

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**

Congratulations!

Two MSU labs receive funding for continued COVID-19 wastewater monitoring

Two MSU labs will receive nearly \$6 million for projects to conduct COVID-19 wastewater surveillance and testing.

The funding is part of a \$49 million grant, supporting 19 local projects from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), to continue wastewater surveillance in areas statewide. Wastewater is tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19 disease that is shed in feces into Michigan public sewer systems.

Joan Rose's [Water Quality and Environmental Microbiology Laboratory](#) and Irene Xagorarakis's [Environmental Virology Laboratory](#) each received funding. Rose's lab will serve as the lead laboratory, responsible for standardizing lab testing and providing technical assistance. Her lab will receive \$3.2 million and Xagorarakis's lab will receive \$2.7 million.

Read the full article [here](#).

MSU Retirement and Service Awards July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

15 Years of Service: **Sandie Litchfield & Heather Rouse**
20 Years of Service: **Bill Widdicombe**
25 Years of Service: **Mario Mandujano**
35 Years of Service: **John Boyse**
40 Years of Service: **Debbie Williams**

Retirements: **Linda Colon, Sandie Litchfield, & Debbie Williams**

Ph.D. Dissertation Defense Seminar

Ph.D. Dissertation Defense Seminar - Crop and Soil Sciences
Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 9:30 AM

Candidate's Name: **Xinyi Tu**

Title of Dissertation: **Soil Health Indicators for Sustainable Agriculture in U.S. and Malawi**

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/8604501752>

Meeting ID: 860 450 1752

Final Oral Examination/Seminar M.S. Degree

Final Oral Examination/Seminar M.S. Degree - Crop and Soil Sciences

Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 9:00 AM

Candidate's Name: **Christian Terwillegar**

Title of Thesis: Effects of Nutrient Management Strategies on Dry Matter and Grain Yield of Soybean and Dry Bean Cropping Systems

Location: PSSB A271

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/91773498121>

Meeting ID: 917 7349 8121 Passcode: BEANS

Final Oral Examination/Seminar M.S. Degree

Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology - Crop and Soil Sciences

Friday, July 30, 2021, at 8:00 AM

Candidate's Name: **William Behling**

Title of Thesis: The Role of Prezygotic Self-Compatibility in Facilitating Interspecific Compatibility in Solanum Section Petota

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/91589805395>

Passcode: behling

Final Oral Examination/Seminar M.S. Degree - Crop and Soil Sciences

Monday, August 2, 2021 at 9:00 AM

Candidates Name: **Sarah Chu**

Title of Thesis: Evaluating Interseeding Corn and Alfalfa Impacts on the Critical Period of Weed Control, Weed Population Dynamics, and Physiological Plant Competition

Location: A271 PSSB

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/94927584785>

Meeting ID: 949 2758 4785 Passcode: Chu

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 28, 2021**

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

Soil Spectroscopy

CSS 893.302 - Fall 2021, 1 Credit

This special topics class is intended for graduate students wishing to gain a better understanding of soil spectroscopy. The class will meet two hours weekly for 10 weeks. Scheduled to be determined on student availability. For additional information see the flyer attached to this newsletter or contact **Dr. Jessica Miesel** (mieselje@msu.edu) or **Faisal Sherif** (sheriffa@msu.edu).

Announcements

GWIS (Graduate Women in Science) Summer Entrepreneurship Event Series

Event #1: Introduction to the Burgess Institute at MSU

Tuesday, July 27th from 5:00-6:00pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

[Register](#)

Event #2: Entrepreneurship and STEM Panel

Tuesday, August 10th from 5:00-6:30pm

Virtual Zoom Webinar

[Register](#)

Event #3: Entrepreneurship Workshop at the MSU Hatch

Tuesday, August 24th from 3:00-6:00pm

In-person Workshop with Dinner!

[Register](#)

Attendees of Event #1 and #2 (virtual) will be eligible to receive a food voucher as a “thank-you” for attending the event(s)! Event #3 will feature an in-person workshop with dinner included. Please reach out to midmichigan@gwis.org with any questions.

Graduate Student Welcome & Resource Fair

A hybrid online & in-person orientation for new & returning students

Saturday, August 28, 2021

- 9:00 AM, 9:30 AM, & 10:00 AM
Virtual Orientation Workshops (Online)
- 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Virtual Resource Fair (Online)
- 2:00-4:00 PM
Fall Welcome: Socially-distanced games, live music, & other fun activities

Please see flyer attached to this newsletter.

Career Services Network Virtual Workshops

Summer Session Two

Writing Resumes and Cover Letters

July 27, 3:00-4:00 PM

Search Strategies: On-Campus, Part-Time, Internships, Full-Time

August 4, 12:00-12:45 PM

Career Advising Help Rooms: Resume and Cover Letter, Search Strategies

August 11, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

August 18, 3:00-5:00 PM

How to Navigate Hybrid Fall Recruiting

August 12, 11:30 AM-12:00 PM

Career Services Network Virtual Workshops Summer Session Two

Virtual Career Fair Prep August 16, 4:00-5:00 PM

Interviewing: In-Person, Video, AI August 17, 2:00-3:00 PM

Visit Handshake (msu.joinhandshake.com) and click **events** to register and receive a Zoom link for each workshop

Accommodations: If you anticipate needing an accommodation to participate in a Career Services program or activity, or have questions about accessibility, please contact Career Services ahead of time at 517-355-9510 or email

CareerServices@csp.msu.edu.

Professional Development

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](#)

Crucial Conversations (Live, Online Course)

August 9 from 1:30-4:30 PM, August 10 from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM,
and August 12 from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

By learning how to speak and be heard (and encouraging others to do the same), you'll begin to surface the best ideas, make the highest quality decisions, and then act on your decisions with unity and commitment. Learn step by step tools for promoting open, honest dialogue around high-stakes, emotional, or risky topics - at all levels of your organization. [View Course Details](#)

Job Announcements

Technical Aide

Job # 720830

Corn Field Research Assistant

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/507292/technical-aide>

Technical Aide

Job # 720831

Technical Aide

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/507291/technical-aide>

Job Announcements

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>

Travel

MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar: Request, Travel, Expense

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

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

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>

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>

COVID-19 Updates

- Beginning August 1st, all campus buildings will be open during regular business hours.
- Offices that have student and public facing operations are expected to be staffed beginning August 16th.
- As of June 28th, MSU has lived most of the COVID-19 mandates to align with state and federal guidelines.
- Wearing masks and physical distancing is no longer required on MSU property (regardless of vaccination status), however these options may be utilized at any time as a personal choice.
- Consistent hand hygiene (cleaning and disinfection) is always a good practice.
- Vaccinations are not mandated for students, faculty or staff members; however, they do provide the best defense against contracting COVID-19. Members of the MSU community can receive a free COVID-19 vaccine through the MSU Health Care Pharmacy.
- MSU will not tolerate discrimination, including any harassment with respect to a person's right to choose to, or to not, be vaccinated, wear a mask, etc.
- We must support and respect others as they make personal decisions about their health and safety.
- Information on building preparations, air circulation, cleaning protocols and other IPF building services can be found [here](#).
- MSU Returning To On-Site Work website [Coronavirus Updates \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/coronavirus)

MSU Academic Calendar

Summer 2021

August 19
Last Class Day

Full Session

Classes End
Final Exams

Summer 2021

July 28
August 19
Last Class Day

Session Two

Middle of Semester
Classes End
Final Exams

Fall 2021

September 1
September 6
October 20
October 25-26
November 25-26
December 12
December 13-17
December 24-27
December 17-18
Dec 31 - Jan 3

Classes Begin
Holiday - University Closed
Middle of Semester
Break Days
Holiday - University Closed
Classes End
Final Exams
Holiday - University Closed
Commencements
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 August 13th pay date (for time worked from July 18-31) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 3rd.
- For the August 27th pay date (for time worked from August 1-14) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 17th.
- For the September 10th pay date (for time worked from August 15-28) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 31st.

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

July 26	August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	September 13, 20, 27
October 4, 11, 18, 25	November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	December 6, 13, 20, 27

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

Meeting ID: 985 4966 6083

Passcode: 001550

PSM Chairperson

Brian Horgan	horganb@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM - 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 - 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	mccclung@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM - 4 PM

PSM Human Resources Team psm.hr@msu.edu

Hannah O'Mara	omarahan@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM - 5 PM
Christiina Donley	tymoszew@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM - 5 PM
Mackenzie Graham	graham2@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM - 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 - 5 PM
Lee Duynslager	duynslag@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM - 4:30 PM

Newsletter Submissions

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