

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Eunice Foster**, **Bruno Basso** and Adjunct Professor **Brad Day** for being elected an AAAS Fellow for the class of 2021. "Election as a Fellow honors members whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications in service to society have distinguished them among their peers and colleagues". [2021 AAAS Fellows | American Association for the Advancement of Science](#)

Seminars/Webinars

February 3, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Dr. Cecilia McGregor, University of Georgia

Title: Where the Wild Things Are: Using Crop Wild Relatives for Watermelon Improvement

PSSB A149 (hybrid format)

February 10, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Dr. Imtiaz Khanday, UC Davis

Title: Clonal Seeds: Lessons from Plant Zygote Development

PSSB A149 (hybrid format)

February 17, 2022 at 4:10 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar Series

Dr. Ann Bybee-Finley, Michigan State University

Title: Advances in Crop Diversification Strategies to Enhance Resilience

PSSB A149 (hybrid format)

February 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM

MSU College of Education, Urban Education Speaker Series

Maisha Winn

From reacting to reimagining: Toward a Transformative Justice Education

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

PSM Faculty Meetings

Friday, March 18, 2022, 2:00-4:00 PM Faculty Meeting
Friday, May 13, 2022, 1:00-5:00 PM RPT No Action Meeting

PSSB A271 (in person with Zoom option)
Calendar invite has been sent with Zoom login and password information

Announcements

Booster Verification Process is Now Live

- Booster verification process is now live using MSU's [vaccine verification form](#). Individuals also can request an exemption to the booster mandate using the verification form.
- Booster clinics are being held January 31st and February 17th at the Breslin Center.
- KN95 masks will be available to employees and students with valid MSU ID.

CANR SAC Staff Award Nominations

MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Staff Advisory Committee (CANR SAC) is thrilled to announce three new support staff awards for 2022! Support staff nominations are sought for the *Innovation Award*, *Service Award*, and *Dean's Award of Distinction* to recognize outstanding support staff within CANR. Individuals may be nominated by any member of the CANR community (coworkers, faculty, students, supervisors). Award recipients will receive a monetary award, be recognized at the CANR Annual Awards Ceremony, and invited to a luncheon with the Dean along with other award recipients. **Nominations are due January 31.**

Visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/sac/awards> for details, nomination criteria and to submit a nomination today!

Employee Recognition Bonus FAQ

Announced in December, employees will be receiving a one-time recognition bonus this month. If you have questions about the bonus, please see the MSU HR's frequently asked questions page. [Employee Recognition Bonus FAQ](#)

Tax Forms Issued to MSU

As part of the calendar year end, departments may receive various IRS/State/Local tax forms (Form 1099-MISC, 1099-NEC, 1099-K, Municipality Personal Property Tax Forms) addressed to Michigan State University.

Any tax forms where Michigan State University is the recipient should be forwarded to the Tax Services Office, 426 Auditorium Rd Room 301.

Any questions regarding this announcement should be directed to the Tax Services office at taxreporting@ctrl.msu.edu or 355-5029.

Announcements

The deadline for students, faculty and staff to receive a COVID-19 booster and submit their information is February 1, 2022. Booster clinic will be held on January 31 at Breslin from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The clinic is open to the campus community and the public, and all 3 FDA approved or authorized vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) will be available.

What you need to know:

- Bring a valid ID (MSU student/employee IDs are acceptable).
- Bring your vaccination card if available.
- Appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made via the health department website at [Schedule Appointment with Ingham County Health Department \(acuityscheduling.com\)](https://www.acuityscheduling.com)
Walk-ins will be accepted until 5:45 PM each day.
- Free parking is available in Lot 63 off Harrison Road, to the south of Breslin.
- Enter Breslin using the southeast Hall of History entrance by the Magic Johnson statue.
- Arrive 10-15 minutes before your appointment. Wear clothing with short sleeves and do not fast before your appointment if possible.
- If you need transportation, CATA provides free transportation across campus. [MSU-Campus-No-Index-Aug21.jpg \(4000x3556\) \(cata.org\)](https://www.cata.org)

Annual Fume Hood Testing - Molecular Plant Sciences (MPS)

When will this occur? January 24-28

What is happening and why? Air flow measurement and inspection of fume hoods and other local exhaust ventilation used for containment of hazardous exhaust. The annual testing is required by OSHA and the MSU Chemical Hygiene Plan.

How will this affect me? The fume hood or other local exhaust will be unavailable for about 15 minutes during testing. Hoods found to be unsatisfactory will be tagged (minor problem) or barricade taped (unsafe to use) as out of service. Please submit an IPF Service Request for repairs.

What do I need to do?

- Please notify all personnel in your department. Your cooperation during this time is appreciated.
- Do not work in hoods with barricade tape until hood is repaired.
- For more information, please visit the EHS website at [Fume Hoods and Local Exhaust Ventilation \(LEV\) | Environmental Health & Safety | Michigan State University \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/ehs)

Update MSU Alert Settings

To ensure faculty and staff receive all emergency alerts, MSU Police ask employees to update their emergency information periodically. [Read more.](#)

SafeMSU App

Designed with input from students, faculty and staff, the SafeMSU app provides access to valuable safety resources direct to Spartan's hands. A key feature of the app is the virtual friend walk. This function allows Spartans to share their location with a friend in real-time so they can follow their progress to their destination.

[Learn more and download](#)

Announcements

MSU EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Training January-April 2022

What is it for?

This training covers employees and students conducting research-related and/or plant production activities in areas where pesticides are applied. The WPS training will **occur via Zoom** and includes an annual instructor-led video presentation. An additional WPS site-specific training is also required for each location/facility you visit.

How do I sign up?

- **** You must add the track in Ability before you can sign up in the calendar****
 - To add the track, go to <https://ehs.msu.edu/training/index.html>. Once logged in, click the “My Menu” tab → click “My Requirements” → click the green plus sign → choose “Worker Protection Standard” from the drop-down menu → click the “Next” button.
- To Select a Training, go to → Training Tab → Ability Login Button → Login with MSU NetID → Extra Courses Tab → Calendar → Look for Training session you wish to join → Click on the Training → Sign up by Clicking “Register”
 - **You must sign up for the Training at least 24 hours before the class.**
 - **You will receive an enrollment confirmation email after enrolling with instructions for logging in on the day of training.**
 - There will be NO additional training sessions scheduled so please plan ahead accordingly.
 - Processing paperwork may take up to 1 week after training is complete, so please plan ahead when scheduling your training, as this may affect updating access to card-swipe facilities.

Completed Training is NOT Official until your Signed Training Record is received.

Wednesday, February 2	10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Tuesday, February 15	2:30-4:00 PM
Wednesday, February 23	2:30-4:00 PM
Wednesday, March 2	10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Tuesday, March 15	2:30-4:00 PM
Wednesday, March 23	2:30-4:00 PM
Monday, April 4	2:30-4:00 PM
Wednesday, April 13	10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Tuesday, April 26	2:30-4:00 PM

*Classes for May-December will be scheduled no later than March 15.

Career Services Network Online Workshops Spring 2022 Semester Series

January 28, 2022, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM via Zoom

Writing Resumes and Cover Letters

Writing professional documents can seem overwhelming. Let us help you share your unique story by writing and formatting effective resumes and cover letters.

February 1, 2022, 9:00-10:00 AM via Zoom

OPT 101: The Application Process

For international students graduating in May and seeking to better understand Optional Practical Training, eligibility, and the application process.

February 8, 2022, 4:00-5:00 PM via Zoom

Using Career Exploration Resources

Discover how to match your interests and values with a major and career path that excites you. Learn about the many resources for exploring options, finding mentors, and making connections.

February 22, 2022, 4:00-5:00 PM via Zoom

Preparing for Interviews

Gain tips and insight for successful interviewing and what employers expect from candidates in online and virtual interviews that will help you gain a competitive advantage.

February 23, 2022, 4:00-5:00 PM via Zoom

Writing Resumes and Cover Letters

Writing professional documents can seem overwhelming. Let us help you share your unique story by writing and formatting effective resumes and cover letters.

April 7, 2022, 6:00-7:00 PM via Zoom

Writing Resumes and Cover Letters

Writing professional documents can seem overwhelming. Let us help you share your unique story by writing and formatting effective resumes and cover letters.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION & ZOOM LINKS

To register for any of the workshops and to receive the Zoom link for participation, log into Handshake at msu.joinhandshake.com.

CAREER ADVISING

Schedule a 1:1 career advising appointment to explore career options, get assistance with your resume or cover letter, to discuss options for graduate school, or to help you prep for an upcoming interview. Advising appointments are scheduled through Handshake at msu.joinhandshake.com. Once logged in, click on “Career Center” and then “Appointments.”

CAREER FAIRS & EVENTS

View the full schedule of Spring 2022 career fairs and submit your resume to participating employers in advance for interview opportunities through Handshake at msu.joinhandshake.com. You can also view all scheduled employer-hosted information sessions to learn about jobs, internships, industries, and companies.

Upcoming MSU Professional Development Opportunities

[Implicit Bias Certificate Series \(msu.edu\)](#)

Three-session series begins February 1

Examine the multiple facets of implicit bias and the impact on our community through a series of modules. The curriculum will include a blend of pre-recorded segments, articles and videos to complete independently prior to three live, online Zoom discussions to address questions and deepen understanding of the concepts.

[Promapp, Interactive Process Creation - February 2](#)

Learners will continue their process improvement journey and build upon the knowledge and skills learned in *Introduction to Process Mapping*.

[Crucial Conversations - Starts February 8](#)

Learn how to hold crucial conversations - where emotions and stakes are high and opinions vary.

[Creating and Sustaining a Positive Workplace - February 15](#)

This course provides humorous insight into the seven habits of negativity, including tips to stop gossip, techniques for getting along with others, and strategies to reap the many benefits of a positive and engaged workforce.

[The Power of Habit - February 16](#)

Learn how habits are created and how to replace undesirable habits with productive ones.

[Strategic Planning - February 17](#)

Participants will gain a foundational base for implementing strategic planning in a unit.

[Vendors in KFS - February 22](#)

This class will cover the various types of vendors in KFS and when to use them, how to add and edit a vendor, including documentation required, and tips on searching for a vendor.

[Records Management and Retention at MSU - February 23](#)

Learn the rules, regulations, and strategies to help manage university records.

You can find all the current virtual [Organization and Professional Development courses on the HR website](#). Class enrollment is completed within the [EBS Portal](#). Employees may use available [educational assistance](#) funds towards course fees (if any).

Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences Job Announcements

Research Assistant II

Job # 759179

The Potato and Sugar Beet Pathology program in Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at MSU is seeking a highly motivated individual to work as a member of the pathology research program.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509218/research-assistant-ii>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 749382

A postdoctoral position is available in the Day Lab at Michigan State University in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508788/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 738547

The (Merewitz) Holm plant physiology laboratory at MSU is looking for a post-doctoral researcher. The research will focus on winterkill and other abiotic stresses of turfgrasses and agricultural grass species such as wheat and barley.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508268/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 737350

We seek an excellent post-doctoral associate to conduct research exploring plant-microbiome mediators of plant stress resilience. Strong quantitative skills and experience with bioinformatic and statistical analyses of microbial communities is expected. The successful applicant will be independent, motivated, and able to work as part of a collaborative team.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508193/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 733007

Postdoctoral research associate position is available to work with the **Dr. Alexandra Kravchenko** and **Dr. Andrey Guber** team.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/kravchenko_alexandra

https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/andrey_guber

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508029/research-associatefixed-term>

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

Job Announcements

Research and Extension Agronomist

Open to applicants located in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, or Missouri only.

We are seeking an agronomist to bridge our perennial groundcover (PGC) research and discovery efforts with the growers we support. Perennial groundcover systems combine row crops (e.g. corn, soybean, or perennial grains) with low-growing perennial groundcovers (e.g. clovers) to produce high yields of grain while minimizing soil loss and regenerating soil water, carbon, and nutrient cycles. Providing technical and agronomic support to early adopters of PGC systems, PGC researchers, and PGC civic scientists throughout the Midwest will be critical for success in this role. PGC extension agronomist will be supervised by the lead scientist of the perennial legume program at The Land Institute while also collaborating with members of the crop stewardship and civic science programs. The position is open to applicants located in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri.

To be considered for this position, interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references to careers@landinstitute.org

[Research-and-Extension-Agronomist-1.pdf \(landinstitute.org\)](#)

Applications Developer

This position is open for remote work.

We seek an Applications Developer to join our staff at The Land Institute to develop and implement breeding and agronomic data management systems that enhance the capacity for our research staff and our global network of collaborators to create perennial grain crops and cropping systems. The successful applicant will become part of a highly collaborative, multidisciplinary team with a strong shared mission to improve humanity's long-term food security and planetary ecosystem services. Open-source tools and platforms have already been built for public and private breeding and agronomic research efforts in major commodity crops. This project leverages those software development efforts to create a cloud-deployed, easy-to-use genetic, phenotypic, agronomic, and environmental data management system that includes databases and analysis/decision support tools for perennial grains breeders and agronomists working in monoculture and intercropping systems. This position can be remote.

To be considered for this position, interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references to careers@landinstitute.org.

[Applications-Developer.pdf \(landinstitute.org\)](#)

Travel

In order to comply with the **federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure** of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, Michigan State University must disclose statistics for certain crimes that occurred at non-campus buildings or property. Non-campus locations include short-stay “away” trips involving students, requiring MSU to collect and disclose statistics for various trips off campus. To be able to fulfill compliance obligations regarding these locations, an additional question has been added to MS’s Concur expense report to collect statistics for those short-term trips. A screen shot is provided for reference. All other components of the Expense Report remain unchanged. This change will take effect January 4, 2022.

The screenshot shows a Concur Expense Report form. The form includes fields for Policy, Report Trip Name, Report Trip Start Date, Report Trip End Date, Primary Report Trip Purpose, Secondary Trip Purpose, Trip Description, Does this trip include personal travel?, Were MSU students part of this trip?, Traveler Type, Visa Payment Needed?, Object Code, Account, SubObject, and Project. A red arrow points to the 'None Selected' option in the 'Were MSU students part of this trip?' dropdown menu.

MSU is continuing to review all international travel proposals on a case-by-case basis. However, with the high campus COVID-19 vaccination rate and many international borders starting to reopen, the provost, associate provost and dean of ISP, and the university physician have approved streamlining the review process for *most* international travelers. Travel requests for faculty, staff and guests no longer require additional review by the [Faculty and Staff Travel Review \(FASTR\) committee](#), *unless* the traveler is unvaccinated or the destination is considered high-risk for non-COVID safety and/or security reasons.

PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

For faculty, staff, and sponsored guests traveling on official MSU international travel, please review the [international travel waiver process](#) managed by ISP’s [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#).

STEP 1—MAU APPROVAL:

1. The traveler fills out and submits the MAU Form to their dean, associate dean or relevant MAU administrator for approval.
2. Once the MAU Form is signed, the traveler must submit an online International Travel Waiver Request detailing their health and safety plan.
3. The MAU can be found [here](#).

STEP 2—REVIEW:

1. Following the submission process, ISP’s Office for Global Health, Safety and Security will review the request, focusing on the country’s COVID-19 and security risk factors.
 - Non-higher-risk: Vaccinated travelers will receive approval notification.
 - Higher-risk: The travel request will be referred to FASTR for full review. This includes travel to [high-risk destinations](#) and/or travel by unvaccinated individuals.
2. ISP’s Office for Global Health, Safety and Security will email the traveler detailing next steps specific to the travel in the follow-up communications, including:
 1. Registration in MSU’s Global Travel Registry
 2. Resources regarding international health and travel insurance
 3. Acknowledgement of Risk Form
 4. Options for supplemental trip interruption insurance to offset Quarantines or trip interruptions

Please refer to the [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#) for additional detail regarding the review process, higher-risk travel and a tip sheet.

Travel

Enterprise and National Car Rental reminder:

- Recently, there have been some issues related to MSU travelers running in to higher-than-expected rental car pricing or, worse, loss damage waiver insurance not included with reservations. In each case, it was because the MSU renter had not updated their Emerald Club profile per the September 2021 listserv email. If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to review the information attached to this newsletter and follow the steps outlined there.

Triplt Pro COVID-19 enhancement:

- As an MSU employee, you have access to Triplt Pro edition. Triplt Pro is a mobile app that enables travelers to check in one place for all of their trip details, and get notifications as things happen throughout your trip.
- Triplt Pro recently updated their tool to include COVID-19 travel guidance. To learn about this enhancement, visit: <https://www.tripit.com/web/blog/news-culture/covid19-guidance-travel-plans.html>
- To download the Triplt app to your mobile device, go to: <https://www.tripit.com/web/free/download>
 - Download the Pro version-the \$49/year fee is waived for MSU employees by using your .msu.edu email address as user id.

Michigan Flyer Updates:

- Michigan Flyer recently moved their reservations services online.
 - To make a reservation, click on the following url: <https://www.michiganflyer.com/>
 - While still accepting bookings over the phone, they now charge a service fee for phone reservations.
- A credit card will need to be provided at time of reservation to pay for the transfer. Direct bill of transfers has been discontinued.
- For more information on Michigan Flyer, their schedules and customer support contact information, visit: <http://ctrl.msu.edu/COTravelNEW/GroundTranService.aspx>
- If traveling on approved MSU business, Michigan Flyer costs can be reimbursed as part of an Expense Reimbursement request. This includes if booking on behalf of a guest and paying on behalf of that guest.

Concur resources -- Travel@State:

- Whether you have experience with Concur or easing back in to Concur Request / Travel / Expense, Travel@State provides a host of helpful resources in the [Education](#) section [Reference Library](#). User guides, How To's, new videos, and more. We hear frequently that users are rusty because it has been a year or 2 since accessing Concur. Travel@State has the tools and tips that will help refamiliarize you with Concur.

TRAVEL SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Travel related questions: travel@ctrl.msu.edu
- Concur and Expense related questions: concurhelp@ctrl.msu.edu

PSM Chairperson

Brian Horgan 517-353-0120	horganb@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
AnnMarie Guldner 517-353-0120	guldner1@msu.edu	Assistant to the Department Chairperson	

PSM Accounting Team psm.accounting@msu.edu

Lisa Bowen 517-353-0161	bowenli1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:00 AM-3:30 PM Working remotely on Thursdays & Fridays
Gina Centeno 517-353-0105	centeno@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:15 AM - 2:30 PM Working remotely on Mondays & Tuesdays
Kim McClung 517-353-0102	mcclungk@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:00 AM-4:00 PM Working remotely on Wednesdays
Emily Williams 517-353-0106	emilywil@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM

PSM Human Resources Team psm.hr@msu.edu

Jordan Davis 517-353-0139	davis432@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Christiina Donley 517-242-0473	tymoszew@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM Working remotely Monday-Friday
Mackenzie Graham 517-353-0111	graham2@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
AnnMarie Guldner 517-353-0120	guldner1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-4:00 PM
Hannah O'Mara 517-353-0104	omarahan@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Communications

Patty Bonito	bonitopa@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	9:00 AM-1:00 PM
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PSM IT Team

Dominic Colosimo 517-353-0107	colosi14@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM Working remotely on Tuesdays & Thursdays
Lee Duynslager 517-432-5296	duynslag@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-4:30 PM

MSU Academic Calendar Spring 2022

- **March 2, 2022**
Middle of Semester
- **March 7-11, 2022**
Spring Break
- **April 29, 2022**
Classes End
- **May 2-6, 2022**
Commencements

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 February 11th pay date (for time worked from January 16-29) your time is due by Tuesday, February 1.
- For the February 25th pay date (for time worked from January 30-February 12) your time is **due by Monday, February 14. (Early)**
- For the March 11th pay date (for time worked from February 13-26) your time is due by Tuesday, March 1.

Newsletter Submissions

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