

---

**PLANT SOIL  
& MICROBIAL  
SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT**

---



### Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Hui Li** for being selected as an ASA Fellow! The Fellow designation is the highest recognition bestowed by the American Society of Agronomy. Members of the ASA nominate worthy colleagues based on their professional achievement and meritorious service and annually only a select few are bestowed with the Fellow designation. This designation recognizes **Hui Li's** contributions and achievements. ASA has included **Hui Li** in their 2021 Awards Hall of Fame.

### Ph.D. Dissertation Defense Seminar

#### Announcement of Ph.D. Dissertation Defense Seminar Crop & Soil Sciences

Friday, August 6, 2021, at 12:00 PM

Candidate's Name: **Alexia Witcombe**

Title of Dissertation: Nutrient Cycling on Smallholder Farms in Uganda and Malawi

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/91428765531>

Meeting ID: 914 2876 5531

Passcode: Witcombe

### Announcements

#### Soil Spectroscopy    CSS893-302    Fall 2021    1 Credit

This special topics class is intended for graduate students wishing to gain a better understanding of soil spectroscopy. The class will meet 2 hours weekly for 10 weeks. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for additional information.

---

#### Predatory Publishers

ARS had a webinar about predatory journals and publishers which was led by staff from the National Agriculture Library. **Linda Hanson** is working on getting a copy of the recording to share with others in our department. In the meantime, they recommended <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/> as a resource for researchers to help identify reasonable places to publish. They also recommended some of the work from <https://www.interacademies.org/project/predatorypublishing>.

## Announcements

### Together Again Checklist for Faculty and Staff

IPF and MSU IT have worked diligently to prepare campus workplaces and buildings as more faculty, staff and students return to campus. There are a few ways you can help ensure we're ready. **By submitting a service request**, you can help us return stronger, faster.

#### Common Workplace Facility Issues

- Lighting, light fixtures not working
- Pest, nuisance presence in office spaces
- Heating, cooling and other HVAC concerns
- Clean departmental coffee makers, appliances
- Missing, misplaced trash or recycling receptacles
- Submit Maintenance-related and custodial issues to IPF at [ipf.msu.edu](http://ipf.msu.edu)

#### Common Technology and Network Issues

- Phone and communication device issues
- Workstation devices and printer issues
- Connecting computers and devices to Wi-Fi
- Connecting to classroom and conference room tech
- Login issues or account access problems
- Submit Information Technology issues to MSU IT at [tech.msu.edu/support/help](http://tech.msu.edu/support/help)

For more information on MSU's return to campus go to [msu.edu/together-we-will](http://msu.edu/together-we-will) (Please see the flyer attached to this week's newsletter.)

---

### IPF Building Notice - HVAC Shutdown

- **Where?** PSSB
- **What is happening and why?** Fan 2B will be shutdown in order to repair the bearing that is failing
- **When will this occur?** From 6:00 AM-4:00 PM on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>
- **How will this impact me?** During this shutdown, occupants may notice a change in temperatures and ventilation will be affected.
- **What do I need to do?** Special Precautions: Please remove all hazardous materials and close sashes in all fume hoods during this time.
- **Questions?** Contact **Mike Ouderkirk**, Skilled Trades Supervisor at 517-899-9279, [ouderk1@msu.edu](mailto:ouderk1@msu.edu), or call IPF at 517-353-1760

## Career Services Network Virtual Workshops

### Summer Session Two

Career Advising Help Rooms: Resume and Cover Letter, Search Strategies

August 11, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

August 18, 3:00-5:00 PM

How to Navigate Hybrid Fall Recruiting

August 12, 11:30 AM-12:00 PM

Virtual Career Fair Prep

August 16, 4:00-5:00 PM

# Career Services Network Virtual Workshops

Summer Session Two

Interviewing: In-Person, Video, AI

August 17, 2:00-3:00 PM

Visit Handshake ([msu.joinhandshake.com](https://msu.joinhandshake.com)) and click **events** to register and receive a Zoom link for each workshop

Accommodations: If you anticipate needing an accommodation to participate in a Career Services program or activity, or have questions about accessibility, please contact Career Services ahead of time at 517-355-9510 or email [CareerServices@csp.msu.edu](mailto:CareerServices@csp.msu.edu).

## Professional Development

### Crucial Conversations (Live, Online Course)

August 9 from 1:30-4:30 PM, August 10 from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM,  
and August 12 from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

By learning how to speak and be heard (and encouraging others to do the same), you'll begin to surface the best ideas, make the highest quality decisions, and then act on your decisions with unity and commitment. Learn step by step tools for promoting open, honest dialogue around high-stakes, emotional, or risky topics - at all levels of your organization. [View Course Details](#)

### Writing Policies & Procedures

August 19 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

October 13 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

It can be challenging to write policies and procedures in clear terms that can be understood by all. This course will address proven strategies to make this task easier and share methods for creating easy to understand resources.

### Records Management & Retention at MS

August 25 from 1:15-3:30 PM

Learn the rules, regulations and strategies to help manage university records. Class will cover both electronic and print documents. Bring questions and scenarios to ensure your unit is in compliance with administrative and legal records management requirements.

### Conflict Management

August 30 from 1:00-5:00 PM

Using the Vistelar Confidence in Conflict: 12-Step Playbook, we address the entire spectrum of human conflict, from non-escalation (preventing conflict) to stopping a threat. Our Unified Conflict Management System uses consistent principles, tactics, and terminology that are simple, systematic, and universal in their application.

### Everything DiSC: Behavior Styles at Work

September 22 from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

Have you ever wondered why some people just don't get you? Or ever thought "I cannot even begin to know what my boss needs - even when I ask, I am still not sure." Most of us have felt that way at one time or another! The good news is there's a simple tool designed to help you understand yourself AND other people too. Everything DiSC helps you build more effective working relationships based on an understanding of different behavioral styles.

## Job Announcements

### Technical Aide

Job # 724117

Small Fruit and Hop Pathology

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/507506/technical-aide>

---

### Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 720593

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-Microbe Interactions, Bacteriology.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/507496/research-associatefixed-term>

---

### Research Associate - Fixed Term

Job # 717388

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University, in collaboration with the USDA Forest Services Northern Research Station, is seeking a highly motivated Research Associate for a project investigating interactions between biotic and abiotic controls on assisted migration in northern forests.

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/507365/research-associatefixed-term>

---

### Assistant Professor - Tenure System

Job # 706037

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences invites applications for a 9-month academic year, tenure-track Assistant Professor, in Soil Science with experience and special emphasis in soil genesis and classification.

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/506718/assistant-professortenure-system>

---

### 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/cw/en-us/job/506404/research-associatefixed-term>

---

### Research Assistant II

Job # 691947

The Turfgrass program in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University is seeking a highly motivated individual to work as a member of the Turfgrass research program.

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/504749/research-assistant-ii>

---

### Certis Biologicals

Certis has posted for 3 new Field Development Manager roles. Roughly located in the Mid-West, California, and the South-Central U.S. Please contact **Greg Rogers** at Certis Biologicals for additional information (443-967-4010 or [grogers@certisbio.com](mailto:grogers@certisbio.com)).

---

### PepsiCo

PepsiCo has an opening for a Ph.D.-level Discovery Breeder to work on potato and oat in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. The scientist in this role will design/manage/execute projects that connect PepsiCo's crop improvement discover work to the Frito-Lay and Quaker Oats breeding programs. The full position description can be found here:

[https://xjobs.brassring.com/TGnewUI/Search/home/HomeWithPreLoad?PageType=JobDetails&partnerid=25331&siteid=5015&areq=245566BR#jobDetails=5464305\\_5015](https://xjobs.brassring.com/TGnewUI/Search/home/HomeWithPreLoad?PageType=JobDetails&partnerid=25331&siteid=5015&areq=245566BR#jobDetails=5464305_5015)

Additional questions can be directed to **Tyr Wiesner-Hanks**, Oat Breeder, PepsiCo at [tyr.wiesnerhanks@pepsico.com](mailto:tyr.wiesnerhanks@pepsico.com).

## COVID-19 Updates

All individuals are required to wear masks indoors beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> in all campus buildings and other MSU facilities in East Lansing and throughout the state. This requirement will be in place for at least the first weeks of the fall semester.

---

All students, faculty and staff are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with an FDA-authorized or WHO-approved vaccine by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Limited exemptions for medical or religious reasons will be provided.

---

Due to the MSU indoors ask requirement, masks are required in MSU vehicles with more than one occupant, whether the vehicle is on or off campus. A vehicle is considered indoor space.

---

The state of Michigan held a town hall for the state's Gen-Z population to help answer questions on the COVID-19 vaccine. Recent Spartan graduate, **Ally Telfor**, joined the panel. MSU encourages departments to share the [recording](#) of the town hall in communications to students.

---

President Stanley sent a letter to the MSU community announcing a survey on vaccination status to be completed by August 6<sup>th</sup>. Student participation is mandatory and MSU strongly encourages staff and faculty participation as well. [Read more here.](#)

---

Beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, all campus buildings will be open during regular business hours.

---

Offices that have student and public facing operations are expected to be staffed beginning August 16<sup>th</sup>.

---

Consistent hand hygiene (cleaning and disinfection) is always a good practice.

---

Information on building preparations, air circulation, cleaning protocols and other IPF building services can be found [here](#).

---

MSU Returning To On-Site Work website [Coronavirus Updates \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/coronavirus)

## Travel

Travel Training with Christiina & AnnMarie  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 PM  
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/91882837681>  
Meeting ID: 918 8283 7681  
Passcode: 507024

---

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

---

MSU's domestic travel policy has returned to normal. For international travel, the level of review is dependent on vaccination status. Please visit the [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security COVID webpage](#) for further guidance.

---

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](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](mailto:travel@ctrl.msu.edu) or 517-355-5000  
Concur: [concurhelp@msu.edu](mailto:concurhelp@msu.edu)

---

### Travel@State - Frequently Asked Questions

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



**New!** PSM Staff will be holding office hours. Please see hours listed below.

### PSM Chairperson

<b>Brian Horgan</b>	<a href="mailto:horganb@msu.edu">horganb@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
<b>AnnMarie Guldner</b>	<a href="mailto:guldner1@msu.edu">guldner1@msu.edu</a>	Assistant to the Department Chairperson	

### PSM Accounting Team psm.accounting@msu.edu

<b>Emily Williams</b>	<a href="mailto:emilywil@msu.edu">emilywil@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
	Office Hours:	Monday	10:00-11:00 AM
		Wednesday	2:30-3:30 PM
<b>Lisa Bowen</b>	<a href="mailto:bowenli1@msu.edu">bowenli1@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
	Office Hours:	Tuesday	1:00-2:00 PM
		Thursday	1:00-2:00 PM
<b>Gina Centeno</b>	<a href="mailto:centeno@msu.edu">centeno@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:15 AM - 2:30 PM
	Office Hours:	Tuesday	10:00-11:00 AM
		Wednesday	1:30-2:30 PM
<b>Kim McClung</b>	<a href="mailto:mcclungk@msu.edu">mcclungk@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
	Office Hours:	Tuesday	2:00-3:00 PM
		Thursday	10:00-11:00 AM

### PSM Human Resources Team psm.hr@msu.edu

<b>Hannah O'Mara</b>	<a href="mailto:omarahan@msu.edu">omarahan@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
	Office Hours:	Monday	10:00-11:00 AM
		Wednesday	2:30-3:30 PM
<b>Jordan Davis</b>	<a href="mailto:davis432@msu.edu">davis432@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
	Office Hours:	Tuesday	2:00-3:00 PM
		Thursday	3:00-4:00 PM
<b>Christiina Donley</b>	<a href="mailto:tymoszew@msu.edu">tymoszew@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
	Zoom Office Hours:	Wednesday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM
<b>Mackenzie Graham</b>	<a href="mailto:graham2@msu.edu">graham2@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7:00 AM-4:00 PM
	Office Hours:	Tuesday	1:00-2:00 PM
		Thursday	1:00-2:00 PM
<b>AnnMarie Guldner</b>	<a href="mailto:guldner1@msu.edu">guldner1@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-4:00 PM
	Office Hours:	Monday	2:00-3:00 PM
		Wednesday	9:00-10:00 AM

### PSM IT Team

<b>Dominic Colosimo</b>	<a href="mailto:colosi14@msu.edu">colosi14@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
<b>Lee Duynslager</b>	<a href="mailto:duynslag@msu.edu">duynslag@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:00 AM-4:30 PM

## MSU Academic Calendar

<b>Summer 2021</b>	<b>Full Session</b>
August 19	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams
<b>Summer 2021</b>	<b>Session Two</b>
August 19	Classes End
Last Class Day	Final Exams
<b>Fall 2021</b>	
September 1	Classes Begin
September 6	Holiday - University Closed
October 20	Middle of Semester
October 25-26	Break Days
November 25-26	Holiday - University Closed
December 12	Classes End
December 13-17	Final Exams
December 24-27	Holiday - University Closed
December 17-18	Commencements
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 August 27<sup>th</sup> pay date (for time worked from August 1-14) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- For the September 10<sup>th</sup> pay date (for time worked from August 15-28) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- For the September 24<sup>th</sup> pay date (for time worked from August 29-September 11) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW! Payroll Assistance with Christiina** at 12:00 PM on the following Mondays:  
August 9, 16, 23, 30                      September 13, 20, 27                      October 4, 11, 18, 25  
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29                      December 6, 13, 20, 27

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98549666083>

Meeting ID: 985 4966 6083

Passcode: 001550

## Newsletter Submissions

Send newsletter submissions to **AnnMarie Guldner** at [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)

Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM