



Association of American Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: Mark Blumler

Mark Your Calendar!

Fall 2015 Meeting
Hosted by Binghamton University
Holiday Inn Binghamton-Dwtn
Binghamton, NY 13901

October 2-3, 2015

President's Message

I want to thank David Fyfe for hosting an excellent 2014 meeting at York, Pennsylvania. We will continue that tradition in Binghamton in 2015.

This year's Middle States meeting will be held on October 2-3 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Binghamton, NY. The conference will be hosted by the Geography Department at Binghamton University. Binghamton University's (SUNY-Binghamton), Department of Geography grants Master's as well as Bachelor's degrees. We have 100+ undergraduate academic majors, and 30+ graduate students. Binghamton University's main campus is situated on a large tract of land featuring a wonderful Nature Preserve, about three miles west of the conference venue. There also is a downtown campus located adjacent to the Holiday Inn. If you would like to learn more about Binghamton University, please visit this website: <http://www.binghamton.edu/>.

The Holiday Inn is located right in the heart of downtown Binghamton and is surrounded by some great restaurants, brew pubs, and a First Friday arts celebration. Binghamton, the Parlor City, is known for its many carousels and for the spiedie, a kind of marinated meat broiled on skewers.

Much more information about the Fall 2015 conference will be forthcoming in August in the Summer newsletter.

Mark Blumler, Binghamton University

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Additional division information may be found on our website: <http://www.msaag.org/>

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Fall 2014 MSD Meeting Report – York, PA

About 110 people attended the fall, 2014 MSDAAG conference in York, PA, at the historic Yorktowne Hotel, organized by David Fyfe, and hosted by York College. There were 54 paper presentations, 14 posters, and two panel discussions. As usual, we had an excellent showing of students from Middle States Division colleges and universities. In the Student Paper competition, Adrienne Tucker (Penn State) won first prize and Erin Goodenough (Penn State) took second prize in the graduate division, while Melissa Haller (Colgate) won the undergraduate division. The Poster competition was hotly contested. Carolynne Hultquist (Penn State) took first prize, and second prize was shared by Shenuque Tissera and Jennifer Freund (College of Staten Island) for their poster.

Geography Bowl Competition in Chicago

Middle States Division sent an enthusiastic group of undergrads and one grad to the Annual Meeting in Chicago to participate in the national Geography Bowl. The students were Jase Bernhardt (Penn State), Mike Calvelli (Montclair State), Chris Harding (Kutztown), Jaclyn Langella (Hofstra), Ashley Persaud (Hofstra), and Shana Rose (Kutztown). Although we did not win, it was a fun competition with free pizza and lots of buzzers buzzing. Participate in our Geography Bowl competition in Binghamton in October, and you may receive \$300 towards the cost of traveling to San Francisco for the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Welcome Puerto Rican Geographers

A hearty welcome to Puerto Rican members of the AAG!! Recently, the AAG asked Puerto Rican members which regional division they would like to join, and they voted to join the Middle States – thus giving us perhaps the most unusual boundaries of any AAG region. We are honored to be selected by Puerto Rican geographers, and look forward to engaging with you at upcoming Regional Meetings, beginning with 2015 in Binghamton.

Middle States Geographer

The Middle States Geographer is the official academic journal of the Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers. The journal is published annually and includes papers from external submissions and the division Annual Meeting. The Middle States Geographer contains papers authored by both faculty and students (with peer-review by at least two reviewers) and covers a wide range of topics.

We invite all who present papers at the upcoming Fall 2015 MSDAAG meeting to submit a manuscript for publication in the next issue of the Middle States Geographer, although manuscripts from all researchers are welcome. Paper submission guidelines are available on the journal's website at: www.msaag.org.

You may also contact the editors: Adam Kalkstein at the USMA West Point, Adam.Kalkstein@usma.edu or Paul Marr at Shippensburg University, pgmarr@ship.edu if you have questions about submitting a manuscript or if you are interested in serving as a reviewer. Students presenting papers should also consider submitting for their paper for publication in the journal.

The Middle States Geographer is entirely an online journal. Articles from 1968 (Volume 8) through 2013 (Volume 46) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2014 issue (Volume 47) will be available soon. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors, while reducing printing costs. Furthermore, color graphics are now possible at no cost to authors.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2015, Binghamton, New York

The 2015 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Binghamton, NY on Friday, October 2nd and Saturday, October 3rd.

BINGHAMTON

UNIVERSITY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Binghamton University welcomes everyone to Binghamton, NY. Our venue will be at the conference hotel in downtown Binghamton. The 2015 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. Friday will include plenary and paper sessions, buffet dinner, and Geography Bowl competition. On Saturday, a morning of sessions will be followed by a buffet luncheon and student paper awards. Please join us for this event.

Want to plan your stay early? Binghamton University has arranged for block of rooms at the **Holiday Inn** for Friday night (Oct. 2) at the reduced rate of \$97 plus tax. Please make sure you mention "Middle States Division of the AAG" when making your reservations. Please also reserve your room early; rooms at the meeting rate are only available until September 11, 2015 and space is limited.

Holiday Inn Binghamton-Dwtn – Downtown Binghamton, NY

2-8 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901 (800) 315-2621 <http://www.holidayinnbinghamton.com/>

Rate: \$97 plus tax

Location: site of the conference in downtown Binghamton.

Stay Tuned for the Registration form and other information about the conference, in the Summer 2015 Middle States Division newsletter, due out in August.

Call for Nominations for MSD Officers

Please consider joining the leadership of MSDAAG. We are currently soliciting nominations for the president and secretary for 2016. Voting will take place in September 2015. The newly elected positions will be announced at the Fall 2015 Meeting.

The term for President will run January 2016 – December 2016. The President hosts the annual meeting, chairs board meetings, and puts out the newsletter. Normally, the President serves first one year as Secretary, then as Vice-President, but due to a resignation, we will need someone to step up and fill the post next year.

The Secretary is in charge of keeping the meeting minutes from board meetings and judging the student paper competition. The board has two meetings a year, one a conference call in the spring and one at the annual fall meeting.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL PROVIDE ALL THE GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES YOU NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. PLEASE CONSIDER THESE REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES. YOU MAY CONTACT MARK BLUMLER (mablum@binghamton.edu) FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Please submit nominations to Mark Blumler (mablum@binghamton.edu) by August 15.

Call for Program Nominations

The AAG is instituting a new "Award for Program Excellence," honoring non-Ph. D. granting geography departments and Geography Programs within blended departments. They will honor four-year and Master's programs in alternate years. In 2016 they will honor an undergraduate program, and in 2017, a Master's program. Each Regional division is to nominate up to two programs for the 2016 award. For a complete description of the award, eligibility, and nomination guidelines, please see <http://www.aag.org/programexcellence>.

So, we need to hear from you! Please nominate any program from the Middle States region offering no higher than a BA/BS degree that you feel is deserving of the award. The deadline for the Regional President to submit nominations is fast approaching. WE NEED NOMINATIONS ASAP! Send your nomination(s) for outstanding terminal undergraduate geography program to Rob Mason, our incoming Regional Councilor, at mason@temple.edu, by June 25.

Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers

Submit a paper to the AAG Middle States Division's

STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION

2015 Annual Meeting

Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers
Downtown Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY

October 2-3, 2015

Middle States Division AAG encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition of the MSDAAG annual conference. Both graduate and undergraduate competitions have a First Prize of \$100 and a Second Prize of \$50.

Student status is as of May 1, 2015. PLEASE NOTE YOUR STATUS (GRAD/UNDERGRAD) on your abstract and paper submission. Registration fees are refunded after the conference for students both submitting the completed paper by the deadline AND presenting the paper at the conference. Completed papers must follow the *Middle States Geographer* guidelines and can be no longer than 8 pages, single spaced, 10 point Times Roman or equivalent font. Further details on the guidelines are specified at the web site at www.msaag.org Entrants should send abstracts of no more than 250 words to Mark Blumler at mablum@binghamton.edu by September 11, and send electronic copies of completed papers to Joan Welch jwelch@wcupa.edu MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by September 21.

There is also a Student Poster Competition with graduate and undergraduate divisions with a First Prize of \$100 and a Second Prize of \$50. Send an abstract of your poster to Mark Blumler by September 11, mablum@binghamton.edu

PLEASE NOTE YOUR STATUS (GRAD/UNDERGRAD) on your abstract. Registration fees not refunded for all the poster competition entrants, only the poster competition winners.