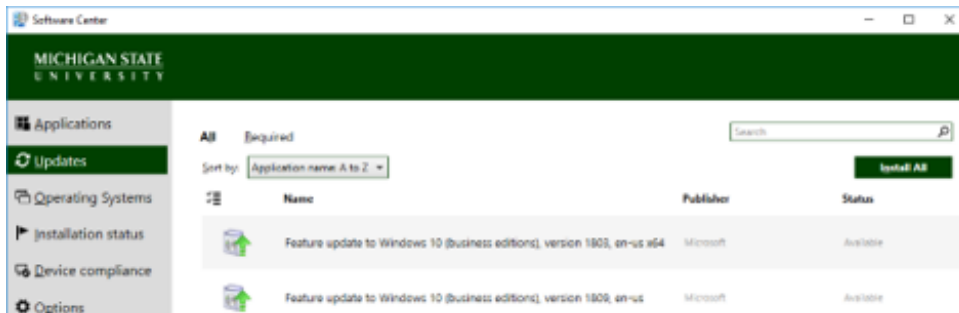

2. Review the warning message and click **Install**.
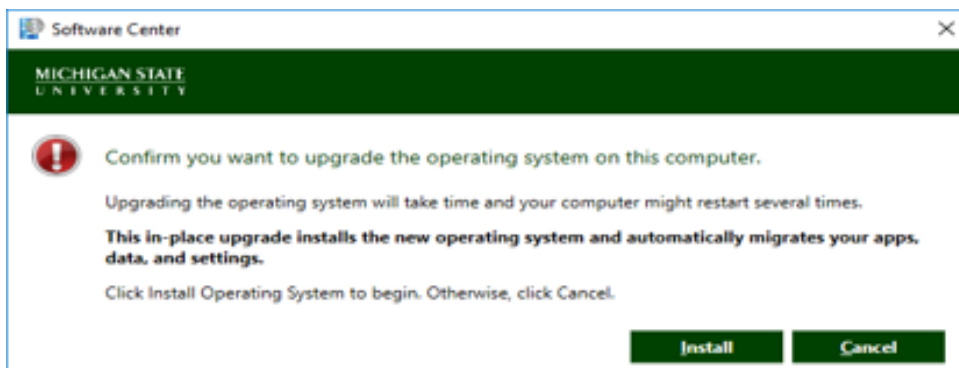
3. The feature update will take a considerable amount of time to install in the background and the first reboot will take longer than usual. The next time a user logs on will also take several minutes.
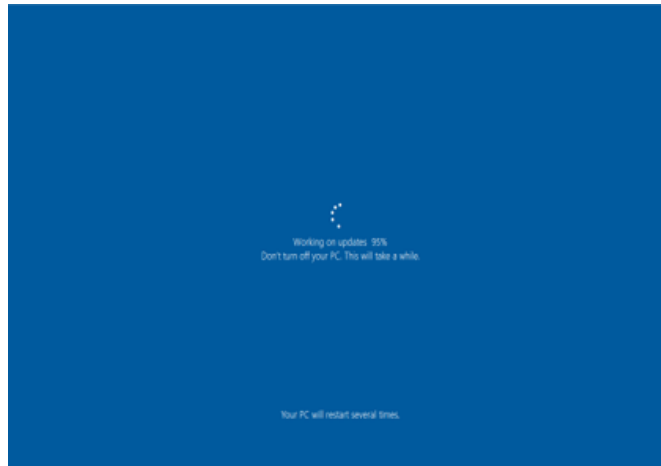
4. Security updates for this new version of Windows 10 will automatically begin installing within a few hours. The typical software update restart message will be displayed after they complete installation.
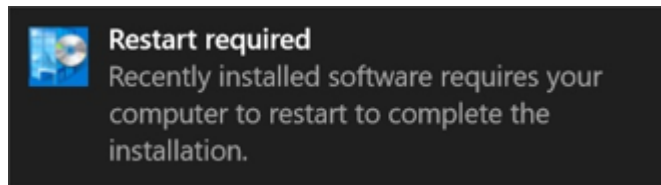
A few items of note about updating Windows 10 versions:
➢ Applications and settings are maintained as part of the process.
➢ The update requires at least 20GB of free space on the C: drive. This is because several folders under the Program Files and Windows folders are automatically backed up to C:\Windows.old\ for 30 days in case the update needs to be reversed.
➢ Windows 10 Pro will be converted to Windows 10 Enterprise with KMS volume licensing during the update process.
➢ The first time a user logs on after the update will take longer than usual.
➢ Depending on what Windows version you currently have and the age of your computer the update could take about two hours or longer to complete the install process.

Who do I contact if I have questions or need support?
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact PSM IT
Dominic Colosimo: colosi14@msu.edu or Lee Duynslager: duynslag@msu.edu

Face Coverings

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).

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.

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 AM to 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

Travel

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.

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Travel Expense Reports
In the MSU Manual of Business Procedures (Section 70: Travel Policies and Procedures/
VII. Travel Expense Reports) it reads:
A.   Travel Expense Reports cannot be submitted without a fully approved Request.
B.   Travel Expense Reports should be submitted within 30 days of the trip's end date
      or June 30, whichever is sooner.
      1.   Travelers have 90 days from the trip's end date to submit their Travel
            Expense Reports. After 90 days:
            a.   Out of pocket expenses are non-reimbursable.
            b.   Travel expenses paid directly by the University always require a
                  Travel Expense Report.
      2.   Exception: Travel Expense Reports for in-state mileage must be submitted
            at least on a quarterly basis.
C.   See Reimbursement Chart for listing of reimbursable expenses, rates of
      reimbursement, receipt requirements, and dollar thresholds.
      1.   MSU colleges and departments may authorize amounts less than full
            reimbursement.

This information can be found at http://ctlr.msu.edu/COMBP/mbp70ebs-
July2019.aspx.

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

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PSM Travel Contact
AnnMarie Guldner is the contact for PSM travel questions. AnnMarie can be reached
at: 517-353-0120, guldner1@msu.edu, PSM.HR@msu.edu, or on Teams chat.
If you would like AnnMarie to review your travel profile, please make sure that you
have her added as your travel delegate. Instructions will be attached to this
newsletter.

Updates to the SAP Concur Mobile App

As a part of Michigan State University's effort to continue to improve user experience and security, and in alignment with SAP Concur solutions, there will be some changes to the sign-in experience for the SAP Concur mobile app. You might use the app to submit expenses, capture receipts, book travel, and perform other tasks at home or on the go.

After you update the SAP Concur mobile app (9.86 or greater), you will see:
➢ An improved sign-in experience, guiding you through your options in two steps
➢ No more option to sign in using your mobile PIN, if you have set one up
➢ Biometric sign-in options (like fingerprint or face recognition) for Android devices as well as iOS devices, where supported.

Going forward, please note the following when signing in on the SAP Concur mobile app:
➢ Use the same username and password that you use to sign in on the web experience of SAP Concur solutions.
➢ Use single sign-on (SSO), if active on your mobile. You may see two options available for SSO. Either option will work.
➢ The SAP Concur mobile app will ask you to authenticate more frequently. After you sign in, be sure to set up biometrics (if applicable), if your device supports it, to make signing in easier in the future.

As always, you can follow your normal procedures for re-setting a password and finding help.

These important changes reaffirm our commitment to user experience while improving security for you and Michigan State University's business processes. We appreciate your support in using the SAP Concur mobile app, which allows you to perform tasks more quickly and efficiently—whether on the road or at home.

If you have any questions, please contact concurhelp@msu.edu

Important Domestic Travel and Meeting Updates

The following is a summary of recent changes in guidelines relative to domestic travel and attendance at group meetings. Please note that these guidelines may change in the future as the COVID-19 situation evolves. Specific travel guidelines for individuals appointed in MSU Extension will be implemented by April 1, 2021 and adjusted monthly as conditions allow. We will keep you informed of any changes as they occur.

Guidelines for Traveling with Two Persons per Vehicle:
The following are guidelines for two MSU employees or students to travel together in the same vehicle. **Note that passengers in a vehicle with a person testing positive for COVID-19 will likely be considered a close contact. Regardless of work location, MSU employees who test positive for COVID-19 are *required* to contact the University Physician to report the positive result and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) to discuss clean up. Guidance on vehicle disinfection and necessary quarantine provided must be followed.**

Travel Guidelines:
➢ MSU employees are not required to travel in a vehicle with another person except in a medical emergency.
➢ Two people are allowed only in vehicles with at least two rows of seats.
➢ More than two people per vehicle is not allowed, regardless of model of vehicle.
➢ All employees will be strongly encouraged to participate in the Spartan Spit program.
➢ Each person must wear a double mask at all times while in the vehicle.
➢ The two occupants of the vehicle are expected to be seated as far apart as practical, and diagonally within the vehicle.
➢ If weather permits, windows should be at least partially open (minimum of 2 inches) to increase allow air movement.
➢ Set the HVAC to external air.
➢ MSU employees are expected to complete the daily Spartan Health Screening.
➢ MSU employees should not report to work or travel on University business if they are sick.

Daily Use Log:
➢ A daily log of all vehicle users must be maintained by the PI or Farm Manager
➢ The use log is to be maintained for at least 30 days.

Sanitation:
➢ Users are expected to wash hands or use a hand sanitizer prior to entering and upon exiting the vehicle.
➢ The interior of the vehicle is to be disinfected after each use following MSU EHS guidance. Instructions are here.
➢ A hand sanitizer should be used after fueling the vehicle.

Guidelines for Attending Meetings Sponsored by Non-MSU Organizations:
Attendance at meetings sponsored by non-MSU organizations is allowed **if the employee is comfortable**, under the following conditions:
➢ The meeting must conform to current DHHS guidelines. As of this memo, the maximum number allowed for indoor non-residential meetings is 25 and for outdoor non-residential meetings is 300, with masks and social distancing required. Current DHHS guidance can be found here
➢ MSU employees must follow the MSU Community Compact.
➢ MSU employees are expected to complete the daily Spartan Health Screening.
➢ MSU employees should leave a meeting if it does not comply with DHHS guidelines.

MSU-sponsored group meetings and other meetings held on University property are currently not approved. A decision on these meetings will be made at a later date.

Travel Approval Process:
All approved Essential Field Research Projects and Essential Non-Research Activities are automatically approved for in-state travel. There is no longer a need to apply for travel waivers for in-state travel associated with an approved Essential Field Research Project or Essential Non-Research Activity. In-state travel not directly connected with an approved Essential Field Research Project or Essential Non-Research Activity requires a separate travel waiver. Faculty who anticipate being asked to inspect problems, such as crop damage or livestock disease, may request a travel waiver for the growing season related to this travel. Out-of-state travel requires a separate travel waiver. A Travel Reference Table is available here for guidance on requesting travel waivers.

COVID-19 Testing

Any member of our community exhibiting signs of COVID-19 must seek immediate medical attention. **If you are feeling ill or have tested positive for COVID-19 and have questions, contact MSU's COVID-19 Triage Hotline at 855-958-2678 or your primary health care provider.**

If you are ill or test positive, you should self-isolate and avoid close contact with others. For students who live on campus, space for isolation will be provided. More information on what to do if you feel sick can be found on the CDC website.

MSU has activated the following testing locations for students, faculty and staff to be tested (please have your insurance information available when going for a test):

Olin Health Center (by appointment only; for students experiencing symptoms)
Regular hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Spartan Stadium, Southeast Concourse, Gate B. No appointment necessary; for all members of the MSU community (faculty, staff and students) whether symptomatic or not.
Regular hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday;

For those individuals outside of the MSU community, testing is available at the stadium only for those with a doctor's note and are either symptomatic or have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

MSU is utilizing its Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to perform COVID-19 diagnostic testing for the MSU community. MSU also is maintaining our close partnership with the Sparrow Health System to help process test samples.

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.

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 May 21st pay date (for time worked from April 25-May 8) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, May 11th.

➢ For the June 4th pay date (for time worked from May 9-22) your time is due by 5 PM on Monday, May 24th (**Early Due Date**).

➢ For the June 18th pay date (for time worked from May 23-June 5) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, June 8th.

MSU Academic Calendar

Spring 2021
April 26-30   Final Exams
April 30   Commencement - Breslin Center Parking Lot
                        8:00 AM – Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
                        For additional information go to
                        https://commencement.msu.edu/

Summer 2021   **Full Session**
May 17   Classes Begin
May 31   Holiday – University Closed
July 2   Middle of Semester
July 5   Holiday – University Closed
August 19   Classes End
Last Class Day   Final Exams

Summer 2021   **Session One**
May 17   Classes Begin
May 31   Holiday – University Closed
June 9   Middle of Semester
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 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
Rachel Jorgensen	eschrach@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	6:30 AM-3:00 PM

Newsletter Submissions

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