

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Announcement of Final Oral Examination/Seminar

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Crop and Soil Sciences M.S. Degree

Friday, April 23, 2021 at 9:00 AM

Candidate: **Allyson Rumler**

Title of Thesis: Evaluating the Impact of Weed Competition and Water Stress on Corn Hybrids with Differing Drought Tolerance

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/92110067768>

Meeting ID: 921 1006 7768

Passcode: Rumler

Seminars / Webinars

April 26, 2021 at 12:15 PM

Plant Pathology Seminar

Mikaela Breunig

Seminar Title: Management and Characterization of Fungal Diseases of Wheat in Michigan

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/91286582204>

Meeting ID: 91286582204

Passcode: fusarium

April 26, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute Spring 2021 Seminar Series

Michael Udvardi, Chief Scientific Officer, Noble Research Institute

Seminar Title: Functional genomics of symbiotic nitrogen fixation in legumes

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

April 28, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Women's Networking Association Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series

Crucial Conversations

Collaboration with MSU Human Resources

To Register:

<https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEqfuusrjotHNMJ671GRQPljiGjujF7ltbK>

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/>

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-](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kc-grqD0tHNQBOX9wigfclt9wF-Fz-kz0)

[grqD0tHNQBOX9wigfclt9wF-Fz-kz0](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kc-grqD0tHNQBOX9wigfclt9wF-Fz-kz0)

Upcoming MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events

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.

Announcements

The Potato Leadership, Education and Advancement Foundation (Potato LEAF) will award one \$10,000 scholarship to honor a graduate student (Master's degree or higher) working to conduct research and provide information that will improve the future of the U.S. potato industry. Completed applications must be received on or before June 18, 2021 and will be awarded in August 2021 towards the 2021-2022 academic year.

Final scholarship selection is based on the following criteria: past academic achievement, leadership abilities, potato-related areas of graduate study, goals, benefit to the potato industry, extracurricular activities, grades, and potential commercial value. The successful scholarship recipient will be required to provide the National Potato Council with a one-page report on their research project or projects in April 2022.

All interested parties are invited to apply. Application forms are available [online here](#).

Plant Science Graduate Student Research Symposium

Friday, April 16, 2021 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Oral and Poster Presentations (Virtual)

Present research and win cash prizes! Please see the attached flyer for additional information. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/psgsrs/>

Announcements

Reminder: Spring semester classes end on Wednesday, April 21. **April 22 and 23 will be designated Study Days for students** to prepare for final exams. There will be no classes, assignments, exams or quizzes for students on these Study Days.

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 or 517-353-0120. No drop ins will be allowed.

Vehicle Use Policy

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

Job Announcements

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

Greenhouse Maintenance and Repair

Seeking undergraduate students for the care, cleaning and maintenance of Michigan State University research greenhouses.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Aid in the structural maintenance of the greenhouses: installing lights, replacing shutoff valves, repairing and replacing equipment, etc.
- Daily maintenance of potting stations such as stocking, cleaning and emptying trash.
- Sweeping and hosing hallways.
- Organizing tool rooms and work areas.
- Weeding courtyards, and other outside locations.
- Repairing cooling pad systems.
- Projects including installing irrigation systems, building benches, etc.

Employee may perform other related duties to meet the ongoing needs of the organization.

Requirements:

- Must be enrolled at Michigan State University
- Employee will be required to work some weekends

Other Skills/Abilities:

- Ability to lift a minimum of 40lbs is recommended
- Valid driver's license is required

Interested applicants submit a resume and work availability to Caila Bulkowski at bulkows2@msu.edu.

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>

Job Announcements

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

Professional Aide

Forest ecology field technicians: Post-Fire Forest Resilience and Carbon Recovery
(3 positions available)

Job # 687937

<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/782/cw/en-us/job/504530/professional-aide>

Biological Science Technician - Naegele Lab

Full-time temporary (1 year) position

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596399700>

Lab Research Assistant and Field/Greenhouse Assistant

The Sugarbeet genetics at the USDA ARS in Parlier, CA is looking for two research assistants to help with greenhouse/field and lab evaluations as part of ongoing basic and applied research on grapes and sugarbeet.

For lab activities, duties will include, but are not limited to, routine lab experiments and procedures including PCR and DNA extractions. Basic lab maintenance, such as sterilizing supplies and biohazardous waste is also expected. Ongoing projects in the lab are focused on population genetics, fungicide resistance and gene expression, fruit quality and molecular marker development.

For field/greenhouse activities, duties will include, but are not limited to, maintaining plants in greenhouse and growth chamber, planting field and greenhouse experiments, evaluating and collecting samples from plants. Ongoing projects in the greenhouse are focused on identifying naturally occurring variability in nitrogen use efficiency, and testing genetic compatibility.

Both positions are full-time (30-40h/week) during the summer, with the possibility to extend to part-time (10-20 hours/wk) during the school semester depending on work performance. Successful applicants will be reliable and work well as part of a team. For more information or to apply, please send your resume to Rachel.naegele@usda.gov. Positions are open until filled.

Research Administrator II

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences seeks a motivated, organized, team player for a lead role in the departmental finance team, working closely with faculty and administrative staff to manage pre and post award accounts, monitor department's EBS account system, generate high quality reports, forecast expenditures, and assist with pre award fellowships and commodity proposals.

Job # 698104

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/506223/research-administrator-ii>

Technical Aide

Saginaw Valley Dry Bean Research Assistant

Job # 696351

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/506086/technical-aide>

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>

COVID-19 Updates

- As of April 5th, Michigan has expanded access to the COVID-19 vaccine to all Michiganders age 16 and up. Please see <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/covid19-vaccine/> or https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214---,00.html for information on how to get your COVID-19 vaccine.
- The campus wide Spartan Health Screening form can be found at <https://covidresponse.msu.edu/health-screening>.
- The FDA and CDC recommended pausing the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Out of an abundance of caution and following federal and state guidance, MSU switched the type of vaccine offered to students from the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine to the two-dose Pfizer vaccine.
Additional information: <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/communications/2021-04-13-faculty-staff-vaccine-clinic-update.html>
- MSU announced it will hold graduation ceremonies this spring for 2021 graduates. There will be more than 50 limited-attendance ceremonies scheduled by each college based on student's majors and last names. They will be spread across large MSU parking lots to allow for physical distancing.
<https://commencement.msu.edu/schedules>

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.

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://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

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.

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.**

Important Domestic Travel and Meeting Updates

(Continued)

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 April 23rd pay date (for time worked from March 28-April 10) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 13th.
- For the May 7th pay date (for time worked from April 11-24) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 27th.
- For the May 21st pay date (for time worked from April 25-May 8) your time is due by 5 PM Tuesday, May 11th.

MSU Academic Calendar

Spring 2021

April 21	Classes End
April 22-23	Study Days
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/>

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
Debbie Williams	williade@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 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