

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



On Wednesday, March 4, 170 FFA members, advisors, and chaperones attended the PSM Open House. During this time students learned about the departments research, extension, and educational programs from **Erin Bosch-Hannah**. They also were able to interact with faculty, staff, and graduate students during break out sessions. The following groups created activities for students to learn about their programs and research. Students were really excited and hopefully we will see them as PSM students in the future!

- **Linda Hanson & lab:** examining plants with diseases
- **Pavani Tumbalam:** Bioenergy contributes to a sustainable future
- **Jon Dahl - Soils & Plant Nutrient Lab,** pH & Phosphorus testing
- **Natalie Kaiser - Potato Breeding & Genetics** tour
- **Mikaela Breunig - Chilvers Lab,** plant diseases, DNA extraction
- **Sarah Chu, Allyson Rumler, Nash Hart - Weed ID** activities
- **Erin Hill, Jan Byrne, Laura Miles, & Angie Tenney - Plant & Pest Diagnostics - Plant Detectives!**
- **Addie Thompson - Plant genetics**



Seminar / Webinar Announcements

April 20, 2020 at 4:00 PM in Room 110, Radiology Building

2020 Vision: MSU Extension in the Next Decade

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2020Vision/>

Keith Creagh, former director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

May 5, 2020 at 4:00 PM in Room 110, Radiology Building

2020 Vision: MSU Extension in the Next Decade

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2020Vision/>

David Mortenson, PhD, professor of Weed and Applied Plant Pathology, Penn State University

Announcements

PSM Summer Hours

PSM summer hours will be in effect from May 11th through August 3rd. During that time, the PSM office will be open from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM.

PSM Friday Coffee/Donut Hour

We are cancelling our Friday coffee/donut hour until further notice. As soon as we have a date when they will resume, we will update you with this information.

March 26, 2020

International Networking Breakfast, 8:30-10:30 AM at the Kellogg Center in Big Ten C

Additional Information: <https://worklife.msu.edu/news/international-networking-breakfast-serves-conversations>

To register for the breakfast or to schedule a consultation, visit: <http://bit.ly/contact-worklife>

Update 3/12/2020: The WorkLife Office will probably move this meeting to an online webinar to occur at the same time and date. You can still register, but please note the event will likely be a webinar. WorkLife will let all registrants know if anything changes and will update the calendar event web page as changes happen. We strongly encourage you to join the MSU International ListServ to get more information <https://worklife.msu.edu/listserv>

March 30-31, 2020

USDA Rural Development, Montana State University, and Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE), is announcing the inaugural **Soil Health Innovations Conference**. This national conference will be held at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Conference registration (to attend in person): <https://soilinnovations.ncat.org/register/>

Conference registration (livestream): <https://soilinnovations.ncat.org/universities/>

Announcements

April 3, 2020

2020 Graduate School Mentoring Awards: Deadline April 3rd

On behalf of the Graduate School, I am pleased to announce this year's nomination process for Graduate School Outstanding Mentoring Awards, which recognize graduate programs, faculty and doctoral students who exemplify mentoring best practices. These awards highlight both the importance of exceptional mentoring to the quality of graduate education at MSU and the commitment of individuals and graduate programs to graduate student success in line with our *Foundational Values for Graduate Student & Faculty Mentoring Relationships and Guidelines for Graduate Student Mentoring & Advising*.

Outstanding Graduate Program Community Award, recognizing a graduate program/department that fosters the *Foundational Values* and proactively works to meet their students' educational and extended professional development needs. \$5000 award in 2020-21 to support graduate program activities.

Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards, recognizing faculty whose work with graduate students exemplifies the *Foundational Values* through ensuring that their students meet program expectations and milestones, and providing multiple enriched career and professional development opportunities. Two awards are available, one for an assistant /early associate professor (2-3 years in associate rank) and one for more senior associate and full professors. \$1500 awards in 2019-20 to support mentoring activities.

Outstanding Doctoral Student Mentor Award, recognizing a doctoral student who has already demonstrated the capacity to be a strong mentor of undergraduate or graduate students. \$1000 fellowship award for spring or summer 2019.

Please see the attachment for a description of the awards and the application process. **The deadline for applications is April 3, 2020. Recipients will be announced at the May 1, 2020 PhD Commencement.** For questions, contact Judith Stoddart, Senior Associate Dean (stoddart@grd.msu.edu).

April 17, 2020

MSU will hold the annual **Student Memorial Tribute** on Friday, April 17th to honor students who have died during the past academic year. Family, friends, faculty, students and community members are invited to gather at 2:30 PM in the tent behind the Student Services Building in the fountain area. In case of rain, an alternative location will be announced. For additional information, contact the Office of the Vice President and Associate Provost for Student Affairs and Services at 517-355-7535.

May 1, 2020

Graduating PSM Grad & Undergrad Students please save the date for the annual **PSM Spring Ceremony** in honor of your GRADUATION! The small ceremony will be held on Friday, May 1st from 12-1 PM in the MPS Atrium off Bogue Street, between the PSSB and PLB buildings. You will be allowed 2 guests if you wish. A formal invitation and RSVP link will be sent out in April. Please contact Mackenzie Graham at graham2@msu.edu with any questions.

Announcements

May 7-8, 2020

Dimensions of Plant Resilience Inaugural Symposium

Submit abstracts by **March 31, 2020**

Additional information: <https://plantresilience.msu.edu/events/symposium-2020/>

May 30-June 13, 2020

2020 Practical Summer Workshop in Functional Genomics, Ohio State University

Now accepting applications for undergraduate, Master's and new PhD students.

The upcoming workshop will focus on plant-microbe interactions.

Further information regarding the workshop: <https://caps.osu.edu/FGW-2020>

Please contact **Jason Slot**, Coordinator, 2020 PSWFG at caps@osu.edu with any additional questions.

July 12-August 7, 2020

CANR is calling for summer mentors for the **2020 ANR Multicultural Apprenticeship Program (MAP)**. The program runs from July 12-August 7, 2020 and the mentor application is **due by April 10th**.

Please see the MAP faculty information and participation form that was emailed out to faculty on January 28th. Further information regarding the program:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/pre_college/multicultural_apprenticeship_program_map/index

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

MSU has launched a new website for coronavirus updates. Please visit msu.edu/coronavirus for the latest information.

For updated information from state health officials, visit

<https://www.Michigan.gov/coronavirus/>

Travel

Students who have been awarded fellowship support in conjunction with travel that will not take place can keep in place the funding and use this towards any non-refundable expenses. Units should encourage students to keep the unencumbered/reimbursed funds to be used for future professional development opportunities.

No more funds will be disbursed for travel as of March 11 unless travel is deemed essential. Trips tied to job-prospects for students that are currently on the job market can be considered essential and can be supported through GOF (or other) funds at the unit's' discretions.

Any student faced with non-refundable costs (cancelled flights, hotels, conference registrations fees) that have not been covered through other means can request financial support to offset these costs. Requests should be routed through and vetted by colleges. Units should work with Financial Aid to process fellowships to cover the costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Mikala Rioux, mrioux@msu.edu, 517-353-3231.

TRAVEL IMPACTED BY COVID-19

Due to concerns over the COVID-19 epidemic, many conference organizations are taking precautionary measures and cancelling conferences. In addition, many travelers are not comfortable traveling during the epidemic. Below are the guidelines we suggest.

When a conference is canceled, Contact the conference organizer for direction on obtaining conference fee refunds.

If a conference is not canceled, but a traveler chooses to not attend, please work with the conference to obtain a refund of registration fees. If no refund is possible, it is acceptable for the unit to simply absorb the cost and allow the traveler to not attend.

All travel reservations not being used must be cancelled. Whether airfare was direct billed or paid out of pocket, lodging paid via MSU Travel Card or personally, this must take place. The expectation is that travelers will work with travel providers to obtain refunds or waivers.

Booking airfare through the MSU Travel Program (online via Concur or through a Preferred Travel Agency) is always best: Michigan State University has strong partnerships with contracted airlines, hotels, and ground transportation. The MSU Travel Office has been working in conjunction with our Preferred Travel Agencies and these partners to leverage our relationships to obtain refunds on behalf our travelers. Please do work with your Preferred Travel Agency (Conlin Travel, STA Travel, and Anthony Travel) for assistance with cancellations, refunds, and waivers.

Airline tickets must be cancelled before the scheduled outbound flight. For airfare booked through Conlin Travel and Concur, please contact Conlin Travel agents (884-9400) for assistance. Conlin Travel will leverage our airline contracts to work towards refunds (best) or waivers of change fees when the unused ticket is applied to purchase a new ticket on that airline.

If the ticket was purchased outside of the MSU Travel Program, travelers are responsible for contacting the airlines to seek refunds or waivers. When travelers book tickets outside of the MSU Travel Program and/or pay for airfare with their personal credit cards, there is no support that MSU can provide. The traveler is the only one who can use the ticket; therefore, the ticket should be cancelled and rebooked at a later date. It is unlikely that MSU will cover the cost of personally purchased airfare because the university cannot take ownership of the ticket.

Hotel reservations should also be cancelled prior to arrival to mitigate no show charges. Travelers need to explain the situation to the hoteliers and Airbnb, whichever is applicable, and ask for refunds and/or waivers of any charges.

If hotels were booked through a Preferred Travel Agency or Concur, and travelers cannot get the hotel to refund deposits or waive fees, please contact your Preferred Travel Agency for assistance. They may have some leverage in negotiating full refunds. If travelers booked the conference hotel, we strongly recommend that they reach out to the conference planners for assistance. We are confident that they are receiving many inquiries and may have already worked something out with the hotel on behalf of attendees staying at the conference hotel.

Visit msu.edu/coronavirus to learn more about what MSU is doing and what you can do to stay healthy.

HR / Professional Development Opportunities

Current Organization and Professional Development (OPD) courses are available this semester for yourself and/or faculty and support staff in your unit.
<https://hr.msu.edu/professional-development/courses/index.html>

If you are a support staff employee, be sure to use your Educational Assistance funds for career development opportunities such as OPD courses, attending conferences, and so much more. Learn about your Ed Assist benefit here
<https://hr.msu.edu/professional-development/ed-assist/>

Upcoming Professional Development Courses

March 17	Creating an Inclusive Environment
March 18	Payments Non-Res Aliens & Foreign Vendors
March 18 & 19	Crucial Conversations
March 24	Everything DiSC: Behavior Styles at Work
March 24	Implicit Bias and Microaggressions
March 26	Managing Difficult Customers
March 31	EBS Financial System-Roles/Onboarding
March 31	Leading Change

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 27th pay date your time is due by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, March 17th.
- For the April 10th pay date your time is due by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, March 31st

MSU Academic Calendar

Spring 2020

Friday, April 24	Classes End
Monday, 4/27 - Friday, 5/1	Final Exams
Friday, 5/1 - Sunday, 5/3	Commencements

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