

**PLANT SOIL  
& MICROBIAL  
SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT**



**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to **Frances Trail** for being elected a Fellow in the American Phytopathological Society!



**Seminars/Webinars**

**March 8, 2021 at 1:00 PM**

**Plant Resilience Institute Seminar Series**

**Francois Tardieu**, Director of research, French National Institute for agriculture  
Laboratory of plant ecophysiology under Environmental Stress

Seminar Title: Identifying combinations of alleles for the diversity of conditions associated with climate change, based on phenomics + genomic prediction + modeling

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93571323512>

Password: 100003

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**March 10, 2021**

**2021 Agtech Innovation Summit**

Virtual event

University of Illinois Research Park

Additional Information: <https://researchpark.illinois.edu/events/agtechsummit/>

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**March 10, 2021 at 4:00 PM**

**Plant Resilience Institute PRI Fellow Candidates**

**Brittni Kelley**, University of Tennessee

Seminar Title: A tale of two systems: From a gastrointestinal pathogen to the impact of drought on plant resilience

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98293674925?pwd=R09zZVVkMlk4Zko4SVlrSlZZdDBLUT09>

Meeting ID: 982 9367 4925

Passcode: PRIFELLOW

## Seminars / Webinars

**March 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM**

**HORT/PSM Spring Seminar**

**Dr. Eric Brennan, USDA-ARS**

Title: DIY video making tips to help you share your science on YouTube

Horticulture Organization of Graduate Students Invited Speaker

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/94865185229>

Passcode: 149149

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**March 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM**

**Plant Resilience Institute PRI Fellow Candidates**

**Rachel MacTavish, University of Georgia**

Seminar Title: Enhancing plant resilience to novel soil environments via plant-soil interactions

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98293674925?pwd=R09zZVVkMlk4Zko4SVlrSlZZdDBLUT09>

Meeting ID: 982 9367 4925

Passcode: PRIFELLOW

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**March 15, 2021 at 1:30 PM**

**PLP 894 Seminar Series**

**Presenter: Shay Shemanski**

Title: Fruit Microbiome of Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Varies by Tissue Type and Fungicide Treatment

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

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**March 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM**

**Dr. Erika Edwards, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University**

Seminar Title: The distinct yet occasionally interconnecting evolutionary trajectories of C4 and CAM photosynthesis in plants

<https://plantresilience.msu.edu/events/2021-events/>

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**March 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM**

**Women's Networking Association**

**Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series**

Shortlisted: Women in the Shadows of the Supreme Court

**Renee Knake Jefferson, Professor of Law and MSU Board of Trustees**

Register: <https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0uf-ioqzwrGdGYx8zBMK6a3f0LqSnVO2rp>

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**March 22, 2021 at 1:30 PM**

**PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021**

**Presenter: Jill Check**

Title: Epidemiology of Tar Spot of Corn

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

## Seminars / Webinars

March 29, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: **Ross Hatlen**

Title: *Diaporthe humulicola*: and Emerging Threat to the Michigan Hop Industry

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

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March 31, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Women's Networking Association

Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series

Assertiveness: The Secret Ingredient to Self-Care & Unlocking Your Untapped Power

**NiCole Buchanan, Ph.D.** Professor in the Department of Psychology at MSU

Register: [https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk)

[2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk)

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April 5, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: **Stanley Berly**

Title: Examination of Factors impacting *Cercospora beticola*.

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

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April 12, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: **Tara Watkins**

Title: Utilizing RNAi to Manage Fusarium Head Blight in barley

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

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April 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: **Bryan Rennick**

MS Defense Seminar: "Target Mycorrhizal Fungi Utilization in Nursery and Forest Cropping Systems"

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

## Upcoming MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events

APIDA/A Virtual Listening Space

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 1:00-2:00 PM

A virtual listening space facilitated by CAPS staff.

Register [here](#).

Have questions? Email **BaoChun** at [hindbaoc@msu.edu](mailto:hindbaoc@msu.edu).

## Upcoming MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events (continued)

### APIDA/A Virtual Listening Space

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 from 1:00-2:00 PM

A virtual listening space facilitated by CAPS Staff.

Register [here](#).

Have questions? Email BaoChun at [hindbaoc@msu.edu](mailto:hindbaoc@msu.edu).

## Announcements

### Building Sign In/Out Logs at PSM Farms

Ag Bio is discontinuing the requirements of sign in/out logs at the Research Farms. Individual Farm Managers have the option to continue using the system. **Gary Zehr** and **Mike Particka** will be discontinuing the sign in/out system because the COVID-19 contact tracers do not ask for that type of information.

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### Membership Dues

Because of limited resources to carry out the mission of the University, funds are not available to pay all the numerous and various membership dues. Membership due payments require departmental approval prior to payment. Please see additional Membership Dues information attached to this newsletter.

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### Remember to update your MSU alert settings

To ensure faculty and staff receive all emergency alerts, MSU Police asks employees to periodically update their emergency information.

Additional Information:

[https://alert.msu.edu/?sc\\_campaign=14CD019AFA0748EE8B69B95803741D92&utm\\_source=insidemSU-email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=standard-promo](https://alert.msu.edu/?sc_campaign=14CD019AFA0748EE8B69B95803741D92&utm_source=insidemSU-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=standard-promo)

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### Building Access

If building access is needed, please remember to have your PI email **AnnMarie Guldner** ([guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)) directly with this request. Requests cannot be accepted from anyone other than your PI.

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### PSM Office Coverage

We will be staffing the PSM office on Wednesdays for essential needs only (Ex: keys). An appointment needs to be made prior by contacting **AnnMarie Guldner** at either [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu) or 517-353-0120. No drop ins will be allowed.

## Mental Health Resources for Employees

### Health4U Resources

The following MSU Health4U virtual courses and meetups are available (some require registration):

- **MSU Grief and Loss Support**: Specialized counselors facilitate weekly on-line support sessions on Tuesdays for those experiencing grief and loss.
- **Naming and Navigating Ambiguous Loss**: Join this webinar on Friday, Feb. 19 to learn about the idea of ambiguous loss and unresolved grief, particularly regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Breaking Free from the Monkey Mind**: This is a four-week course beginning on March 3, based on the book “Don’t Feed the Monkey Mind: How to Stop the Cycle of Anxiety, Worry and Fear” by Jennifer Shannon, LMFT.
- **Essential Skills for Navigating Difficult Times**: The purpose of this eight-week course is to build emotional resilience and psychological flexibility skills to help you navigate the work/life challenges we face, especially as our work and home life have been combined.

### Employee Assistance Program Counseling Services

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential counseling service provided at no cost to MSU faculty, staff, retirees, graduate student employees, and their families. Learn how to make an appointment on the [EAP website](#). These appointments are offered virtually through Zoom.

## COVID-19 Updates

### For Faculty and Staff

For further information from the university, please visit: <https://msu.edu/together-well/faculty-staff/>

### Working

- The MSU campus remains open for essential functions only. More information about working remotely is available at: [remote.msu.edu](https://remote.msu.edu).
- Returning to campus: The Ingham County Health Department has issued an emergency order requiring all employees still reporting to work to answer health screening options. To facilitate compliance with this order, we are directing you to this [Covid-19 Workplace Health Screening Form](#) to be filled out prior to each time you enter your campus building.
- Access to high-speed internet is critical for working remotely. Please visit the following link for resources that are available: <https://remote.msu.edu/learning/internet.html>

### Travel

- **All university-sponsored travel (international and domestic) is suspended indefinitely.** This includes new travel as well as any currently booked trips.
- A waiver may be requested for essential international travel for a traveler on an approved international assignment to return to the U.S. or their home country. Requests should be directed via email to [oihs@msu.edu](mailto:oihs@msu.edu). Policies for future incoming and outbound travel are under development and will be shared as they are approved.
- A waiver is required for domestic business essential travel; it can only be granted by the provost, a vice president or the president through the [following form](#) and must be approved before a trip begins. In-state travel is permitted to perform one’s essential job duties, but also [requires a waiver](#). Non-essential in-state travel to state conferences or other gatherings should not occur.
- For updated information on travel advisories, please visit: <https://msu.edu/together-well/travel/>.

## Travel

### Assistance Resources

Travel policy and travel program support: [travel@ctrl.msu.edu](mailto:travel@ctrl.msu.edu) or 517-355-5000  
Concur: [concurhelp@msu.edu](mailto:concurhelp@msu.edu)

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### Inbound travel

- Travelers coming to any of MSU's campuses are asked to follow the applicable protocol outlined on our Office of International Health and Safety's website: <https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic/health-protocol-inbound-travel>.
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### University-sponsored travel

- For employees and students engaged in university-sponsored projects, **all non-essential outgoing domestic and international travel is suspended indefinitely.**
- If you feel you have essential travel needs, you can submit a waiver for review at least 3 weeks prior to departure. Prior to submitting the waiver, you will be required to obtain documentation from your unit administrator and, for students, from the cognizant advisor, college administrator or program director, affirming that the travel is essential in the context of both programmatic priorities and financial considerations. Note: The health and safety context for travel is currently very fluid, rapidly evolving by location and significantly impacted by frequent issuances of local, national, and international policies.
- Links to appropriate waivers can be found here: <https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic>

## 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.

## 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.

## Vehicle Use Policy

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

## MSU Academic Calendar

### Spring 2021

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| March 10    | Middle of Semester |
| April 21    | Classes End        |
| April 22-23 | Study Days         |
| April 26-30 | Final Exams        |
| May 1-8     | Commencements      |

### Spring 2021 Commencement

Ceremony dates have been confirmed. Specific details, including the ceremony format, will be shared at a later date.

April 30-May 2: Baccalaureate Degree Ceremonies. College-specific dates and times will be posted on [commencement.msu.edu](https://commencement.msu.edu) soon.

May 7-8: Master's Degree, Educational Specialists, and Doctoral Degree Ceremonies. Specific dates and times will be posted on [commencement.msu.edu](https://commencement.msu.edu) soon.

For additional information go to <https://commencement.msu.edu/>

## 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 March 26<sup>th</sup> pay date (for time worked from February 28-March 13) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- For the April 9<sup>th</sup> pay date (for time worked from March 14-27) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- For the April 23<sup>rd</sup> pay date (for time worked from March 28-April 10) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

## PSM Office Contact Information / Hours

Effective March 24, 2020 the PSM Administration Offices are closed. During this time of uncertainty, please be patient with any request that you may have placed with a PSM support staff member. Know that PSM support staff will get to your request as quickly as possible.

|                   |  |               |                            |
|-------------------|--|---------------|----------------------------|
| AnnMarie Guldner  | <a href="mailto:guldner1@msu.edu">guldner1@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 7 AM-3 PM                  |
| Brian Horgan      | <a href="mailto:horganb@msu.edu">horganb@msu.edu</a>   | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM        |
| Christiina Donley | <a href="mailto:tymoszew@msu.edu">tymoszew@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM        |
| Debbie Williams   | <a href="mailto:williade@msu.edu">williade@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 7 AM-3 PM                  |
| Dominic Colosimo  | <a href="mailto:colosi14@msu.edu">colosi14@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM        |
| Emily Williams    | <a href="mailto:emilywil@msu.edu">emilywil@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM        |
| Gina Centeno      | <a href="mailto:centeno@msu.edu">centeno@msu.edu</a>   | Monday-Friday | 8:15 AM-2:45 PM            |
| Hannah O'Mara     | <a href="mailto:omarahan@msu.edu">omarahan@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM        |
| Lee Duynslager    | <a href="mailto:duynslag@msu.edu">duynslag@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM  |
| Lisa Bowen        | <a href="mailto:bowenli1@msu.edu">bowenli1@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-4 PM                  |
| Mackenzie Graham  | <a href="mailto:graham2@msu.edu">graham2@msu.edu</a>   | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12 PM & 12:30-4:30 PM |
| Rachel Jorgensen  | <a href="mailto:eschrach@msu.edu">eschrach@msu.edu</a> | Monday-Friday | 6:30 AM-3:00 PM            |

## Newsletter Submissions

Send newsletter submissions to AnnMarie Guldner at [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)

Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM