

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT****Congratulations!**

Congratulations to **Ray Hammerschmidt** as he received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from the Michigan Potato Commission!

Dr. David Douches, Director of our Potato Breeding and Genetics Program and Director of our Plant Breeding Genetics and Biotechnology Graduate Program will continue as Director of a now global effort funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Feed the Future Initiative. Douches has been awarded a five-year, \$13 million award for a collaborative partnership led by Michigan State University. The Feed the Future Global Biotech Potato Partnership will bring late blight disease resistant potatoes in farmer-preferred varieties to the Asian countries of Bangladesh and Indonesia, and the African countries of Kenya and Nigeria. An additional \$7 million of funding is possible for related research based on USAID Country Mission priorities. This may expand the Activity into other Feed the Future target countries.

More information can be found at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/13m-usaid-award-for-global-biotech-potato>

Seminars/Webinars

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

Insurance Reimbursement for At-Home COVID Tests

The federal government recently issued new requirements for the reimbursement of at-home COVID-19 tests. Information about qualifying tests and the process for reimbursement is available based on your employee type and insurance plan.

[Coronavirus Benefit Resources \(msu.edu\)](#)

FSA Deadline Reminder for your 2021 Funds

Don't lose your money! If you signed up for a health care FSA, dependent care FSA or both in 2021 and still have funds remaining in your account, you have a grace period in 2022 to use these funds. The grace period gives you time to purchase new products or services before you forfeit unused 2021 funds.

[FSA Deadline Reminder for 2021 Funds - SourceLive Home \(msu.edu\)](#)

Nominations are Open for the Student Employee of the Year Award

Working at MSU, you know how important student employees are to the success of your department and the university. Do you know a student who consistently goes above and beyond in their work? Supervisors have the chance to recognize these exemplary Spartans by nominating them for the Student Employee of the Year award by February 11, 2022.

[Nominations are Open for the Student Employee of the Year Award! - SourceLive Home \(msu.edu\)](#)

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.

COVID-19 booster clinic will be held Feb. 17 at Breslin Center

The next COVID-19 booster clinic will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 17 at Breslin Center. The clinic is open to the campus community and the public, and all three FDA-approved or -authorized vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) will be available. Appointments are strongly encouraged. [Read more](#)

90-Day Time Limit for Out-of-Pocket Reimbursements

To align MSU's out-of-pocket reimbursement policy with the current travel reimbursement policy and IRS regulations, section 75 of the Manual of Business Procedures is being updated. Beginning April 1, 2022, out-of-pocket reimbursements will require submission within 90 days of the transaction/purchase date. Those not submitted within 90 days will not be reimbursed. This update will be reflected in the Manual of Business Procedures Section 75 on April 1, 2022.

2021 W2s Are Available Online

2021 W2s are now available online in EBS. There are now two links to W-2 documents in the EBS portal. If you are unable to see the tile, please contact the IT Help Desk.

- The tile "W-2 Reprint" is for the new W-2 system, which will contain W-2 documents for the tax year 2021 and onward.
- The link "W-2 Archive" (below the tiles) is to the prior W-2 system and contains W-2 documents for the tax year 2020 and prior.

Announcements

How to Tell Cold, Flu and COVID-19 Symptoms Apart

Find out if your sneezes and sniffles are a cold, the flu or COVID-19 from the experts at MSU Health Care Pharmacy.

[How to tell cold and flu symptoms apart - MSU Health Care Pharmacy](#)

Weekly Coronavirus Communications Updates

Every week, University Communications prepares a summary of all the recent coronavirus-related information. To help employees stay up to date on announcements and activities, those summaries are now available on the Together We Will website. [Weekly Coronavirus Communications Update | TOGETHER WE WILL | Michigan State University \(msu.edu\)](#)

Free Courses Available from the MSU IT Training Team

The MSU IT Training Team is offering no-cost virtual instructor-led trainings for all students, faculty, and staff to become more familiar with the technology available at MSU. A mix of beginner and intermediate courses are available about several of our primary collaboration tools: Zoom, Spartan 365, and specific Microsoft applications like Teams, OneNote, and OneDrive.

[Technology at MSU - Free courses available from the MSU IT Training Team | Michigan State University](#)

Complimentary On-Campus Parking Extended

Due to the temporary reduction in CATA service frequency on campus, complimentary parking at pay-by-plate and metered pay stations has been extended through March 13. [Read More](#)

ANTON LANG AWARDS FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Each spring semester the Plant Research Lab hosts a special seminar in honor of the lab's founding director, **Anton Lang**. In conjunction with the seminar, awards are made to a graduate student and a postdoctoral research associate who exemplify the research excellence, ideals, dedication and vision of **Anton Lang**. Each recipient will receive a cash award and a gift. The names of the speaker and the two award winners are engraved on the plaque that hangs outside the Anton Lang Conference Room.

The PRL Personnel Affairs Committee (PAC) is now soliciting nominations for the graduate student and postdoctoral research associate awards. Research excellence is the primary criterion. Other scholarly activities may also be considered. Postdoctoral and graduate student awardees will be selected on the basis of research carried out while at MSU. Awards will be presented by the PRL Director at a reception immediately preceding the Anton Lang Memorial lecture, which is given during the Molecular Plant Sciences Program seminar series.

Eligibility: Nominees must currently be active in plant science research at MSU. Nominations for student and postdoctoral awards should consist of a nominating letter from the nominee's research mentor, the curriculum vitae of the nominee, and any supplemental material deemed appropriate by the person making the nomination. Supplemental materials may include: reprints, letters of support from colleagues at MSU, and other documentation of research excellence and scholarly activities. Nominations should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to hoeve5@msu.edu (Eunice Van Ells, 106 Plant Biology) by February 14, 2022. Questions may be directed to the Chair of the PAC, **Jianping Hu** (huji@msu.edu).

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.

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

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

[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

Professional Aide

Job # 762932

Potato Outreach Program Research Aide

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509490/professional-aide>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 761103

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 organelle crosstalks.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509487/research-associatefixed-term>

Botanical Technologist I

Job # 762515

Participates in the collection, development, and maintenance of diverse plant materials to assist in or independently participate in the maintenance of the botanical garden, greenhouse operations, and associated field research.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509484/botanical-technologist-i>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 760374

This individual will coordinate on-farm research and outreach/extension for a competitively-funded project involving 19 states. The project seeks to quantify resilience of diverse, perennial, circular forage systems to environmental, economic, and social stressors using a paired-farm design with 50 farm pairs across the USA.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/509436/research-associatefixed-term>

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>

Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences Job Announcements

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>

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, and 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 with the following fields:

- Policy: *TEST MSU-Profiled Traveler Expe...
- Report/Trip Name: [Empty]
- Report/Trip Start Date: MM/DD/YYYY
- Report/Trip End Date: MM/DD/YYYY
- Primary Report/Trip Purpose: None Selected
- Secondary Trip Purpose: None Selected
- Trip Description: [Empty]
- Does this trip include personal travel?: None Selected
- Were MSU students part of this trip?: None Selected (highlighted with a red arrow)
- Traveler Type: None Selected
- Special Payment Needs: None Selected
- Wire Payment Needed?: No
- Account: Search by Code
- Subaccount: [Empty]
- Object Code: None Selected
- SubObject: Search by Code
- Project: Search by Code

Travel

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 SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

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.

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 7-11, 2022	Spring Break
April 29, 2022	Classes End
May 2-6, 2022	Commencements

Summer 2022 Full Session

May 16, 2022	Classes Begin
May 30, 2022	Holiday - University Closed
July 1, 2022	Middle of Semester
July 4, 2022	Holiday - University Closed
August 18, 2022	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

Summer 2022 Session One

May 16, 2022	Classes Begin
May 30, 2022	Holiday - University Closed
June 8, 2022	Middle of Semester
June 30, 2022	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

Summer 2022 Session Two

July 5, 2022	Classes Begin
July 27, 2022	Middle of Semester
August 18, 2022	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams

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 25th pay date (for time worked from January 30-February 12) your time is **due by Monday, February 14th. (Early)**
- For the March 11th pay date (for time worked from February 13-26) your time is due by Tuesday, March 1st.
- For the March 25th pay date (for time worked from February 27-March 12) your time is due by Tuesday, March 15th.

Newsletter Submissions

Send newsletter submissions to **AnnMarie Guldner** at guldner1@msu.edu

Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM