

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



Seminars/Webinars

April 9, 2021 at 8:30 AM

Final Oral Examination/Seminar

Crop and Soil Sciences, M.S. Degree

Candidate: Adam Constine

Title of Thesis: Weed Control and Tank-Mix Interactions in Soybean Resistant to Dicamba, Glyphosate, and Glufosinate

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93276333091>

Meeting ID: 932 7633 3091

Passcode: Constine

April 9, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Brews and Views: At Home Edition

From Gold to Weevil: Exploring the science and ethics of GMOs

Kevin Elliott, PhD

Professor, Lyman Briggs College, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Philosophy

Felicia Wu, PhD

John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Food Safety, Toxicology, and Risk Assessment, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics

Registration: bit.ly/bv-apr9

April 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute Spring 2021 Seminar Series

Rusty Rodriguez, CEO, Adaptive Symbiotic Technologies

Seminar Title: Programming Plants for Climate Resilience with Symbiotic Fungal Endophytes: Altering the Future of Agricultural Sustainability, Food Security and Poverty

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

April 12, 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

Seminars / Webinars

April 13, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Distinguished Lecture Series, MSU College of Social Science

Dr. Thilo Hoffman, University of Vienna, Professor of Environmental Geosciences

Title: From Natural to Engineered to Plastic Nanoparticles: Lessons Learned and Mistakes to Avoid

To Register: <https://bit.ly/3d7ZDPr>

April 14, 2021 from 9 AM-1PM EDT

The Future of Farming to Meet Sustainable Development Goals in Africa:

Reflections on Soil Health and Policy

MSU Speakers: **Regis Chikowo**, **Saweda Liverpool-Tassie**, **Alison Nord**, **Sieg Snapp**, and **Lisa Tiemann**

Agenda and Registration:

https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/6616166788436/WN_6nW0WU7sRq2s1p0fS6fM8w

April 26, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute Spring 2021 Seminar Series

Michael Udvardi, Chief Scientific Officer, Noble Research Institute

Seminar Title: Functional genomics of symbiotic nitrogen fixation in legumes

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

April 28, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Women's Networking Association Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series

Crucial Conversations

Collaboration with MSU Human Resources

Register:

<https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEqfuusrjotHNMJ671GRQPIjiGjujF7ltbK>

May 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Plant Resilience Institute Spring Seminar Series

Dr. Diane Rowland

Seminar Title: UF's Center for Stress Resilient Agriculture: transdisciplinary approaches help accelerate the understanding of root and whole plant stress tolerance

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

May 12, 2021 at 11:30 AM

Women's Networking Association Spring 2021 Virtual Event Series

Processing Change through Reflective Writing

Dr. Denise Acevedo, MSU Writing Rhetoric and American Culture

Register: <https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kc-grqD0tHNQBOX9wigfclt9wF-Fz-kz0>

Upcoming MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives Events

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 Precautions During and After Spring Break / Rapid COVID Testing

The Ingham County Health Department has urged the community to take COVID-19 precautions during and after spring break. For any MSU faculty and staff who might be traveling with their families the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is offering rapid testing Sunday, April 11, and Wednesday, April 14 in Ingham County. This event is drive-thru testing and results will be available in 15-30 minutes. Pre-registration is strongly recommended. Additional sites around the state are available beginning April 3. Article and flyer attached to this newsletter.

Red Water Notice - 6 AM, April 5th through 5 PM, April 10th

Where: Campus wide

What is being done: Fire pump testing throughout campus.

Why this is being done: It is an annual requirement for fire pump certification.

How will this impact the campus community: Pump testing will take place throughout campus, Monday through Thursday. During this work and for up to a couple of days after, some discoloration of the water supply may occur throughout campus. This discoloration is harmless in terms of sanitation and safety but may discolor clothing if used for laundry.

Special precautions that need to be taken: The temporary discoloration of the water may discolor clothing if used for laundry.

Who to contact for more information: Corey Morris, Planner/Inspector/Analyst, at 517-898-6632 or morri504@msu.edu, or IPF at 517-353-1760.

-20 Freezer (PSSB 4th Floor)

There is a walk-in freezer that is located on the 4th floor of PSSB. It has been used in the past by both PSM and HORT. Last Fall, the freezer stopped working due to some technical issue. It has since been fixed and is working properly at this point. If you would like to use this freezer, please contact Sarah Lebeis Werner (lebeissa@msu.edu). You will also find a sheet outside of the freezer door with contact information. This will help us to organize the freezer space and provide a list of people to contact in case of emergency (breakdown of the freezer).

Reminder Regarding New Accounting Reports

Please note that starting February 1, 2021, there was a change to how you receive monthly reports for your account(s). You may receive multiple reports that show current expenditures along with encumbered salaries (if any) and current spendable amounts (only for grant accounts). Attached to this newsletter is a guide on how to read Operating Statement-FIN049 reports and will be available for support (see the attached PDF called Admin.ReadingReport.v1). If you have any questions regarding the new process, please contact Emily Williams on Teams or by email.

Announcements

New PSM HR Email Inbox

PSM HR has launched a shared email inbox for the HR team. (**Christiina Donley, Mackenzie Graham, AnnMarie Guldner, Rachel Jorgensen, and Hannah O'Mara**). If you are unsure who to contact or have a general HR question, please utilize PSM.HR@msu.edu. We will ensure that the request or question is answered by the correct member of our team and a timely response is given. This inbox will be monitored by all members of the PSM HR team, so that they can provide a response should a team member be out of the office or unavailable. This email will also be utilized for sending HR related communications. Please contact **Hannah O'Mara** should you have any questions or concerns.

New PSM Accounting Email Inbox

PSM Accounting has begun to utilize a shared email inbox for the Accounting team (**Lisa Bowen, Gina Centeno, Debbie Williams, and Emily Williams**). If you are unsure who to contact or have a general Accounting question, please email PSM.Accounting@msu.edu. They will ensure that the request or question is answered by the correct member of their team in a timely manner. This inbox will be monitored by all members of the Accounting team so that they can provide a response should a team member be out of the office or unavailable. This mailbox will also be used to send Accounting related communications. Please contact **Emily Williams** should you have any questions or concerns.

Plant Science Graduate Student Research Symposium

Friday, April 16, 2021 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Oral and Poster Presentations (Virtual)

Present research and win cash prizes! Please see the attached flyer for additional information. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/psgsrs/>

Pcard Holders - New Update

Amazon Business Reminder - Holders of Pcards can register in Spartan Marketplace's Amazon Business account to take advantage of Business Prime Shipping.

Bank of America Global Access Info - Pcard holders have access to Bank of America's new and improved Global Card Access portal to help manage your Pcard.

Reminder: Spring semester classes end on Wednesday, April 21. **April 22 and 23 will be designated Study Days for students** to prepare for final exams. There will be no classes, assignments, exams or quizzes for students on these Study Days.

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.

Vehicle Use Policy

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

Job Announcements

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences

Biological Science Technician - Naegele Lab

Full-time temporary (1 year) position

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596399700>

Lab Research Assistant and Field/Greenhouse Assistant

The Sugarbeet genetics at the USDA ARS in Parlier, CA is looking for two research assistants to help with greenhouse/field and lab evaluations as part of ongoing basic and applied research on grapes and sugarbeet.

For lab activities, duties will include, but are not limited to, routine lab experiments and procedures including PCR and DNA extractions. Basic lab maintenance, such as sterilizing supplies and biohazardous waste is also expected. Ongoing projects in the lab are focused on population genetics, fungicide resistance and gene expression, fruit quality and molecular marker development.

For field/greenhouse activities, duties will include, but are not limited to, maintaining plants in greenhouse and growth chamber, planting field and greenhouse experiments, evaluating and collecting samples from plants. Ongoing projects in the greenhouse are focused on identifying naturally occurring variability in nitrogen use efficiency, and testing genetic compatibility.

Both positions are full-time (30-40h/week) during the summer, with the possibility to extend to part-time (10-20 hours/wk) during the school semester depending on work performance. Successful applicants will be reliable and work well as part of a team. For more information or to apply, please send your resume to Rachel.naegele@usda.gov. Positions are open until filled.

Research Administrator II

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences seeks a motivated, organized, team player for a lead role in the departmental finance team, working closely with faculty and administrative staff to manage pre and post award accounts, monitor department's EBS account system, generate high quality reports, forecast expenditures, and assist with pre award fellowships and commodity proposals.

Job # 698104

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/506223/research-administrator-ii>

Technical Aide

Saginaw Valley Dry Bean Research Assistant

Job # 696351

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/506086/technical-aide>

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.

MSU Faculty, Staff, and Students with COVID-19 health-related questions, please call the MSU Health Care COVID-19 Triage line at 855-958-2678. The MSU Health Care COVID-19 Triage line is available 6 AM to Midnight, 7 days a week.

Campus Information and Updates: <https://msu.edu/coronavirus/>

CDC guidance regarding COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

COVID-19 Updates

- MSU announced it will hold graduation ceremonies this spring for 2021 graduates. There will be more than 50 limited-attendance ceremonies scheduled by each college based on student's majors and last names. They will be spread across large MSU parking lots to allow for physical distancing.
- Go to <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/covid19-vaccine/> to learn how to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine, information regarding vaccine prioritization, and information regarding how to volunteer and receive the vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is expanding access to the COVID-19 vaccine. On March 22nd, all areas of the state may, as vaccine supplies are available, implement vaccination of people who are aged 50 and up (part of phase 2), as well as vaccination of people aged 16 and up who have disabilities and/or medical conditions, as well as their caregiver family members or guardians. By April 5th, all areas of the state may, as vaccine supplies are available, implement vaccination of all people aged 16 and up who were not previously eligible. If you are eligible and need help finding a vaccine site, the state has an online resource at <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>.

Travel

UPDATED: Blanket Travel Request Forms

PSM has updated our policy on blanket trip request forms. Previously, we submitted our blanket request forms by fiscal year. **We have updated this policy to calendar year.** Please update your blanket request forms to reflect this change.

Travel Expense Reports

In the MSU Manual of Business Procedures (Section 70: Travel Policies and Procedures/ VII. Travel Expense Reports) it reads:

- A. Travel Expense Reports cannot be submitted without a fully approved Request.
- B. Travel Expense Reports should be submitted within 30 days of the trip's end date or June 30, whichever is sooner.
 - 1. Travelers have 90 days from the trip's end date to submit their Travel Expense Reports. After 90 days:
 - a. Out of pocket expenses are non-reimbursable.
 - b. Travel expenses paid directly by the University always require a Travel Expense Report.
 - 2. Exception: Travel Expense Reports for in-state mileage must be submitted at least on a quarterly basis.
- C. See Reimbursement Chart for listing of reimbursable expenses, rates of reimbursement, receipt requirements, and dollar thresholds.
 - 1. MSU colleges and departments may authorize amounts less than full reimbursement.

This information can be found 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

PSM Travel Contact

AnnMarie Guldner is the contact for PSM travel questions. AnnMarie can be reached at: 517-353-0120, guldner1@msu.edu, PSM.HR@msu.edu, or on Teams chat. If you would like AnnMarie to review your travel profile, please make sure that you have her added as your travel delegate. Instructions will be attached to this newsletter.

Important Domestic Travel and Meeting Updates

The following is a summary of recent changes in guidelines relative to domestic travel and attendance at group meetings. Please note that these guidelines may change in the future as the COVID-19 situation evolves. Specific travel guidelines for individuals appointed in MSU Extension will be implemented by April 1, 2021 and adjusted monthly as conditions allow. We will keep you informed of any changes as they occur.

Guidelines for Traveling with Two Persons per Vehicle:

The following are guidelines for two MSU employees or students to travel together in the same vehicle. **Note that passengers in a vehicle with a person testing positive for COVID-19 will likely be considered a close contact. Regardless of work location, MSU employees who test positive for COVID-19 are *required* to contact the University Physician to report the positive result and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) to discuss clean up. Guidance on vehicle disinfection and necessary quarantine provided must be followed.**

Important Domestic Travel and Meeting Updates

(Continued)

Travel Guidelines:

- MSU employees are not required to travel in a vehicle with another person except in a medical emergency.
- Two people are allowed only in vehicles with at least two rows of seats.
- More than two people per vehicle is not allowed, regardless of model of vehicle.
- All employees will be strongly encouraged to participate in the Spartan Spit program.
- Each person must wear a double mask at all times while in the vehicle.
- The two occupants of the vehicle are expected to be seated as far apart as practical, and diagonally within the vehicle.
- If weather permits, windows should be at least partially open (minimum of 2 inches) to increase allow air movement.
- Set the HVAC to external air.
- MSU employees are expected to complete the daily Spartan Health Screening.
- MSU employees should not report to work or travel on University business if they are sick.

Daily Use Log:

- A daily log of all vehicle users must be maintained by the PI or Farm Manager
- The use log is to be maintained for at least 30 days.

Sanitation:

- Users are expected to wash hands or use a hand sanitizer prior to entering and upon exiting the vehicle.
- The interior of the vehicle is to be disinfected after each use following MSU EHS guidance. Instructions are [here](#).
- A hand sanitizer should be used after fueling the vehicle.

Guidelines for Attending Meetings Sponsored by Non-MSU Organizations:

Attendance at meetings sponsored by non-MSU organizations is allowed if the **employee is comfortable**, under the following conditions:

- The meeting must conform to current DHHS guidelines. As of this memo, the maximum number allowed for indoor non-residential meetings is 25 and for outdoor non-residential meetings is 300, with masks and social distancing required. Current DHHS guidance can be found [here](#)
- MSU employees must follow the [MSU Community Compact](#).
- MSU employees are expected to complete the daily [Spartan Health Screening](#).
- MSU employees should leave a meeting if it does not comply with DHHS guidelines.

MSU-sponsored group meetings and other meetings held on University property are currently not approved. A decision on these meetings will be made at a later date.

Travel Approval Process:

All approved Essential Field Research Projects and Essential Non-Research Activities are automatically approved for in-state travel. There is no longer a need to apply for travel waivers for in-state travel associated with an approved Essential Field Research Project or Essential Non-Research Activity. In-state travel not directly connected with an approved Essential Field Research Project or Essential Non-Research Activity requires a separate travel waiver. Faculty who anticipate being asked to inspect problems, such as crop damage or livestock disease, may request a travel waiver for the growing season related to this travel. Out-of-state travel requires a separate travel waiver. A [Travel Reference Table](#) is available [here](#) for guidance on requesting travel waivers.

COVID-19 Testing

Any member of our community exhibiting signs of COVID-19 must seek immediate medical attention. If you are feeling ill or have tested positive for COVID-19 and have questions, contact MSU's COVID-19 Triage Hotline at 855-958-2678 or your primary health care provider.

If you are ill or test positive, you should self-isolate and avoid close contact with others. For students who live on campus, [space for isolation](#) will be provided. More information on what to do if you feel sick can be found on the [CDC website](#).

MSU has activated the following testing locations for students, faculty and staff to be tested (please have your insurance information available when going for a test):

Olin Health Center (by appointment only; for students experiencing symptoms)
Regular hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

Spartan Stadium, Southeast Concourse, Gate B. No appointment necessary; for all members of the MSU community (faculty, staff and students) whether symptomatic or not.
Regular hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday;

For those individuals outside of the MSU community, testing is available at the stadium only for those with a doctor's note and are either symptomatic or have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

MSU is utilizing its [Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to perform COVID-19 diagnostic testing](#) for the MSU community. MSU also is maintaining our close partnership with the Sparrow Health System to help process test samples.

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.

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 April 23rd pay date (for time worked from March 28-April 10) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 13th.
- For the May 7th pay date (for time worked from April 11-24) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, April 27th.

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 Office Contact Information / Hours

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