



American Association of Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: James Kernan

Mark Your Calendar!

Fall 2017 Meeting
HOST SUNY GENESEO
Geneseo, NY

October 20-21, 2017
Abstracts due by October 8, 2017

President's Message

It was wonderful to see many of you in Altoona in 2016, and it was a pleasure to collaborate with our colleagues in the Pennsylvania Geographical Society. SUNY Geneseo will host the 2017 meeting in Geneseo, NY. Founded in 1871, SUNY Geneseo is a public liberal arts college with a scenic campus overlooking the Genesee River Valley and bordering the Finger Lakes region of New York. The Department of Geography offers a Bachelor of Arts Degree, and currently has over 100 majors. The department also offers minors in Geography, Urban Studies, and Environmental Studies, which serve 130 students (<https://www.geneseo.edu/geography>).

The meeting will be held in Bailey Hall, recently renovated to house Geography and several other departments. Lodging is available at nearby hotels (see page 3). There will be an optional Saturday field trip to Letchworth State Park, hopefully during peak fall foliage! More information about the Fall 2017 meeting will be forthcoming in the Summer newsletter.

James Kernan, SUNY Geneseo

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

Fall 2016 MSAAG Meeting Report – Altoona, PA

There were 141 attendees at the fall meeting held at the Blair County Convention Center, organized by our past president Joan Welch and our colleagues in the Pennsylvania Geographical Society (PGS). There were 61 papers presented in 13 sessions, 22 posters in the poster session, and 2 panel discussions. In the Student Paper competition, graduate student Carl Tompkins (SUNY Albany) received a \$50 incentive award and James Anania (SUNY Geneseo) was awarded \$100 for first place undergraduate paper. The PGS ran the Student Poster Competition and were tasked with evaluating many excellent entries. The first prize went to Olivia Wolff (University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown), second prize to Benjamin Frieman (SUNY Geneseo), and third prize to Emily Platania (University of Pittsburgh) at Johnstown.

Geography Bowl Competition at Altoona

Teams from Kutztown, SUNY Geneseo, and West Chester competed in the Geography Bowl at the Middle States Division meeting in Altoona in 2016. West Chester was victorious! The Middle States World Geography Bowl Team at the AAG Meeting in Boston included: Kaleigh Cunningham (Kutztown), Sean McLaughlin (the top individual scorer - West Chester), Veronica Medina (SUNY Geneseo), Lesmes Mora Jerez (West Chester), Nina Schnyder (Kutztown), and Vicky Trucksess (Kutztown). 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 a woman, and one a man. The team members each received \$300 from MSAAG for competing in Boston.

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.

We invite all who present papers at the upcoming Fall 2017 MSAAG 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 (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 2015 (Volume 48) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2016 issue (Volume 49) 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 2017, Geneseo, New York

**The 2017 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held at SUNY Geneseo
on Friday October 20 and Saturday October 21.**



SUNY Geneseo extends a warm invitation to our campus in Geneseo, NY. The 2017 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. The meeting begins Friday afternoon with plenary and paper sessions, dinner, and Geography Bowl. On Saturday, a morning of sessions will be followed by a buffet luncheon with a brief meeting and student awards. There will be an optional field trip to Letchworth State Park Saturday afternoon. The Park was selected as “Best in the Nation” in a 2015 USA Today poll. There will also be features specifically for undergraduate students, including couch-surfing and five minute lightning talks.

We suggest that you make arrangements for lodging as soon as possible, as this is the peak season for fall foliage tourism! We have arranged for a blocks of rooms at the [Quality Inn](#) for Thursday 10/19 and Friday nights 10/20 at the rate of \$135 plus taxes, and a block of rooms at the [Hampton Inn](#) for Thursday 10/19 at \$119 plus taxes, and Friday 10/20 for \$165 plus taxes. Both hotels are within two miles of campus, where the program will be held. There is a more affordable yet less convenient option at the [Rodeway Inn](#) in Lakeville, NY for Thursday 10/19 and Friday 10/20 at the rate of \$119 plus taxes. This motel is about a twelve minute drive from campus and is in a very small lake hamlet with fewer amenities. Mention “Middle States Division of the AAG” when making your reservations. **Please make reservations early, as the number of rooms is limited and room rates will expire thirty days before the event (45 days at Rodeway Inn).**

Information on other lodging options are available here: <http://geneseony.com/where/stay.asp>.

Undergraduates: Look for information about couch-surfing in the summer newsletter!

Stay tuned for the registration form and more information about the conference in the Summer 2017 Middle States Division newsletter.

Call for Nominations for MSD Officers

Please consider joining the leadership of MSAAG. We are soliciting nominations for **Secretary** and **Vice President**. The Secretary serves a one-year term beginning January 2018 renewable annually. The Secretary takes minutes at division meetings and organizes and judges the student paper competition at the fall meeting. 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 and creates the spring and summer newsletters with the President. We are also soliciting nominations for **Regional Councilor** to serve a three-year term, July 2018-2021. 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 October 2017. The newly elected positions will be announced at the Fall 2017 Meeting. **Please submit nominations to Joan Welch (jjwelch@wcupa.edu) by September 1.**

MSAAG is also considering candidates for the **Stand Alone Geographers (SAGE) Representative**. The SAGE Representative is appointed by the Board, and serves a three-year term as an ex-officio member of the Board. **If you are interested in serving as SAGE Representative, please contact Joan Welch (jjwelch@wcupa.edu).**

NOTE THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL PROVIDE ALL THE GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES YOU NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR SERVICE TO MSAAG. PLEASE CONSIDER THESE REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES. YOU MAY CONTACT JOAN WELCH (jjwelch@wcupa.edu) OR ANY CURRENT BOARD MEMBER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Call for Program Nominations

Final Call for Suggested Nominations for AAG Award for Program Excellence:

The American Association of Geographers grants an annual award to “recognize excellence in Geography programs at U.S. colleges and universities” (a full description is available at www.aag.org/programexcellence). This year’s award will go to a bachelors program. Note that departments nominated must offer no higher than an undergraduate degree (BA/BS). If you would like to suggest a Middle States program nomination to us, please send a brief note – or direct any questions - to Regional Councilor Robert Mason, at rmason@temple.edu by May 15, 2017.

Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers

Submit a paper to the AAG Middle States Division’s

STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION

2017 Annual Meeting

Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers
SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY

October 20 – 21, 2017

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, 2017. 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. Students are strongly encouraged to work with a faculty

advisor on their entry. Entrants should send abstracts of no more than 250 words to James Kernan at kernan@geneseo.edu by **September 29**, and send electronic copies of completed papers to Michael Davis at midavis@kutztown.edu, MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by **October 2**.

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 James Kernan at kernan@geneseo.edu by **September 29**.

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