



Association of American Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: David Fyfe

Call for Papers and Posters

**Fall 2014 Meeting
Yorktowne Hotel
York, Pennsylvania**

October 24-25, 2014

**Abstracts due by September 19, 2014
(See page 4 for meeting information)**

President's Message

I hope that everyone has had a productive and restful summer and is looking forward to the start of the fall semester. The MSDAAG 2014 annual meeting is right around the corner and I'm excited to see you in York, Pennsylvania this fall.

This year's Middle States meeting will be held on October 24-25 in York, PA and hosted by York College of Pennsylvania. York College is a private liberal arts college with approximately 5000 students and prides itself on affordable, high quality education with more than 50 different majors. The conference will be held at the Yorktowne Hotel in downtown York. York is known as "the factory tour capital of the world" with more than 20 factory tours available throughout the county including the Harley-Davidson factory. Downtown York has many historical sites and colonial architecture for you to enjoy while you are here.

I look forward to seeing everyone again at this year's meeting and another great MSD regional conference.

David Fyfe, York College of Pennsylvania

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World Geography Bowl



Mark Bumler, Regional Secretary, coordinated the Middle States Division (MSD) team at the 2014 World Geography Bowl held on April 11, during the AAG Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida. The World Geography Bowl is an annual quiz competition for teams of college-level geography students representing the AAG's nine regional divisions. The MSD team consisted of the top six scoring individuals from the MSD Regional Bowl competition held at Buffalo State in October, 2013.

The 2014 MSD team's roster was: Craig Benson, undergraduate student, Geneseo; Jase Bernhardt, (team captain) graduate student, Penn State University; Ashlee Adams, graduate student, Penn State University; Sarah Radigan Lander, undergraduate student, Kutztown University; Ari Kaputkin, undergraduate student, SUNY New Paltz.

The MSD team did well in the preliminary rounds, winning three of their matches but this was not enough to advance to the championship round. Please join us in congratulating the MSD team on their excellent performance.

Participate this year in the MSD Geography Bowl at the annual meeting in York, Pennsylvania! The highest-scoring students will be invited to represent the Division at the World Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting (to be held in Chicago, Spring 2015) and will receive partial funding to participate. All Division undergraduate and graduate students are invited to compete this fall. Form a team (5-6 people) or sign up this fall to be placed on a team. Information on playing or setting up a team can be found at <http://www.geography.vt.edu/sedaag/WGB/WGBMain.htm>. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact our regional vice president Dr. Mark Bumler, SUNY Binghamton, at mablum@binghamton.edu. The Geography Bowl will take place after dinner on Friday night, October 24th.

Student Paper Competition

All **STUDENTS** are urged to come and present a paper or poster at the fall 2014 meeting. MSDAAG also encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition and participate in the poster competition. **CASH PRIZES** of \$100 for both the best UG and Graduate paper, and also runner up prizes of \$50 each. There is also new award of \$100 for both the best UG and Graduate posters.

Student status is as of May 1, 2014. Meeting fees **are returned** to students who both submit the completed paper in writing by the deadline and present the paper at the meeting. Completed papers must follow the *Middle States Geographer* guidelines which can be found at <http://www.msaag.org/submission-guidelines/>. Entrants should submit abstracts not to exceed 250 words and send electronic copies of completed papers to Grant Saff: grant.saff@hofstra.edu, MSDAAG Secretary & Student Paper Competition Chair, by September 19, 2014.

2014 AAG Annual Meeting

Join the Association of American Geographers at the AAG Annual Meeting in **Chicago, IL, April 21 - 25, 2015**, for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. The AAG Annual Meeting is an interdisciplinary forum open to anyone with an interest in geography and related disciplines. All scholars, researchers, and students are welcome. For more information, visit www.aag.org/annualmeeting.

Middle States Geographer Information

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.

Manuscripts are accepted from all authors, and we specifically invite those who present papers at the Fall 2014 MSDAAG meeting to submit a manuscript for publication in the next issue of the Middle States Geographer. Paper submission guidelines are available on the journal's website at:

<http://geographyplanning.buffalostate.edu/middlestates.html>.

Author guidelines are at:

<http://www.msaag.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Manuscript-Submission-Guidelines-Middle-States-Geographer.pdf>

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 1987 (Volume 20) through 2012 (Volume 45) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2013 issue (Volume 46) 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.

Call for MSD Officer Nominations—deadline is September 5, 2014

Please consider joining the leadership of MSDAAG. We are currently soliciting nominations for the secretary for 2015. Voting will take place in September 2014. The newly elected positions will be announced at the Fall 2014 Meeting.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL PROVIDE ALL THE GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES YOU NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. PLEASE CONSIDER THESE REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES. YOU MAY CONTACT DAVID FYFE (dfyfe@ycp.edu) FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Secretary

The term for Secretary will run January 2015 – December 2015. The Secretary will then progress in subsequent years through the positions of Vice President and then President. 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 conference call in the Spring and one at the annual fall meeting.

Report from the Regional Councilor

As the Middle States Regional Councilor I have been asked by the AAG to provide an overview of any recent activities, challenges, events and news in our Region. Please let me know if you have anything to report, or any concerns that you would like me to raise at the forthcoming AAG Council meeting on October 17th. I would appreciate it if you could send this to me no later than October 10th.

This need not be anything formal and I will respect confidentiality if you request it. Some issues that are of particular interest to the AAG are concerns over the health of our programs, budget cuts, enrollments, new initiatives and programs, any new hiring and so forth. Also any suggestions or opinions regarding the effectiveness of the AAG, the Annual Meeting, AAG publications or the Region are most welcome.

I also encourage all members to read the forthcoming minutes of the very productive AAG Council meetings held in Tampa. Important issues regarding the future of the AAG, including changing the name to the American Association of Geographers, and of Puerto Rico joining a regional division were discussed. Some background to the latter is that PR geographers requested that they be allowed to join a region and given the strong historical bonds between our region and PR they expressed a preference for our region. At last year's Middle States Board meeting, the Board agreed that we would welcome them joining us if the AAG was agreeable, and our membership voted to accept this. In Tampa, with the strong support of Doug Richardson and Julie Winkler, it was agreed that PR could join the AAG and affiliate with a region of their choice (subject to regional approval). PR has now made a formal request to join with the Middle States. This is extremely positive news for our region, but it will, need a constitutional amendment to formally add them to our membership. In order to do this, we need to receive a 66% affirmative vote at the business meeting to be held at the conference in York. A separate notice about the proposed constitutional amendment will be sent to all members by email, sometime next month. I urge all members to support this change.

In addition to the regular Council meetings, the AAG hosted and funded a workshop for all the various regional representatives to share their organizational expertise and experiences as a way to enhance the strength of the regions. This was a very productive meeting, which hopefully will become a regular part of all future AAG annual meetings.

Please feel free to contact me if you are not receiving the monthly online AAG Newsletter and the weekly Digest so that I can have your membership status updated.

Grant Saff, Regional Councilor

Grant.Saff@Hofstra.edu

SAGE Report

There are several resources that Stand Alone Geographers (SAGEs) may find useful:

Thriving as a Stand-Alone Geographer: A Handbook is available for free as a download. You can Google it from several sources including:

<http://sustainableaag.wordpress.com/2014/04/27/thriving-as-a-stand-alone-geographer-a-handbook/>

There are also other SAGE-related documents posted on the SAGE Knowledge Community > Library tab.

I am looking forward to welcoming SAGEs to our upcoming conference. I hope to chair a session about SAGE experiences and challenges, so anyone wishing to participate should contact me at enid.lotstein@bcc.cuny.edu or

enid.lotstein@hofstra.edu.

Enid Lotstein

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2014, York, Pennsylvania

The 2014 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held in the Yorktowne Hotel in downtown York, Pennsylvania on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th.

York is located in south-central Pennsylvania just off Interstate-81. The fall 2014 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. Friday will include paper and plenary sessions, buffet dinner, and the Geography Bowl competition. On Saturday, a morning of paper presentations will be followed by a buffet luncheon with membership meeting and student paper awards. Please join us for this event.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, AND PANELS**Paper Sessions**

Paper sessions are 80 minutes long and consist of four presentations of 20 minutes. Papers of all topics of a geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th. Each room is equipped with a digital projector and screen. We urge participants to use PowerPoint software for their presentations and to have your presentation on a flash drive. If you are interested in organizing a themed paper session (consisting of four paper presentations), please contact David Fyfe at dfyfe@ycp.edu or 717-815-1350.

Poster Session

The poster sessions will be held on both Friday and Saturday. Since poster space is limited, please keep all posters to 30 x 40 inches.

Panel – Roundtable Sessions

Panel discussions and roundtables are also welcome. Panel discussion sessions typically consist of three to four panelists, and are organized around a theme. Roundtable discussion sessions are 'open format' where the chair of the roundtable facilitates a discussion among all attendees focusing on a theme or issue. Students are welcome to organize both panel and roundtable sessions. If you are interested in organizing either a panel or a roundtable session please contact David Fyfe at dfyfe@ycp.edu or 717-815-1350.

Program

The program will be available on-line at the Middle States Division website in early October, 2014 and will be sent out to MSD members soon afterwards. Maps of the area and campus can be found in the front section of the program.

Registration

If you are presenting a paper, poster, or involved in a panel/roundtable session:

- Email Dr. David Fyfe (dfyfe@ycp.edu) your title and an abstract (not exceeding 250 words) by *September 19, 2014*.
- Fill in the **Payment Form** found on page 8. Please make checks payable to MSDAAG and postal mail both the Payment Form and check to the address at the bottom of the form by *September 19, 2014*.

If you are attending the conference but **not** presenting a paper, poster, or involved in a panel/roundtable session:

- Fill in the **Payment Form** found on page 8. Please make checks payable to MSDAAG and postal mail both the Payment Form and check to the address at the bottom of the form by *September 19, 2014*.

If you are submitting a paper for the student paper competition:

- Email your title and an abstract (not exceeding 250 words) to Dr. Fyfe (dfyfe@ycp.edu) AND Dr. Grant Saff (grant.saff@gmail.com) by *September 19, 2014*.
- Fill in the **Payment Form** found on page 8. Please make checks payable to MSDAAG and postal mail both the Payment Form and check to the address at the bottom of the form by *September 19, 2014*.
- Write "Student Paper Submitted" on the lower left side of the check, and it will be refunded after you have presented the paper at the conference.

Sorry, but credit cards cannot be accepted for advanced registration or at the meeting. There are no refunds after October 3, 2014.

MAKE YOUR LODGING RESERVATIONS

York College of Pennsylvania has arranged for a block of rooms at the **Yorktowne Hotel** available at the rate of \$89 plus tax per night. 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 30, 2014 and space is limited.

Yorktowne Hotel, Downtown York, PA

48 East Market Street, York, PA 17401 (717) 848-1111 <http://www.yorktowne.com/>

Rate: \$89 plus tax

Location: This is the conference hotel where the meeting will take place.

Additional Accommodations:**Four Points by Sheraton, York**

1650 Toronita Street, York PA 17402 (717) 846-4940 www.starwoodhotels.com

Rate: \$115 (approx.)

Location: 3 miles from the conference

Wingate by Windham, York

Arsenal Rd and N George St, York, PA 17404 (717) 848-2100 www.wingateinns.com

Rate: \$110 (approx.)

Location: 2 miles from the conference

Country Inn & Suites, York

245 Saint Charles Way, York, PA 17402 (717) 747-5833 www.countryinns.com

Rate: \$120 (approx.)

Location: 4 miles from the conference



DIRECTIONS TO YORKTOWNE HOTEL

If using GPS:

We recommend using 20 South Duke Street, York, Pa. 17401 for the garage entrance. The hotel may also be entered from Duke Street. When using 48 East Market Street, York, Pa., make sure you include our zip code 17401.

If your point of departure is:

From the East (via Route 30): Take a left on N Sherman St, right on E Philadelphia, left on N George and left on E Market Street (see map below for parking).

From the West (via Route 30): Route 30 (PA 462) becomes Market St follow to hotel (see map below for parking).

From the North (via I-83): Take exit 22 (PA-181/ North George st/ I-83 BUS) and follow right to I-83 BUS/ N George St and left on E Market (see map below for parking).



**REGISTRATION:**

Submit your abstract (not more than 250 words) and title to Dr. David Fyfe (dfyfe@ycp.edu)
And mail this form to the address below

PAYMENT FORM:**Association of American Geographers - Middle States Division****2014 Meeting Registration**

October 24th – 25th, 2014, Campbell Student Union, SUNY Buffalo State

<u>Registration Fees</u>	<u>Before Sept. 19</u>	<u>After Sept. 19</u>
FULL REGISTRATION (Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, all sessions)	\$95	\$105
STUDENT REGISTRATION (Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, all sessions)	\$50	\$60
FRIDAY ONLY (Friday dinner, all Friday sessions)	\$50	\$60
SATURDAY ONLY (Saturday lunch, all Saturday sessions)	\$50	\$60

Name _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Affiliation _____

Email Address _____

Check # _____

Make checks payable to: **MSDAAG**

Mail Registration Form to: Dr. David Fyfe
History and Political Science Department
York College of Pennsylvania
441 Country Club Road
York, PA 17403

NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER October 3, 2013.

Credit cards are NOT accepted with advanced registration or at the meeting.