

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Congratulations!

Last week three of our PSM graduate students received awards on their poster presentations in two different sections from the 61st Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Virtual Annual Meeting.

3rd Place: **Sarah Chu**, M.S. student (Advisor: **Erin Burns**)
Effects of interseeding corn and alfalfa on weed population dynamics

3rd Place: **Adam Constine**, M.S. Student (Advisor: **Christy Sprague**)
Weed management systems in XtendFlex soybean

1st Place: **Justine Fisher**, M.S. student (Advisor: **Christy Sprague**)
Season-long horseweed suppression with fall-seeded cover crops and narrow row soybean

Best Wishes Ashley Lathrop!

Today is **Ashley Lathrop**'s last day in PSM, as she has accepted another position on campus. We will miss having Ashley on our team and send our best wishes to Ashley in her new role.

Seminars/Webinars

March 10, 2021

2021 Agtech Innovation Summit

Virtual event

University of Illinois Research Park

Additional Information: <https://researchpark.illinois.edu/events/agtechsummit/>

March 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM

HORT/PSM Spring Seminar

Dr. Eric Brennan, USDA-ARS

Title: DIY video making tips to help you share your science on YouTube

Horticulture Organization of Graduate Students Invited Speaker

Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/94865185229>

Passcode: 149149

Upcoming MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events

Women in Research Month at MSU

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 from 12:00 AM-11:00 PM

Special Viewing of "Picture a Scientist". Please register by March 3 for the second viewing on March 7 through 9. [REGISTER HERE](#)

APIDA/A Virtual Listening Space

Wednesday, March 24, 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.

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

Fellowship Application for NSF-Funded IMPACTS Graduate Training Program

[IMPACTS](#) is a program aiming at training doctoral students in the interface between computational and plant sciences. It is funded through the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program.

Important dates:

- *Application due:* 5 pm, March 1, 2021.
- *Award announcement:* March 15, 2021.

What's in the program: The IMPACTS program focuses on training the next generation of scientists that can employ computational and data science approaches to analyze and interpret heterogeneous, multi-scale measurement data to predict plant responses in variable environments at local to global scales.

Why should you apply:

- Obtain foundational knowledge in computational and plant sciences and develop and execute innovative research approaches to address them.
- Develop communication, management, leadership, and collaboration skills.
- Obtain a one-year fellowship, as well as travel and internship support.
- Be recognized as an NSF Fellow.

Who is eligible to apply:

- A current doctoral student in their 1st-2nd year of doctoral training.
- A research project that has a clear need for integrating computational/data and plant sciences co-advised by a plant science-oriented and a computational/data science-oriented trainer.
- A US citizen or permanent resident.

Special note: *[Women and persons from underrepresented groups in research are especially encouraged to apply.](#)*

How to apply: See this [application document](#) for details.

If you have any questions, please contact us via prt@msu.edu.

Announcements

Building Sign In/Out Logs at PSM Farms

Ag Bio is discontinuing the requirements of sign in/out logs at the Research Farms. Individual Farm Managers have the option to continue using the system. **Gary Zehr** and **Mike Particka** will be discontinuing the sign in/out system because the COVID-19 contact tracers do not ask for that type of information.

Membership Dues

Because of limited resources to carry out the mission of the University, funds are not available to pay all the numerous and various membership dues.

Membership due payments require departmental approval prior to payment.

Please see additional Membership Dues information attached to this newsletter.

Remember to update your MSU alert settings

To ensure faculty and staff receive all emergency alerts, MSU Police asks employees to periodically update their emergency information.

Additional Information:

https://alert.msu.edu/?sc_camp=14CD019AFA0748EE8B69B95803741D92&utm_source=insidemusu-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=standard-promo

Building Access

If building access is needed, please remember to have your PI email AnnMarie Guldner (guldner1@msu.edu) directly with this request. Requests cannot be accepted from anyone other than your PI.

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.

Spring Drop-In Advising

Career Services Network will be hosting several virtual Drop-in Advising events to help with resume reviews for career fairs and the job search, as well as overall preparation for our upcoming job fairs! If you know of any students who are looking for career fair prep and/or a fast resume review, we have advisors ready to help them for virtual drop-ins on Tuesday, April 6th from 5-7 PM (EDT)

All of these events are listed on Handshake (msu.joinhandshake.com) under “CSN Drop-in Advising”, as well as on our website under “Learn About Drop-in Services”. Promotional flyer will be attached to this newsletter for reference and promotions. Additional Questions: Contact **Lauren Hinkel**, Career Advisor, Exploratory and All-Majors-Career Services Network at 517-884-1353 or hinkel2@msu.edu

Announcements

PSM Proposal Submission Procedure

PSM Policy

30+ Business days before deadline: Intent to submit a proposal needs to be forwarded to department administrator [**Debbie Williams**].

12 Business days before deadline: Items needed to route proposal document: draft budget.

5 Business days before deadline: Need final version of all documents: final budget, statement of work, justification, and MSU commitment form.

3 Business days before deadline: Final review of the package and submit the completed proposal document for approvals.

ABR ORS Office Policy

The policy for assistance from ABR-ORS are for projects \$100,000 or higher. All other projects must go through PSM.

30+ Business days before deadline: Complete the on-line ABR-ORS Proposal Request Form.

8 Business days before deadline: Items needed to route proposal document: draft project summary, final budget, statement of work, justification, and final subcontract documents.

5 Business days before deadline: Need final version of all documents: narrative, abstract, references, letters of support, vitae, current & pending, appendices, etc.

3 Business days before deadline: ABR-ORS will make final reviews of the package and submit the completed proposal document to OSP.

1 Business day before deadline: OSP will review and submit to the agency.

OSP Office Policy

10 Business days before deadline: Solicitation and/or intent needs to be forwarded to OSP with PD number.

6 Business days before deadline: Need final version of all documents: budget; narrative, abstract, references, letters of support, current & pending, etc.

3 Business days before deadline: Complete proposal for submission.

Late Proposals

A proposal is considered late when the PI, their administer, or the department/college pre-award office provides the complete proposal to OSP with less than 3 full business days prior to the submission deadline.

At-Risk Proposals

A late proposal is considered at-risk when it is provided to OSP within 8 business hours of the submission deadline. At-Risk approval from the Research Dean is required.

Faculty/staff risk the submission of their proposal if they fail to adhere to these procedures.

Mental Health Resources for Employees

Health4U Resources

The following MSU Health4U virtual courses and meetups are available (some require registration):

- **MSU Grief and Loss Support**: Specialized counselors facilitate weekly on-line support sessions on Tuesdays for those experiencing grief and loss.
- **Naming and Navigating Ambiguous Loss**: Join this webinar on Friday, Feb. 19 to learn about the idea of ambiguous loss and unresolved grief, particularly regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Breaking Free from the Monkey Mind**: This is a four-week course beginning on March 3, based on the book “Don’t Feed the Monkey Mind: How to Stop the Cycle of Anxiety, Worry and Fear” by Jennifer Shannon, LMFT.
- **Essential Skills for Navigating Difficult Times**: The purpose of this eight-week course is to build emotional resilience and psychological flexibility skills to help you navigate the work/life challenges we face, especially as our work and home life have been combined.

Employee Assistance Program Counseling Services

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential counseling service provided at no cost to MSU faculty, staff, retirees, graduate student employees, and their families. Learn how to make an appointment on the [EAP website](#). These appointments are offered virtually through Zoom.

COVID-19 Updates

For Faculty and Staff

For further information from the university, please visit: <https://msu.edu/together-well/faculty-staff/>

Working

- The MSU campus remains open for essential functions only. More information about working remotely is available at: remote.msu.edu.
- Returning to campus: The Ingham County Health Department has issued an emergency order requiring all employees still reporting to work to answer health screening options. To facilitate compliance with this order, we are directing you to this [Covid-19 Workplace Health Screening Form](#) to be filled out prior to each time you enter your campus building.
- Access to high-speed internet is critical for working remotely. Please visit the following link for resources that are available: <https://remote.msu.edu/learning/internet.html>

Travel

- **All university-sponsored travel (international and domestic) is suspended indefinitely.** This includes new travel as well as any currently booked trips.
- A waiver may be requested for essential international travel for a traveler on an approved international assignment to return to the U.S. or their home country. Requests should be directed via email to oihs@msu.edu. Policies for future incoming and outbound travel are under development and will be shared as they are approved.
- A waiver is required for domestic business essential travel; it can only be granted by the provost, a vice president or the president through the [following form](#) and must be approved before a trip begins. In-state travel is permitted to perform one’s essential job duties, but also [requires a waiver](#). Non-essential in-state travel to state conferences or other gatherings should not occur.
- For updated information on travel advisories, please visit: <https://msu.edu/together-well/travel/>.

Travel

Assistance Resources

Travel policy and travel program support: travel@ctrl.msu.edu or 517-355-5000

Concur: concurhelp@msu.edu

Inbound travel

- Travelers coming to any of MSU's campuses are asked to follow the applicable protocol outlined on our Office of International Health and Safety's website: <https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic/health-protocol-inbound-travel>.
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University-sponsored travel

- For employees and students engaged in university-sponsored projects, **all non-essential outgoing domestic and international travel is suspended indefinitely.**
- If you feel you have essential travel needs, you can submit a waiver for review at least 3 weeks prior to departure. Prior to submitting the waiver, you will be required to obtain documentation from your unit administrator and, for students, from the cognizant advisor, college administrator or program director, affirming that the travel is essential in the context of both programmatic priorities and financial considerations. Note: The health and safety context for travel is currently very fluid, rapidly evolving by location and significantly impacted by frequent issuances of local, national, and international policies.
- Links to appropriate waivers can be found here: <https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic>

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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

VACCINES

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates:

[FDA Fact Sheet for Pfizer Vaccine Recipients](#): This fact sheet must be provided to vaccine recipients upon vaccine administration, along with [a record card](#).

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#): Vaccine Information and additional sources for the Latest COVID-19 Vaccine News.

- Poster on Vaccine Preparation and Administration: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Preparation: Mixing Diluent and Vaccine](#)
- Pfizer Standing Order: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine to Persons 16 years of Age and Older](#)
- Pfizer Vaccine Preparation and Administration Information: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary](#)
- Pfizer Screening Checklist: [Pre-Vaccination Form for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [What to Expect After COVID-19 Vaccine Handout](#)
- [Health Systems Communication Toolkit](#): Ready-made materials you can use to inform your healthcare teams and other staff
- [COVID 19 Vaccination Record Card PDF](#)

[Michigan Department of Health and Human Services COVID Vaccination Guide](#): COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Guidance and Educational Resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Prioritization Guidance](#): This guidance outlines the strategy for vaccine prioritization for the State of Michigan and will be used by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), as well as public health and health care, as they allocate and administer vaccines.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information For Providers Document](#): Document outlines key topics.

[MDHHS, Division of Immunizations new online COVID-19 Provider Vaccination Registration form](#)

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Important Information for Health Care](#)

[Professionals](#): A website for providers that includes very detailed information on vaccine storage and handling, including videos.

Michigan Health Alert Network: Update on the Ancillary Kits

- [Update on Mega Kit contents for Pfiz](#)
- [COVID Vaccine Packages PDF](#)
- [IMPORTANT COVID-19 Vaccine Updates](#)
- [MDHHS COVID Webinar Flyer](#)
- [Product Information Guide](#)

Medical Management Guidance for managing a Vaccine Reaction:

- [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adults in a Community Setting](#)
- [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens in a Community Setting](#)

CDC Clinical Guidance for the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine:

Other Immunization Resources for Providers during COVID-19:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#): Interim Guidance for Routine and Influenza Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

[Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#): Updates to this website are ongoing to support you with resources for vaccinating in the context of COVID-19.

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.

Vehicle Use Policy

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

MSU Academic Calendar

Spring 2021

March 2-3	Break Days
March 10	Middle of Semester
April 21	Classes End
April 22-23	Study Days
April 26-30	Final Exams
May 1-8	Commencements

Spring 2021 Commencement

Ceremony dates have been confirmed. Specific details, including the ceremony format, will be shared at a later date.

April 30-May 2: Baccalaureate Degree Ceremonies. College-specific dates and times will be posted on commencement.msu.edu soon.

May 7-8: Master's Degree, Educational Specialists, and Doctoral Degree Ceremonies. Specific dates and times will be posted on commencement.msu.edu soon.

For additional information go to <https://commencement.msu.edu/>

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 March 12th pay date (for time worked from February 14-27) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, March 2nd.
- For the March 26th pay date (for time worked from February 28-March 13) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, March 16th.
- For the April 9th pay date (for time worked from March 14-27) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, March 31st.

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
Brian Horgan	horgan@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
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