

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Announcement of Final Oral Examination/Seminar

Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology

Crop & Soil Sciences, M.S. Degree

December 3, 2021, at 2:30 PM

Candidate's name: **Jonathan Dubau Turkus**

Title of Thesis: Development of Fine-Mapping Resources for Interrogation of a Yield Impacting QTL on the 2D Chromosome in a Bread Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and *Aegilops tauschii* Nested Association Mapping Population

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/92797694383>

Passcode: TURKUS

Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology

Crop & Soil Sciences, M.S. Degree

December 7, 2021, at 10:30 AM

Candidate's name: **Selena Lopez**

Title of Thesis: Developmental responses to Polycomb Complex mutations and planting density in hexaploidy wheat

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97317815342>

Passcode: wheat

PSM Faculty Meetings

Friday, January 21, 2022	2:00-4:00 PM	Faculty Meeting
Friday, March 18, 2022	2:00-4:00 PM	Faculty Meeting
Friday, May 13, 2022	1:00-5:00 PM	RPT No Action Meeting

PSSB A271 (in person with Zoom option)

Calendar invite has been sent with Zoom login and password information

Announcements

Flu Shots, COVID-19 Vaccinations Available at MSU Health Care Pharmacy

For patients age 12 and up, flu shots and COVID-19 vaccinations are available via appointment through the MSU Health Care Pharmacy. For patients age 5-11, MSU Health Care Pediatrics is also offering appointments. [Read More](#)

Announcements

All MSU employees – faculty, academic and support staff, teaching assistants and undergraduate and graduate student employees, regardless of whether you work on federal contracts – must provide proof of your vaccination status by Jan. 18, 2022. Employees with an approved vaccine exemption, pending appeals or those on approved leave will be exempt from providing verification. Employees who fail to provide proof of their vaccination by the Jan. 18 deadline will be referred to the appropriate disciplinary process.

MSU is actively working on a process to verify the vaccination status of our employees in accordance with this federal requirement. **More details will be shared in the coming weeks.** In the meantime, please locate your COVID-19 vaccination card or records and be prepared to submit these documents.

Michigan residents who need another copy of their vaccine records can visit the [Michigan Immunization Portal](#). Any employee who needs to update their vaccine verification status prior to submitting their information [can do so here](#).

MSU IT Service Alert

In the early morning hours of Sunday, December 5 from 1:00-2:30 AM, MSU IT will conduct planned maintenance to the MSU network. During this timeframe you may experience intermittent interruptions in service.

- **Off-Campus Users:** Access to MSU internet-based services including the virtual private network (VPN), MSU secure remote access, or F5 BIG-IP Edge, may experience a disruption in service during this time.
- **On-Campus Users:** If you are located on MSU's campus during these maintenance windows, your internet connectivity and on-premise services may be impaired intermittently, including access to cloud-based services such as Spartan 365 and D2L.

Graduate Seminar Class (CSS 893)

Eric Patterson is offering a 2-credit graduate level class entitled *Molecular Resistance Evolution* this coming spring. Please see the attached flyer and feel free to share with your graduate students.

Are You a College Student Struggling to Afford Food?

College students may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP is a U.S. government program that helps people with limited income purchase food. SNAP benefits are provided through an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Card that you can use like a debit card. In Michigan, the SNAP EBT card is called a "Bridge Card". SNAP benefit amounts are evaluated yearly and are based on household size. Starting October 2021, a single-family household that meets eligibility criteria can receive a maximum of \$250 a month in benefits. [Additional Information Can Be Found Here](#)

ACRS Monthly Meeting & Dinner

December 3, 2021, from 4:00-5:00 PM

Dinner to follow. Location TBD.

Announcements

Holiday Discounts for MSU Employees

All benefits-eligible MSU employees have access to various discounts and savings to help find the perfect holiday gifts. Through [MSU Benefits Plus](#), find discounts and special offers on products such as electronics, toys and more. Sign in to MSU Benefits Plus using your ZPID number found on your Spartan ID badge, or you can find the number in EBS.

Call for ANR Award Nominations

CANR is seeking individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the university, community, state and nation. Please consider submitting a nomination for a leader for the Distinguished Service Award or one of the CANR Alumni Association Awards. Award recipients are honored during the ANR Month celebration in March. Nominations for the 2022 awards are due December 10th.

Invitation to Participate: Community-building in the classroom: Including DEI principles as part of the curriculum

We are inviting all educators to this Faculty Learning Community (FLC) who are interested in moving from having conversations about DEI in the classroom to applying and practicing DEI in the classroom. We will brainstorm, develop, ponder different strategies that can be implemented to building community through an in-class student mentorship program. We will provide tools and strategies to empower undergraduate students to be co-creators of the learning experiences.

- **Jeno Rivera**, Associate Professor RCAH & CANR Community Sustainability; Director CANR Bailey Scholars Program
- **Maria Rubino**, Professor, CANR School of Packaging

Meet virtually in Wells Hall 303 or virtually via Zoom one Wednesday a month from 3:00-4:30 PM on December 15 . [RSVP Here](#)

IT News

Action required: Download Okta Verify mobile app

Symantec VIP will no longer work to receive MFA (mutli-factor authentication) codes for MSU applications after December 5, 2021. You must register a new MFA method (Okta Verify mobile application) to continue receiving MFA codes.

Do not uninstall the Symantec VIP mobile app until after December 5, 2021.

Upcoming MSU Professional Development Opportunities

Register for Upcoming OPD Classes

Offered in a live, online format via Zoom, the following courses are available for registration in the EBS portal. Employees may use available educational assistance funds to pay for these programs.

Building Cohesive Teams

December 9, 2021, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Workplace environments are critically important to the ways teams participate in creating a healthy culture that fosters highly effective teamwork. Methods for building collaboration within a team and skills for influencing team performance will be presented. Explore strategies to increase team cohesiveness and establish positive day-to-day interactions to enhance communication, build team awareness and cultivate trustworthiness in the work culture.

Introduction to Process Mapping

January 5, 2022, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Through Introduction to Process Mapping, learners will gain the knowledge and skills needed to confidently begin their process improvement journey. Specifically, learners in this course will be able to, define key process improvement terminology, identify common elements of process maps, reduce barriers to success by adopting best practices, and create a process map.

Grammar Refresher

January 11, 2022, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Strengthen your grammar and usage skills and present a more polished professional image.

Maximizing the Spartan Experience

January 13, 2022, 9:30-11:30 AM

This new and engaging training provides a foundational perspective related to enhanced customer service delivery. The Spartan Experience is based around high, clear and concise customer service expectations that are the foundation and key to maximize opportunities in engagement, inclusivity, enthusiasm, and Delivering Outstanding Spartan Experiences.

Conflict Management: Train the Trainer

January 19, 20, 26, & 27, 2022 from 12:00-4:00 PM

Vistelar, a world leader in conflict management licensing, training, and consulting, is facilitating a series of train-the-trainer sessions designed to embed skilled de-escalation trainers across MSU's campus. Vistelar's training prepares participants to apply the taught skills to real-life situations and to retain those skills over time.

Job Announcements

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 749382

A postdoctoral position is available in the Day Lab at Michigan State University in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences.

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/508788/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 748207

Postdoctoral research associate position is available to work with the Dr. Alexandra Kravchenko and Dr. Andrey Guber team.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/kravchenko_alexandra

https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/Andrey_guber

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508698/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 738547

The (Merewitz) Holm plant physiology laboratory at MSU is looking for a post-doctoral researcher. The research will focus on winterkill and other abiotic stresses of turfgrasses and agricultural grass species such as wheat and barley.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508268/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 737350

We seek an excellent post-doctoral associate to conduct research exploring plant-microbiome mediators of plant stress resilience. Strong quantitative skills and experience with bioinformatic and statistical analyses of microbial communities is expected. The successful applicant will be independent, motivated, and able to work as part of a collaborative team.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508193/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 733007

Postdoctoral research associate position is available to work with the Dr. Alexandra Kravchenko and Dr. Andrey Guber team.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/kravchenko_alexandra

https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/andrey_guber

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/508029/research-associatefixed-term>

Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 700439

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences invites applications from outstanding candidates for a fixed term Research Associate position in the area of: Plant responses to nutrient deficiency, with a main focus on phosphorus starvation.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/506404/research-associatefixed-term>

COVID-19 Updates

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

Ask the Expert: COVID-19 Booster Shots:

[Ask the Expert: COVID-19 booster shots | MSUToday | Michigan State University](#)

For the 2022 Spring semester, MSU will be requiring:

- All students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Limited exemptions for medical or religious reasons will continue to be provided, as well as online-only exemptions for students.
- All students, faculty or staff who have received a medical or religious exemption to take part in MSU's Early Detection Program or other regular testing if they aren't near a location offering EDP. Students with online-only exemptions cannot come to campus for any reason.
- At the start of the semester, all individuals to continue wearing face coverings indoors in all campus buildings and other MSU facilities in East Lansing and throughout the state.
- New students will be required to fill out the vaccine verification form before the spring semester starts. More information is being sent directly to those students.
- Students who currently have an online-only exemption will need to re-apply for an exemption for spring semester if they wish to continue learning only online. Remember, students with online-only exemptions cannot come to campus for any reason. A new exemption application process will be introduced later this semester.
- Employees and students who have received a religious or medical exemption do not need to re-apply for an exemption unless they had a medical exemption with an end date. Those individuals with a medial end date or medical deferral will have to receive a vaccine or be approved for a new exemption.
- For employees, we continue to evaluate how and where we best perform our work. While our university education modalities will largely be in-person this spring, some units that are not student-facing may have different work locations. More detailed guidance will be issued on this topic. Please contact your supervisor with any questions.
- Vaccine boosters have been approved for many in our community. MSU urges everyone eligible to receive a booster when they can. While the CDC has not changed its definition of "fully vaccinated" and boosters are not at this time required as part of the MSU vaccine verification process, boosters provide additional protection from COVID-19. You can find a COVID-19 vaccine or booster opportunity near you by visiting <https://www.vaccines.gov>.

Travel

Please make sure to add both **Christiina Donley** and **AnnMarie Guldner** as your travel delegates. This way if you need assistance, we are able to log into your travel profile to review. Please see the "Assistants vs Delegates" PDF which is attached to this newsletter.

Travel

MSU is continuing to review all international travel proposals on a case-by-case basis. However, with the high campus COVID-19 vaccination rate and many international borders starting to reopen, the provost, associate provost and dean of ISP, and the university physician have approved streamlining the review process for *most* international travelers. Travel requests for faculty, staff and guests no longer require additional review by the [Faculty and Staff Travel Review \(FASTR\) committee](#), *unless* the traveler is unvaccinated or the destination is considered high-risk for non-COVID safety and/or security reasons.

PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

For faculty, staff, and sponsored guests traveling on official MSU international travel, please review the [international travel waiver process](#) managed by ISP's [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#).

STEP 1—MAU APPROVAL:

1. The traveler fills out and submits the MAU Form to their dean, associate dean or relevant MAU administrator for approval.
2. Once the MAU Form is signed, the traveler must submit an online International Travel Waiver Request detailing their health and safety plan.
3. The MAU can be found [here](#).

STEP 2—REVIEW:

1. Following the submission process, ISP's Office for Global Health, Safety and Security will review the request, focusing on the country's COVID-19 and security risk factors.
 - Non-higher-risk: Vaccinated travelers will receive approval notification.
 - Higher-risk: The travel request will be referred to FASTR for full review. This includes travel to [high-risk destinations](#) and/or travel by unvaccinated individuals.
2. ISP's Office for Global Health, Safety and Security will email the traveler detailing next steps specific to the travel in the follow-up communications, including:
 1. Registration in MSU's Global Travel Registry
 2. Resources regarding international health and travel insurance
 3. Acknowledgement of Risk Form
 4. Options for supplemental trip interruption insurance to offset quarantines or trip interruptions

Please refer to the [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#) for additional detail regarding the review process, higher-risk travel and a tip sheet.

STUDENT TRAVEL

For details regarding travel with Education Abroad programs, please refer to the [COVID-19 Guidance for EA Programs](#) and the [Office for Education Abroad](#).

Students on non-Education Abroad travel should follow the initial steps in the waiver review process above. Their travel may be subject to additional review by the [Risk and Security Assessment Committee \(RSAC\)](#).

STAYING UPDATED

ISP's [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#) is in regular contact with RSAC and FASTR leadership to ensure these processes and procedures are updated according to MSU's COVID-19 guidance, as well as federal guidance. Regular updates will be posted at: globalsafety.msu.edu/covidintl.

Questions can be directed to Elke Schmidt, coordinator for the Office for Global Health, Safety and Security, globalsafety@msu.edu.

Travel

The CDC has updated their guidance related to travel requirements to enter the United States, starting November 8, 2021.

For more information:

- Michigan State University's TOGETHER WE WILL Travel landing page:
 - ✓ <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/travel/>
- CDC updates regarding November 8, 2021 requirements and recommendations:
 - ✓ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>
 - ✓ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

MSU TRAVEL and CONCUR SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Travel related questions: travel@ctrl.msu.edu
 - Concur and Expense related questions: concurhelp@msu.edu
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MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar: Request, Travel, Expense Session 1

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar+-+Request+%7C+Travel+%7C+Expense/1_yj5018bi

MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar: Booking Travel and Triplt Pro App Session 2

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar+-+Booking+Travel+and+Triplt+Pro+App/1_zy9owobv

MSU Concur Kick-Start Reintroduction Webinar: Groups and Guests Tools Session 3

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/MSU+Concur+Kick-Start+Reintroduction+Webinar-Guests+and+Groups/1_4r9e8ake\\

Download and view all of the **Concur User Training Guides** from this page:

<https://ctrl.msu.edu/COTravelNew/Guides.aspx>

Want the latest news in regard to travel and Concur? Register for the Travel Listserv at: https://ctrl.msu.edu/Join_Listserv.aspx?id=UNIVTVL

MSU's Travel Policy is published 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

Travel@State - Frequently Asked Questions

<https://ctrl.msu.edu/COTravelNew/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.aspx>

PSM Chairperson

Brian Horgan 517-353-0120	horganb@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
AnnMarie Guldner 517-353-0120	guldner1@msu.edu	Assistant to the Department Chairperson	

PSM Accounting Team psm.accounting@msu.edu

Lisa Bowen 517-353-0161	bowenli1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely Thursdays & Fridays	7:00 AM-3:30 PM
Gina Centeno 517-353-0105	centeno@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely Mondays & Tuesdays	8:15 AM - 2:30 PM
Kim McClung 517-353-0102	mcclungk@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely on Wednesdays	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
Emily Williams 517-353-0106	emilywil@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM

PSM Human Resources Team psm.hr@msu.edu

Jordan Davis 517-353-0139	davis432@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Christiina Donley 517-242-0473	tymoszew@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Mackenzie Graham 517-353-0111	graham2@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
AnnMarie Guldner 517-353-0120	guldner1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-4:00 PM
Hannah O'Mara 517-353-0104	omarahan@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Communications

Patty Bonito	bonitopa@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	9:00 AM-1:00 PM
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PSM IT Team

Dominic Colosimo 517-353-0107	colosi14@msu.edu	Monday-Friday Working remotely Tuesdays & Thursdays	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Lee Duynslager 517-432-5296	duynslag@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-4:30 PM

PSM Staff Drop-In Office Hours

Gina Centeno	Tuesday	10:00-11:00 AM (Teams)
	Wednesday	1:30-2:30 PM (PSSB A271)
Jordan Davis	Tuesday	2:00-3:00 PM
	Thursday	3:00-4:00 PM
Christiina Donley	Wednesday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM (Zoom)
Mackenzie Graham	Tuesday	1:00-2:00 PM
	Thursday	1:00-2:00 PM
AnnMarie Guldner	Monday	2:00-3:00 PM
	Wednesday	9:00-10:00 AM
Kim McClung	Tuesday	2:00-3:00 PM
	Thursday	10:00-11:00 AM
Hannah O'Mara	Monday	10:00-11:00 AM
	Wednesday	2:30-3:30 PM
Emily Williams	Monday	10:00-11:00 AM
	Wednesday	2:30-3:30 PM

MSU Academic Calendar

Fall 2021

December 12	Classes End
December 13-17	Final Exams
December 17-18	Commencements
December 24-27	Holiday - University Closed
December 28-30	Extended Break - PSM Office Closed
Dec 31 - Jan 3	Holiday - University Closed

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 December 17th pay date (for time worked from November 21-December 4) your time is due by 3 PM on Monday, December 6th. **Early Due Date and Time 3 PM.**
- For the December 30th pay date (for time worked from December 5-18) your time is due by Friday, December 17th. **Early Due Date.**
- For the January 14th pay date (for time worked from December 19-January 1) your time is due by Tuesday, January 4th.

Newsletter Submissions

Send newsletter submissions to **AnnMarie Guldner** at guldner1@msu.edu

Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM