



## American Association of Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: Jase Bernhardt

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**Fall 2020 Meeting**  
**Virtual Host Hofstra University**  
**Hempstead, NY**

**October 16-17, 2020**  
**Abstracts due by September 25, 2020**

### President's Message

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy during these challenging times. Given the ongoing pandemic, we will be shifting this year's annual regional meeting online, to take place on Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>. Although we will miss our normal in-person socializing, the online format will allow us to broaden participation in the meeting and lower the cost of attendance considerably.

Hofstra University will be the virtual host of this year's meeting. Hofstra has a strong Department of Geography & Global Studies which offers BA degrees in Geography and Global Studies and a BS degree in GIS. Moreover, the university has a closely allied department, the Department of Geology, Environment and Sustainability, which features BS degrees in Geology and Environmental Resources, and BA, BS, and MA options in Sustainability Studies.

We will be promoting inclusion through specific activities at this year's regional meeting. Students from schools with populations that are traditionally underrepresented at conferences will be offered free registration for our Fall 2020 meeting. Moreover, we highly encourage meeting attendees to propose sessions and panels concerning issues such as social justice, racism in the academy, and mental health. Additional meeting details and the formal call for papers will be found in our next newsletter in August.

*Jase Bernhardt, Hofstra University*

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

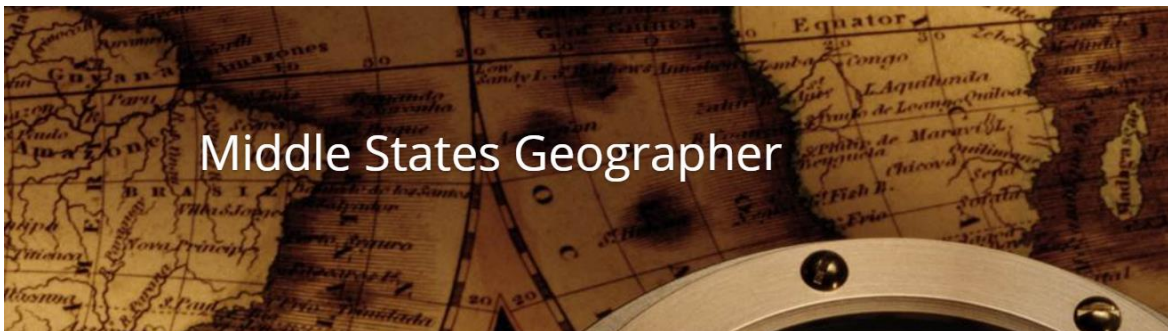
## Fall 2019 MSAAG Meeting Report – Kutztown, PA

There were 92 attendees at the fall meeting held at Kutztown University, organized by our past president Michael Davis. Nate Gabriel, past secretary, ran the Student Paper and Poster Competition and oversaw judging of many excellent entries. In the graduate student paper competition, Matthew Walter (University of Delaware) won first prize, Abdul Qadir (University of Delaware) placed second and Jonah Walters (Rutgers) was third. In the undergraduate paper competition Samto Wonso (Colgate) was awarded first prize, Tianna Andrews (Kutztown University) won second place and Alexander Findeis (SUNY Geneseo) was third. In the graduate poster division, first prize went to Bhagyashree Vaidya (Montclair) second prize to Alana Rader (Rutgers) and third prize to Marie Smoyer (Virginia Tech.). The first prize undergraduate poster award went to Sierra Taylor (Kutztown) second prize to Mitchell Oller (Kutztown) and third to Gisel Brewer (SUNY Geneseo). Anastasia Figueroa (Montclair) won the Rob Mason Poster Award.

## Geography Bowl Competition at Kutztown

Teams from the Middle States division competed in the Geography Bowl at the Middle States Division meeting in Kutztown in 2019. The six top individual scorers became the Middle States World Geography Bowl Team for the AAG Meeting in Denver, though the bowl was postponed due to the pandemic. The team was comprised of Alex Sankaran (West Chester), Sean McLaughlin (West Chester), Elijah Freiman (SUNY Geneseo), Madison Clark (Kutztown), Sasha Liedman (Rutgers), and Alexander Findeis (SUNY Geneseo). Geography Bowl teams are made up of a maximum of six students of which one must be a graduate student, one an undergraduate student, one female and one male.

## Middle States Geographer



The *Middle States Geographer* is the official academic journal of the Middle States Division of the American Association of 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. All Journal Volumes are freely available from the **website**. We invite all who present papers at the annual Fall MSAAG meetings to submit a manuscript for publication in the next issue of the *Middle States Geographer*, although manuscripts from all researchers are welcome year-round.

Paper submission guidelines are available on the region's website at: <https://msaag.aag.org/>. You may also contact the editors: Adam Kalkstein at [Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.edu](mailto:Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.edu) or Paul Marr at Shippensburg University, [pgmarr@ship.edu](mailto:pgmarr@ship.edu) if you have questions about submitting a manuscript or if you are interested in serving as a reviewer. Students presenting papers (faculty co-authors may be included after the student award competition has occurred) should consider submitting their paper for publication in the journal. The *Middle States Geographer* is entirely an online journal. Articles from 1968 (Volume 8) through 2018 (Volume 51) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2019 issue (Volume 52) will be available soon. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors, and color graphics are now possible at no cost to authors.

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2020, Hofstra University**

**The 2020 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be hosted by Hofstra University as a *Virtual Meeting* on Friday October 16 and Saturday October 17.**



*Hofstra University* will serve as the virtual host for this year's Middle States region annual meeting. The online meeting will still feature all the normal activities and events. The meeting will begin in the early afternoon on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> with both paper and poster sessions, along with a keynote address and in the early evening, the annual regional geography bowl. On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, the meeting will resume in the morning with additional paper and poster sessions, followed by a midday awards session and regional business meeting to close out the meeting. As always, there will be both student paper and poster competitions with cash prizes, while the top geography bowl scorers will be selected for the regional team to compete at the national AAG meeting next April.

**The formal call for papers and registration details will be contained in the August 2020 Middle States newsletter, so stay tuned!**

**Call for Nominations for MSD Officers**

Please consider joining the leadership of MSAAG. The Executive Board meets occasionally throughout the year to plan the annual meeting and other initiatives. We are soliciting nominations for **Secretary, Vice President** and **Regional Councilor**.

The Secretary serves a one-year term beginning January 2021. The Secretary takes minutes at division meetings and organizes and judges the student paper competition at the fall meeting. The Secretary may run for Vice President the following year. The Vice President position is a three-year commitment. After serving as Vice President, the person assumes the role of President and then past President, serving a total of three years to maintain organizational continuity. The Vice President organizes the Geography Bowl competition at the fall meeting.

We are also soliciting nominations for Regional Councilor to serve a three-year term, July 2021-24. The Regional Councilor acts as the liaison between MSAAG and AAG and attends council meetings at the national meeting to represent divisional interests.

Voting will take place in September 2020. The newly elected positions will be announced at the Fall 2020 Meeting. Please submit nominations to Past President **Michael Davis**, [midavis@kutztown.edu](mailto:midavis@kutztown.edu), by September 6.

The Executive Board will provide all the guidance and resources you need to be successful. Please consider these rewarding opportunities. You may contact **Jase Bernhardt**, [Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu](mailto:Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu), or any current board member for additional information.

**Both self-nominations and nominations of a colleague are welcome for any of the open positions!**

**Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers and Posters****STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION**

2020 Annual Meeting

Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers

Virtual Host: Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

October 16-17, 2020

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. The graduate paper competition has a first prize of \$1000 (provided by AAG to fund the awardee's registration and travel costs to the AAG Annual Meeting). The graduate paper second prize is \$300 and the third prize \$150. The undergraduate paper competition has a first prize of \$300, a second prize of \$150 and a third prize of \$50. There is also a Student Poster Competition with graduate and undergraduate divisions with first prizes of \$200, second prizes of \$100 and third prizes of \$50. There is a Rob Mason Poster award of \$50 named after our past Regional Councilor Dr. Robert Mason from Temple University who passed away in 2017. He served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Division.

Student status is as of May 1, 2020. Please note your status (Graduate/Undergraduate) 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 10 pages, single spaced, 10 point Times Roman font, including all figures, tables, endnotes, and references. Further details on the guidelines are specified on the Middle States website at <https://msaag.aag.org/>. **Students must have a faculty advisor recommend their entry and use the guidelines and rubrics for judging on the website under the tab Student Competitions.** Students should send paper abstracts of no more than 250 words to President Jase Bernhardt at [jase.e.bernhardt@hofstra.edu](mailto:jase.e.bernhardt@hofstra.edu) by **September 25**, and send electronic copies of completed papers to Nate Gabriel at [nategab@geography.rutgers.edu](mailto:nategab@geography.rutgers.edu), MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by **October 2**. Send an abstract of your poster to Jase Bernhardt at [jase.e.bernhardt@hofstra.edu](mailto:jase.e.bernhardt@hofstra.edu) by **September 25**. Registration fees are refunded for paper/poster competition winners.

**Student Geography Bowl Participation****Middle States Region Annual Geography Bowl**

In addition to the paper and poster competitions, all students are encouraged to participate in Middle States Division annual Geography Bowl the evening of Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Students may form their own teams (e.g., representing a school), or join as a "free agent" and be placed on a team. The top scorers during the Geography Bowl will be selected to represent the Middle States division at the World Geography Bowl during the AAG meeting in April 2021. Team members will be provided funding to help offset AAG meeting attendance costs. Further details about the virtual format of this year's regional Geography Bowl will be included in the August newsletter.