

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Alexandra (Sasha) Kravchenko has been awarded the 2020 Soil Science Society of America's Award (SSSA) Recipient. The annual award is presented for outstanding contributions to agronomy through education, national and international service, and research.

Her program focuses on spatial and statistical aspects of soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions. She is internationally recognized for her contribution to understanding how landscape variability regulates and use and management effects on soil processes. She currently leads research on micro-scale interactions between soil physics, biology, and biochemistry, deciphering mechanisms of carbon protection and N₂O production. Sasha has authored/co-authored >110 referred journal articles and >170 conference presentations. She served as an associate editor for Soil Science Society of America J., and Agronomy J., and as the American Society of Agronomy Board Member. She has taught statistical data analyses methods to more than 1,200 graduate students.



Congratulations Sasha!

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.

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

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	Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Rachel Esch	eschrach@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Sandie Litchfield	litchfi9@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4:30 PM

Announcements

As of July 10, the Miesel lab truck (2017 F-150, 4-door, standard bed with locking cap) is available for other research groups needing to meet COVID-19 restrictions on vehicle occupancy. Reserving the truck will require an account number and we will bill mileage to that account at the standard rate (57.5 cents/mile). There is no daily use fee.

We request that use of our truck is limited to transporting personnel and field samples & supplies: no heavy-duty activities or pesticide/herbicide use please.

All drivers must be MSU-approved with current driver's authorization form on file in PSM, and be comfortable driving a vehicle of this size.

All use must comply with current MSU COVID-19 requirements for passenger limits and disinfection.

Drivers will be given a hardcopy of the attached form when they pick up keys, and return the filled form when the truck & keys are returned.

To reserve the truck, email the following information to the Miesel lab manager, Midhun Gelder (geldermi@msu.edu), at least one business day before your requested date(s):

- Driver name(s) and phone numbers
- PI name
- Date(s) and hours requested
- Account number to be billed for mileage

Midhun will coordinate key pickup/dropoff with the person requesting the vehicle.

We have a light field season this year so I hope our vehicle can help support the teams that are behind or vehicle-limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Jessica Miesel, PhD
Assistant Professor, Fire and Ecosystem Ecology
Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
Email: mieselje@msu.edu

MTRAC AgBio Innovation Challenge (Pilot)

The MTRAC AgBio Innovation Hub at MSU is pleased to announce the first-of-its-kind AgBio Innovation Challenge. The Challenge is an opportunity for innovators at Michigan's public universities, non-profit research institutes and public hospital systems to identify AgBio applications for early-stage technologies under development in their laboratories or institutions. The objective of the challenge is to increase awareness and interest (among researchers) in the wide range of technical challenges now facing businesses and end-users operating in the agriculture, biomaterials and bioprocessing markets.

What is the Challenge? The Innovation Challenge is a pilot competition intended to identify key conceptual bridges between nascent and emerging technologies and specific, high-value applications in the AgBio market. Its purpose is to encourage awareness, innovation and investment in translational AgBio research among Michigan innovators. Those with a truly unique insight and high likelihood of developing into significant translational research and commercialization efforts in a short timeframe will generally score the highest. Of particular interest are those technology applications that can help Michigan AgBio businesses compete more successfully in national and international markets.

Additional Information:

<https://technologies.msu.edu/researchers/msu-mtrac/mtrac-agbio-innovation-challenge-pilot>

Announcements

Our colleagues from MICFA want PSM to be aware of this open letter of protest.

An open letter protesting the decision of ICE to expel students on F-1 and M-1 visas taking all courses online is here: <https://t.co/PFXysvEAKB?amp=1>

Update on New Pcards

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 has mailed out the new Pcards this week on both Wednesday, July 8th and Thursday, July 9th. The new cards should be received in 7-10 days. The current Pcards are valid through July 31, 2020.

(Please see attachment with newsletter.)

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.

Human Resources

Highlighted Resources for Professional Development

Topic: Trust and Credibility

Course: The Building Blocks of Building Trust

Learn what makes you and others trustworthy and how to demonstrate trustworthiness through your own professional accountability.

Course: Trust Building Through Effective Communication

Explore how a clear intention is the basis of effective communication and how understanding your audience ensures that your message gets delivered. Learn how body language, vocal tone, and managing emotions can influence your communications and build trust with your audience.

Video: How to Increase Trust

Building trust requires that you have all four elements of trust. Learn what they are and why they're important.

Book Summary: The Speed of Trust: The One Thing that Changes Everything

Discover a detailed framework for building and maintaining trust from the ground up, both inside and outside an organization.

Course: Acting with Diplomacy and Tact

People who communicate with diplomacy and tact are able to inspire confidence. Communicating a difficult message can be very challenging, so preparation is key to a successful outcome. In this course, you'll learn about developing a diplomatic approach to difficult conversations. You'll learn how to avoid meltdowns, apologize, develop empathy, and remove personal biases

Video: Being a Good and Thoughtful Communicator

Recognize communication techniques that enable you to communicate better and show mutual respect.

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.

Access to MSU Systems

If you have questions regarding access to the MSU systems to effectively perform your job, please see the information at the links provided below. The document "Access to MSU Systems" can be found on the following pages:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/facultystaff/hr/new-faculty-academic-staff-materials>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/facultystaff/hr/new-staff-orientation>

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 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 4th
- For the August 28th pay date (for time worked between August 2-15) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 18th

Wage Increase Notification

Scheduled Student Wage Increase Notification

Effective August 16, 2020 a 4% wage increase for student workers will be implemented.

MSU Academic Calendar

Summer 2020 - Full Session

August 13 Classes End
 Final Exams are scheduled for the last class day

Summer 2020 - Session Two

July 22 Middle of Semester
August 13 Classes End
 Final Exams are scheduled for the last class day

Fall 2020

September 2 Classes Begin
September 7 Holiday - University Closed
October 21 Middle of Semester
November 25 All in-person instruction ends (see note below)
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

MSU plans to end all in-person instruction on November 25th, with remaining instruction, study sessions and final exams taking place remotely for the remaining 3 weeks of the semester. There will be no in-person commencement this December. The task force is planning a virtual commencement for December graduates.

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