
**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Effective March 24, 2020 the PSM Administration Offices are closed.

During this time of uncertainty, please be patient with any request you may have placed with a PSM support staff member. Know that PSM support staff will get to your request as quickly as possible.

Summer Hours are in effect from May 10-August 2. Updated hours noted below.

AnnMarie Guldner [guldner1@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 7 AM-3 PM

Ashley Lathrop [danas@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM

Brian Horgan [horganb@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 8 AM-12PM & 1-5 PM

Christiina Donley [tymoszew@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 7 AM-12 PM & 1-4 PM

Debbie Williams [williade@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 7 AM-3 PM

Dominic Colosimo [colosi14@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM

Gina Centeno [centeno@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 8:15 AM-2:45 PM

Lee Duynslager [duynslag@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM

Linda Colon [colon@msu.edu] Monday-Thursday from 8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM,
Fridays from 8 AM-12 PM

Lisa Bowen [bowenli1@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 8 AM-4 PM

Mackenzie Graham [colon@msu.edu] Friday from 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM

Rachel Esch [eschrach@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 7 AM-3 PM

Sandie Litchfield [litchfi9@msu.edu] Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4:30 PM

Resources

MSU latest coronavirus updates

<https://msu.edu/coronavirus/latest-updates/>

MSU Coronavirus response website

msu.edu/coronavirus

CANR Coronavirus response website

canr.msu.edu/coronavirus

Employment related questions

<https://hr.msu.edu/news/coronavirus-faqs.html>

MSU WorkLife Programs

<https://worklife.msu.edu/campusflex>

MSU travel guide

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/coronavirus/travel>

MSU events updates

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/coronavirus/events>

Messages from President Stanley

<https://president.msu.edu/communications/messages-statements/index.html>

CANR Response to Novel Coronavirus

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/coronavirus/index>

MSU Guide to remote teaching

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/coronavirus/teaching-working>

MSU Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities

<https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/>

A Resource to Help to Learn How to Work Remotely

<https://michiganstate.sharepoint.com/sites/Spartan-365-Help-FAQ>

Guide to web accessibility

https://webaccess.msu.edu/Help_and_Resources/checklist.html

How to cancel or postpone events

Cancel: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/how-to-cancel-an-event-in-dotcms-due-to-novel-coronavirus>

Postpone: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/how-to-postpone-an-event-in-dotcms-due-to-novel-coronavirus>

Departmental Successes

I am excited to share with you the results from this year's PSM RPT. As you recall, we had 3 candidates applying for reappointment (**Maninder Singh**, **Monique Sakalidis** and **Erin Burns**), 1 candidate for promotion to associate professor with tenure (**Lisa Tiemann**) and 1 candidate for promotion to senior academic specialist (**Chris Long**). Please help me congratulate all 5 for their success in achieving reappointment, promotion and/or tenure.

More good news...**Brad Day** was awarded an MSU Foundation Professorship.

And many new notifications of successful grants received including **George Sundin's** USDA SCRI as the lead PI.

Congratulations everyone!
Brian Horgan

Sponsoring Society Announces 2020 Award Recipient

The sponsoring society announces the following 2020 award recipient, **Natalie Kaiser**. The annual awards are presented for outstanding contributions to agronomy through education, national and international service, and research. Congratulations Natalie!

(Please see the attached announcement emailed out with this newsletter.)

Announcements

USDA-ARS Sugar Beet Breeding Position in East Lansing

We are pleased to announce Zoom interviews for candidates for the USDA-ARS Sugar Beet Breeding position in East Lansing. These will be:

Dr. Dongying Gao on Monday, June 22nd

Dr. Katherine Frels on Tuesday, June 23rd

Dr. Erena Edae on Wednesday, June 24th

Seminars will be via Zoom from 10:00-11:00 AM Eastern time. Seminars will be recorded for those who cannot participate at the original time. All seminars will be an overview of past research and the candidate's view for the position in East Lansing.

There will be a round table for faculty at 2:45-3:15 PM on the same day via Zoom.

Ph.D. Dissertation Defense Seminar - June 23, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Eric Owusu Danquah

Title of Dissertation: *Evaluation of pigeonpea-yam cropping system for improved yam productivity and livelihood of smallholder farmers*

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/92732668121>

(Please see attachment emailed out with newsletter.)

Michigan Wheat Proposal Timeline

- Please email your 'intent to submit' to **Debbie Williams** at williade@msu.edu before July 23, 2020.
- Please forward your draft budget to **Debbie Williams** before August 6, 2020.
- Please forward your final proposal to **Debbie Williams** before August 13, 2020 at 5 PM so your proposal document can be submitted for approval.
- Each PI will need to email **Jody Pollok-Newsom** at jody@miwheat.org their final proposal package before August 14, 2020 at 5 PM.

(Please see attachments emailed out with newsletter.)

Announcements

2020 Clerical-Technical Recognition Award Nominations (Due June 30th)

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2020 Clerical-Technical Recognition Award through Monday, June 30, 2020.

This award recognizes outstanding MSU clerical-technical employees who have been nominated by their peers. Individuals may be nominated by any member of the MSU community. Selection criteria includes respect and concern for all members of the campus community, diligence in daily work, significant contributions to the community or public service and innovative thinking.

To nominate an employee:

1) Complete a nomination form.

<https://hr.msu.edu/recognition/support-staff/documents/CTNominationForm.pdf>

2) Collect a minimum of 2 support letters (maximum of 5) by MSU colleagues

Please note: Nominees must be part of the CT Union

You may include additional information if it supports the applicant's nomination.

Nominations are **due by 5 PM, Monday, June 30th**. Email the PDF nomination with a minimum of 2 support letters to bracamontes@hr.msu.edu with the subject line: CT Recognition Award Selection Committee.

Outstanding Supervisor Award Nominations (Due July 31st)

This year has been exceptionally challenging for all of us. We know there are supervisors who demonstrated leadership despite the adversity and honored employees' work and personal lives even in the shifting landscape of a pandemic. Tell us how your supervisor pulled your team together, modified workloads or scheduled to fit the changing times, created transparent and honest communication or shouldered the responsibility of safety and care for your teams reporting to campus. How did your supervisor handle transparent and honest communication, empathy, motivation tools, gratitude, acknowledgment and general care and support for you and your colleagues? Outstanding supervisors are all across this campus managing teams both large and small, working in research, education, communication, development, housing, technology, infrastructure, administration, and senior leadership.

Nominate your supervisor and help us celebrate their leadership through the years and/or recent challenging times.

<https://worklife.msu.edu/supervisor-award>

Funding Opportunity

Fullbright Funding Opportunity

We just received notice of a Fulbright Visiting Professor opportunity with our partner institution—the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)—in Vienna, Austria. <https://boku.ac.at/en/>

CANR has a long-standing relationship with BOKU linked to undergraduate student exchange, graduate student research and faculty-directed collaborative research. In 2009, our very own **Jim Bingen** (CSUS/CARRS) received this Fulbright grant.

BOKU is seeking candidates with an excellent research record in one of the fields in their Department of Landscape, Space and Infrastructure Sciences within any of the following disciplines (or preferably cross-disciplinary):

Applied statistics and data science

Geomatics

Landscape architecture

Landscape planning

Landscape development, recreation and conservation planning

Environmental psychology

Spatial planning, environmental planning and land rearrangement

Transport studies

Dynamic simulation, behavioral economics

The notice from BOKU also mentioned focus in the field of forest ecosystems--at any scale from molecular to landscape--although the website does not appear to stipulate this.

<https://www.fulbright.at/programs/in-austria/scholars/grant-details/fulbright-university-of-natural-resources-and-life-sciences-vienna-visiting-professor>

Grant summary:

Duration: 4 months

Working language: English

Benefits:

Travel grant of €1,000

Health and accident insurance

Stipend of €5,000 per month

Housing costs are paid by the grantee.

This award is a flexible combination of teaching and research activities that entails at least two 90-minute class sessions per week and may include advising or supervising advanced students.

For further information:

<https://www.fulbright.at/programs/in-austria/scholars/grant-details/fulbright-university-of-natural-resources-and-life-sciences-vienna-visiting-professor>

<https://awards.cies.org/content/fulbright-university-natural-resources-and-life-sciences-vienna-visiting-professor-2>

Application Deadline: **September 15, 2020**: <https://www.cies.org/program/fulbright-us-scholar-program>

Please feel free to distribute this notice to the appropriate faculty members in your unit. It would be fantastic to have another CANR researcher receive this award!

For further questions, please contact **Rhonda Crackel**, Directory of Study Abroad
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
crackel@msu.edu

Funding Opportunity

2020 Borlaug Fellowship Program - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) from USDA-FAS

Please find the attached 2020 Borlaug Fellowship Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. The application submission dates is August 7, 2020. Please apply through the ezFedGrants portal at: <https://grants.fms.usda.gov>.

Travel

Modification of CANR Travel Policy Regarding Number of Passengers per Vehicle Effective June 15, 2020

With the recent changes in State of Michigan and MSU health and safety requirements, it is now possible to allow certain specific exceptions to the one person per vehicle rule. A maximum of two people are allowed per vehicle under the following conditions:

- 1) All MSU employees are required to complete the CANR on-line daily health survey prior to coming to work.
- 2) Travel in University vehicles is restricted to MSU employees, including student employees.
- 3) Travel is limited to on-campus (including South Campus Research Farms) or on-station (Off-Campus Research and Extension Centers).
- 4) Maximum travel distance is 10 miles one-way. Longer distance travel remains restricted to one person per vehicle.
- 5) Wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to entering and upon exiting the vehicle.
- 6) Each person must wear a face covering at all times while in the vehicle.
- 7) The two occupants of the vehicle are expected to be seated as far apart as practical.
- 8) Windows should be at least partially open on both sides of the vehicle to allow air movement.
- 9) A daily log of all users of University vehicles (included leased vehicles) is to be maintained by the Farm Manager or responsible PI.
- 10) Flexible plastic barriers between seats are no longer required.
- 11) The interior of the vehicle is to be disinfected after each use following MSU EHS guidance.
- 12) MSU employees are not required to travel in a vehicle with another person. Pressuring any employee to travel in a vehicle with another person will not be tolerated under any circumstance other than a medical emergency.

PCard

Shipping Pcard Orders to Home Addresses

In light of MSU's plan to offer hybrid teaching options this fall, academic and administrative executives have agreed to allow shipping Pcard purchases to home addresses, as authorized by your departmental leadership. It is expected that any supplies purchased are brought back to campus when employees return to their offices, as they remain property of Michigan State University.

Bank of America is sending renewal Pcards to your home address, as previously communicated. Existing Pcards are valid through July 31, 2020.

(Please see attachment emailed out with newsletter.)

Human Resources

Hiring Student Employees Virtual Presentation

Please see the Hiring Students Training Guide attachment that was emailed out with this newsletter.

Highlighted Resources for Professional Development

Topic: Working Together Successfully

Course:

- Becoming a Successful Collaborator
- Building Rapport with Your Boss

Video:

- Speak Up and Listen Up: How-to
- Four Levels of Listening

Challenge Series:

- Building Peer Relationships

Book summary:

- Engagement: Transforming Difficult Relationships at Work

How to Access elevateU

- 1) Log in to the EBS Portal with your MSU NetID and password.
- 2) Click on My Career and Training in the top navigation.
- 3) Click on the elevateU tile to open the application in a new window.

Certificates of completion are available for those who complete a course and pass the exam at 75% or better. To print a certificate, go to the left sidebar of the home page and click on Learning Transcript. From there you can set filters to see only completed classes. Then click on Actions, and View Certificate.

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 July 2nd pay date (for time worked between June 7-20) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, June 23rd
- For the July 17th pay date (for time worked between June 21-July 4) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, July 7th
- For the July 31st pay date (for time worked between July 5-18) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, July 21st
- For the August 14th pay date (for time worked between July 19-August 1) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 14th

MSU Academic Calendar

Summer 2020 - Full Session

June 26 Middle of Semester
July 3 Holiday - University Closed
August 13 Classes End
Final Exams are scheduled for the last class day

Summer 2020 - Session One

June 25 Classes End
Final Exams are scheduled for the last class day

Summer 2020 - Session Two

June 29 Classes Begin
July 3 Holiday - University Closed
July 22 Middle of Semester
August 13 Classes End
Final Exams are scheduled for the last class day

Fall 2020

We will begin classes on Wednesday, September 2nd, as previously scheduled. There will be both in-person and online components to instruction in the Fall semester. We plan to end all in-person instruction on Wednesday, November 25th, with remaining instruction, study sessions and final examinations moving remotely for the remaining 3 weeks of the semester. Students will have the option of returning to their permanent residences for the Thanksgiving holiday and not returning to campus or remaining on campus until the semester ends.

Additional Information: https://president.msu.edu/communications/messages-statements/2020_community_letters/2020_05_27_message_campus.html

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