

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Karim Maredia, Ph.D.**, professor in the MSU Department of Entomology and the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences who will receive the ANR Distinguished Faculty Award.

The ANR Awards Program will be held via Zoom on March 12, 2021 from 11:00 AM-12:15 PM.

Additional information: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/anr-awards-program>

Seminars/Webinars

March 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute PRI Fellow Candidate

Rachel MacTavish, University of Georgia

Seminar Title: Enhancing plant resilience to novel soil environments via plant-soil interactions

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98293674925>

Meeting ID: 982 9367 4925

Passcode: PRIFELLOW

March 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Dr. Erika Edwards, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University

Seminar Title: The distinct yet occasionally interconnecting evolutionary trajectories of C4 and CAM photosynthesis in plants

<https://plantresilience.msu.edu/events/2021-events/>

March 15, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series

Presenter: **Shay Shemanski**

Title: Fruit Microbiome of Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Varies by Tissue Type and Fungicide Treatment

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

Seminars / Webinars

March 16, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute PRI Fellow Candidates

Po-An Lin, Pennsylvania State University

Seminar Title: Drought-Plant-Insect Interactions: Anti-herbivore defenses and insect-induced drought responses

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98293674925>

Meeting ID: 982 9367 4925

Passcode: PRIFELLOW

March 17, 2021 at 1:00-2:00 PM

Level Up Your Career: From Grad Student to Employment Webinar Series

This Month's Webinar - Preparing for the Job Search and Interview Skills

Additional information attached to this newsletter.

March 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Women's Networking Association Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series

Shortlisted: Women in the Shadows of the Supreme Court

Renee Knake Jefferson, Professor of Law and MSU Board of Trustees

Register: <https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0uf-ioqzwrGdGYx8zBMK6a3f0LqSnVO2rp>

March 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute PRI Fellow Candidates

Daniel Anstett, University of British Columbia

Seminar Title: Evolution of plant resilience across latitudinal gradients in an era of climate change

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98293674925>

Meeting ID: 982 9367 4925

Passcode: PRIFELLOW

March 22, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Jill Check

Title: Epidemiology of Tar Spot of Corn

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

March 22, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Ask the experts: MSU Employee COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall - Local Distribution Efforts

Panel:

Norman Beauchamp, Jr., M.D. - Executive Vice President MSU Health Sciences

Linda Vail, M.P.A. - Health Officer Ingham County

LeKeeya Tucker, D.O. - Medical Chief of Staff - Elect, Sparrow Hospital

Register for the town hall

https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZNb6A_RhRle8j7irSAQrZg

Submit questions in advance

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MHEXli9k2UGSEXQjetVofbWgaDdJbX9FkSjs_j9b1dxUN0lIMkdZNEc4Q0hYQ0pZOUdBUIhNTFdaRy4u%2B

Seminars / Webinars

March 24, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute PRI Fellow Candidate

Stephanie Schmiege, Columbia University

Seminar Title: Carbon conundrums: Plant respiration in a changing climate

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98293674925>

Meeting ID: 982 9367 4925

Passcode: PRIFELLOW

March 29, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Ross Hatlen

Title: *Diaporthe humulicola*: and Emerging Threat to the Michigan Hop Industry

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

March 31, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Women's Networking Association Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series

Assertiveness: The Secret Ingredient to Self-Care & Unlocking Your Untapped Power

NiCole Buchanan, Ph.D. Professor in the Department of Psychology at MSU

Register: [https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk)

[2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcod-2vrj4vHdXPYztHEsVTbrr8dm58M3Nk)

April 5, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Stanley Berly

Title: Examination of Factors impacting *Cercospora beticola*.

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

April 12, 2021 at 1:30 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Tara Watkins

Title: Utilizing RNAi to Manage Fusarium Head Blight in barley

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

April 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM

PLP 894 Seminar Series: Spring 2021

Presenter: Bryan Rennick

MS Defense Seminar: "Target Mycorrhizal Fungi Utilization in Nursery and Forest Cropping Systems"

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93626313954>

Meeting ID: 936 2631 3954

Passcode: 276403

Upcoming MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events

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

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is expanding access to the COVID-19 vaccine. On Monday, March 8th Michiganders who are age 50 and older with medical conditions or disabilities, caregiver family members and guardians who care for children with special health care needs are eligible to receive the vaccine. On March 22nd, eligibility will extend to all Michiganders age 50 and older. If you are eligible and need help finding a vaccine site, the state has an online resource at

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214_104822---,00.html

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 2021 Commencement

Baccalaureate Degrees

Spring 2021 Commencements are for Spring 2021 Semester Graduates Only. Each graduate will receive an email invitation mid-March to which you **MUST RSVP**. Each graduate will be allowed 2 guests. Ceremonies are ticketed events this semester. Please be sure to follow the instructions you will receive via email. Please visit the “Graduate Information” tab for updates. Instructions and information will be posted by mid-March.

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Friday, April 30, 2021

Breslin Center Parking Lot

8:00 AM - Agricultural, Food, & Resource Economics; Animal Science; **Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences**

11:00 AM - Entomology; Horticulture; Institute of Agricultural Technology; Packaging; Planning, Design, & Construction

2:00 PM - Community Sustainability; Fisheries & Wildlife; Food Science & Human Nutrition; Forestry

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

Job Announcements

Posting #692488 Professional Aid in Entomology Agriculture and Natural Resources

Primary Staffing Coordinator	Kelsea Logan LOGANKE2@MSU.EDU 517-884-0396
Staffing Coordinator Backup 1	Linda Gallagher GALLAG14@MSU.EDU 517-884-0394
HR Analyst	Monica Hart HARTMONI@MSU.EDU 517-884-0129
Posting Text	<p>Position Summary(Basic Job Function) This is a temporary or an on-call position. Provides professional support. Responsibilities may include general business, science, medical, agricultural or other professional support functions. Term: Temps can work two (2) nine (9) month terms with a week break in service in between and at the end of the second term terminate for three (3) months or switch to an on-call. On-Call allowed to work 1039 hours in any twelve (12) month period.</p> <p>Unit Position Summary MSU Lab/Field Technician</p> <p>The Applied Nematology lab is seeking a Temporary laboratory and field technician beginning spring 2021. The applicant will be responsible for the set up and maintenance of nematology field trials across the state of Michigan within multiple commodity groups including corn, soybeans and sugar beets. Day-to-day duties will include travel to field sites, leading/aiding in trial planting and harvest, pesticide applications, soil sample collection, data entry, report writing, and nematode identification. The applicant does not need a background in nematology or know how to identify nematodes but must be willing to learn.</p> <p>Required Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MDARD Certified Pesticide Applicators License - CDL Drivers license or ability to obtain within 1 month of hiring - Able to drive truck and trailer, operate forklift, and operate tractor - Basic understanding of replicated agricultural research - Ability to follow protocols and keep detailed notes - Proficiency in Microsoft excel and word with ability to compile data, make simple graphs and reports - Ability to lift a minimum of 60lbs comfortably - Ability to work outdoors in adverse conditions for long periods of time <p>Desired Qualifications Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree is desired with a major of Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science, Horticulture or related preferred. Previous experience in agricultural research or farming is preferred.</p> <p>Equal Employment Opportunity Statement All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, citizenship, age, disability or protected veteran status.</p> <p>Work Hours STANDARD 8-5</p> <p>Summary of Physical Demands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to lift a minimum of 60lbs comfortably - Ability to work outdoors in adverse conditions for long periods of time

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.

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.

Opportunity to Volunteer for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

The Ingham County Health Department is offering a unique opportunity to MSU faculty and staff to play a role in the COVID-19 vaccine distribution effort. MSU employees can now [register](#) to volunteer using their NetID.

Faculty and staff members interested in volunteering must submit their [application](#) online. The MSU Police Department will facilitate the health department's required background check. After the screening process, employee names will be referred to the ICHD, which will contact employees to sign up for shifts at one of the Ingham County vaccination distribution centers.

By registering to volunteer, you are committing to a minimum of four five-hour shifts. After your fourth shift, you will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

This opportunity is open only to faculty and staff with a valid NetID. It is not available to family members of MSU employees; others who wish to volunteer should contact ICHD directly. You do not need to live in Ingham County or work at the East Lansing campus to register.

Registration:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MHEXli9k2UGSEXQjetVofeKI9aH93npGnMcWC8pZP85UQTNWQTIERk9GUKlPUk5LMURWTDY4RVFTNCQIQCN0PWcu>

Vehicle Use Policy

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

MSU Academic Calendar

Spring 2021

April 21	Classes End
April 22-23	Study Days
April 26-30	Final Exams
April 30	Commencement
	Breslin Center Parking Lot
	8:00 AM - Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
	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 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.
- For the April 23rd pay date (for time worked from March 28-April 10) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 13th.

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	horganb@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
Emily Williams	emilywil@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