

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Congratulations

The MSU Extension Home Garden Soil Testing Services Team has been selected by the Michigan Council of Extension Associations (MCEA) to receive the *2020 John A. Hannah Award for Program Excellence* for outstanding work to develop a cutting-edge, online soil testing kit system in order to meet the ever increasing demand for soil tests. Congratulations to both **Jon Dahl** and **Kevin Frank** for being selected to receive this award!

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 | guldner1@msu.edu | Monday-Friday | 7 AM-3 PM |
| Ashley Lathrop | danas@msu.edu | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM |
| Brian Horgan | horganb@msu.edu | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM |
| Christiina Donley | tymoszew@msu.edu | Monday-Friday | 7 AM-12 PM & 1-4 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 |
| Gina Centeno | centeno@msu.edu | Monday-Friday | 8:15 AM-2:45 PM |
| Lee Duynslager | duynslag@msu.edu | Monday-Friday | 8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM |
| Linda Colon | colon@msu.edu | Monday-Thursday Friday | 8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM 8 AM-12 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 Esch | eschrach@msu.edu | Monday-Friday | 9 AM-5 PM |
| Sandie Litchfield | litchfi9@msu.edu | Monday-Friday | 7:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4:30 PM |

PSM Meeting Calendar

Please save the dates for the following PSM meetings. An email was sent on July 28th with the Zoom login and password information for each meeting.

- August 27, 2020 from 9-11 AM Annual Meeting
- September 30 from 1-3 PM Special DEI Workshop
- October 9 from 1-5 PM RPT Meeting
- October 23 from 1-5 PM RPT Meeting

Webinar

Global Webinar Series: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic On Global Agricultural Research Systems

Thursday, August 27, 2020 from 8:00-9:30 AM

Registration is required

Additional information: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/impact-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-global-agricultural-research-systems>

Announcements

CSS 491 Spring 2021: Contributions of Diverse Peoples to Food and Agriculture

Special Topics course, CSS 491 Sec 001: Contributions of Diverse Peoples to Food and Agriculture. This 2-credit, 10-week course has no prerequisites and is open to all students. Students should contact Susan Gruber (grubers@msu.edu) to enroll.

Keys

A reminder as we start the new academic year, please do not share your keys. Keys are not signed out to an office or lab, they are signed out to individuals. When you sign out a key it is your responsibility to return that key to the PSM office once you leave your position. If your keys are lost or not returned once you have left PSM, your key deposit will not be refunded. Please direct any key requests to AnnMarie Guldner at guldner1@msu.edu.

Summer 2020 Student Information

A summer 2020-only student may remain in their student position through Saturday, September 26, 2020. If you wish to continue their employment, we recommend transferring them to non-student employment effective Sunday, September 27, 2020.

DEI

Action steps for DEI in PSM

Increase your awareness of DEI seminars, workshops and trainings hosted by the CANR DEI office, and consider attending an event as a lab:

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

Funding Opportunities

BARD Research Grants - Due September 15, 2020

Funds projects conducted cooperatively by US and Israeli scientists. Covers all phases of agricultural R&D including strategic or applied research. Applications accepted between August 15-September 15, 2020.

Award duration: 3 years. 1-year feasibility studies are also funded.

Maximum award: \$310,000 for a 3-year grant

The following research areas were identified by the Board of Directors as top priorities for the coming years:

- Increased Efficiency of Agricultural Production
- Protection of Plants and Animals Against Biotic and Abiotic Stress
- Food Quality, Safety and Security Water Quality & Quantity
- Functional Genomics and Proteomics
- Sensors and Robotics Sustainable Bio-Energy Systems

Read the guidelines at <http://www.bard-isus.com/documents/Index/3> for more information.

Job Posting

MSU Peace Corps Recruiter Position

The MSU Peace Corps Office is seeking applicants for One ¼ time (10 hours per week) recruiter position. Pending confirmation of funding from Peace Corps, the position will start in August 2020 and continue, based on performance, for the academic year 2020-21. Applicants must be both a current MSU graduate student and a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV).

Duties include: recruitment of applicants, event planning, oversight of MSU Peace Corps' website and contacts, presentations to student groups and career fairs, weekly office hours (flexible), creation of monthly reports and yearly recruitment plan, and liaison with the Chicago Regional Peace Corps Office. Successful candidates must have outstanding organizational, communication, and presentation skills.

Review of resumes will begin September 3 and the position will remain open until filled. To apply please submit a resume and cover letter to:

Beth Mugavero

International Center
427 N Shaw Lane, Room 2020
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Or, via email to: mugaver1@msu.edu

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 Covering Update as of July 15, 2020

Face coverings are a crucial public health measure and help protect others by reducing exposure to droplets if someone is unknowingly infected with COVID-19.

FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN BY EVERYONE (including all faculty, staff, students, vendors, and visitors) indoors and outdoors while you are on property owned or governed by MSU and while participating in MSU-related or MSU-sponsored activities. If you have a medical condition that may prevent you from safely wearing a face covering, you should contact MSU's Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to begin the accommodation process.

Exceptions to the requirement for face coverings will be limited.

If you are indoors, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are in your own place of residence and can therefore properly self isolate.
- You are in a private, single-occupancy office or lab space with a closed door and can reasonably expect other individuals not to enter (but if you leave your private, single-occupancy office or lab space and proceed into a common area or hallway - even if there are no other individuals present - you must wear a face covering)
- You are eating or drinking but still maintaining proper distance (at least six feet of physical separation between yourself and others)

If you are outdoors, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are an outdoor worker and can maintain social distance from others (but you will need to wear a face covering outdoors when interacting with others or when unable to maintain social distance)
- You are exercising or engaging in high-intensity activities outdoors (for example, jogging, running, bicycling, or golfing) and can maintain social distance from others

If you are working, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are working in a setting where a face covering may increase the risk of a hazard (for example, the face covering could become wet, the face covering could get caught in machinery or the face covering could become contaminated with chemicals used in the work environment)
- You can maintain social distance from others
- You have previously consulted with your supervisor to determine the appropriate face covering for your setting

Face coverings should (a) be non-medical grade to maintain supplies for health care use, (b) fit snugly against the side of your face, (c) cover your nose and mouth, (d) be secured with ties or ear loops, and (e) allow for breathing without restriction. Cloth face coverings should only be worn for one day at a time, they must be properly hand washed or laundered before subsequent use. Face coverings may vary (for example, disposable non-medical masks or neck gaiters are acceptable).

Please adhere to the guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as federal and state governmental authorities, in order to protect your own health and the health of the entire MSU community.

In addition to wearing face coverings, you also must take the following personal precautions:

- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good personal hygiene, including washing hands frequently with soap and water or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap is unavailable
- Routinely clean and sanitize your workspace and shared equipment

<https://msu.edu/together-we-will/keeping-spartans-safe/>

PSM Payroll Time Reporting

TIME SHEET DUE DATE CHANGE FOR PERIOD 8/16/2020-8/29/2020:

The time sheets for pay period 8/16/2020-8/29/2020 are due to PSMS no later than 5 PM on MONDAY 8/31/2020. Please be sure to send to Lisa Bowen bowenli1@msu.edu and cc to Gina Centeno centeno@msu.edu. Any time sheet(s) received after this date/time will not be processed until the next pay period.

Due Date Reminders for **biweekly payroll** (includes labor and student)
Reminder: If your employee's time is not submitted, they will not be paid.

- **UPDATED DUE DATE:** For the September 11th pay date (for time worked between August 16-29) your time is **due by 5 PM on Monday, August 31st**.
- For the September 25th pay date (for time worked from August 30-September 12) your time is due by 5 pm on Tuesday, September 15th.
- For the October 9th pay date (for time worked from September 13-26) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, September 29th.

MSU Academic Calendar

Fall 2020

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| September 2 | Classes Begin |
| September 7 | Holiday - University Closed |
| October 21 | Middle of Semester |
| November 26-27 | Holiday - University Closed |
| December 11 | Classes End |
| December 14-18 | Final Exams |
| December 24-25 | Holiday - University Closed |
| December 31- January 1 | Holiday - University Closed |

Fall 2020 Commencement will be virtual. More information will be provided when available.

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