



American Association of Geographers
Middle States Division
NEWSLETTER

Editor: James Kernan

**FALL 2017 MEETING
 HOST SUNY GENESEO
 GENESEO, NY**

OCTOBER 20-21, 2017

See pages 4-7 for meeting information

President's Message

I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer, and finding time to recharge for a new academic year. On that note, please keep our annual meeting in your thoughts, and on your calendars! SUNY Geneseo is hosting this year in Geneseo, NY. I anticipate an engaging program, and hope to have many undergraduate and graduate students attend.

Note that registration and abstract submission is entirely online this year through Eventbrite (see Registration on pages 5-6). Students entering the paper competition must submit abstracts during online registration by September 29th, and final papers via email by October 2nd (see the Student Paper and Poster Competition on page 2).

Geneseo is a National Historic Landmark Village with a small but vibrant Main Street and historic residential architecture. It is located in the western reaches of the Finger Lakes region, noted for lakes, waterfalls, wineries, and fall foliage. If you manage to find any spare time, here is a great resource: <http://geneseony.com/todo/>. We look forward to your visit!
James Kernan, SUNY Geneseo

2017 Divisional Officers

PRESIDENT

James Kernan
 Department of Geography
 SUNY Geneseo
 Geneseo, NY
kernan@geneseo.edu

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jo Margaret Mano
 Dept. of Geography
 SUNY New Paltz
manoj@newpaltz.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Pankaj Lal
 Earth and Environmental Studies
 Montclair University
 Montclair, NJ
lalp@mail.montclair.edu

PAST PRESIDENTS

Joan Welch
 Geography and Planning
 West Chester University
 West Chester, PA
jwelch@wcupa.edu

SECRETARY

Michael Davis
 Department of Geography
 Kutztown University
 Kutztown, PA
midavis@kutztown.edu

Mark Blumler
 SUNY Binghamton

David Fyfe
 York College

REGIONAL COUNCILOR

Robert Mason
 Geography and Urban Studies
 Temple University
 Philadelphia, PA
mason@temple.edu

MIDDLE STATES GEOGRAPHER

Adam Kalkstein
 USMA West Point
Adam.Kalkstein@usma.edu

Paul Marr
 Shippensburg University
pgmarr@ship.edu

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

World Geography Bowl Competition

Calling all students (undergraduate and graduate)! Consider participating in the Middle States Division Geography Bowl at the annual meeting in Geneseo, NY. The competition is a lot of fun, and the highest-scoring students will be invited to represent the Division at the World Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting in New Orleans in Spring 2018. Students who accept the invitation and participate in New Orleans will receive partial support, typically \$300. All Division undergraduate and graduate students are invited to compete this fall. You may form a team beforehand (5-6 people) or sign up at the meeting to be placed on a team. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact our Vice President, Dr. Pankaj Lal, Montclair University, at lalp@mail.montclair.edu. The Geography Bowl will take place on Friday evening, October 20, 2017. Top scorers will be announced at the Saturday lunch.

Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers and Posters

Submit a paper to the AAG Middle States Division's

STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION

October 20-21, 2017 Annual Meeting
Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers
Bailey Hall, SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY

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.

The AAG recently established the **AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at a Regional Meeting**. The First Place Graduate Paper Awardee may be eligible for \$1,000 in funding from the AAG to be used for registration and travel costs to the AAG Annual Meeting.

Student status is as of May 1, 2017. PLEASE NOTE YOUR STATUS (GRAD/UNDERGRAD) during online registration, and on your paper submission. Registration fees are refunded after the conference for students who both submitted the completed paper by the deadline AND presented 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 website at <http://msaag.aag.org/>. Entrants should submit a title and abstract of no more than 250 words by September 29 during [online registration](#). A final paper must be submitted via email by October 2, 2017 to Dr. Michael Davis at midavis@kutztown.edu, the MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair.

There is also a Student Poster Competition with graduate and undergraduate divisions with a First Prize of \$100 and a Second Prize of \$50. Registration fees are not refunded for all the poster competition entrants, only the poster competition winners. Indicate that you are entering the poster competition during [online registration](#).

Stand Alone Geographer (SAGE) News

Are you the only geographer in your department? Stand Alone Geographers (SAGE) is an AAG affinity group for geographers who work alone as academics or professionals. Middle States has had active SAGE Representatives for several years now. If you are interested in getting involved with SAGE, please contact Joan Welch at jwelch@wcupa.edu.

2018 AAG Annual Meeting

Join the American Association of Geographers (AAG) at the Annual Meeting in **New Orleans, Louisiana, April 10-14, 2018**, 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 <http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>.

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 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: <http://msaag.aag.org/middle-states-geographer/>. 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.

AAG Award for Program Excellence

The AAG has instituted a new "Award for Program Excellence," honoring non-Ph. D. granting geography departments and Geography Programs within blended departments. They honor four-year and Master's programs in alternate years. In 2017 they will honor a Master's program and in 2018 an undergraduate program. Each Regional division is to nominate up to two programs for the 2017 award. For a complete description of the award, eligibility, and nomination guidelines, please see <http://www.aag.org/programexcellence>. A call for nominations will be sent out in the spring newsletter each year.

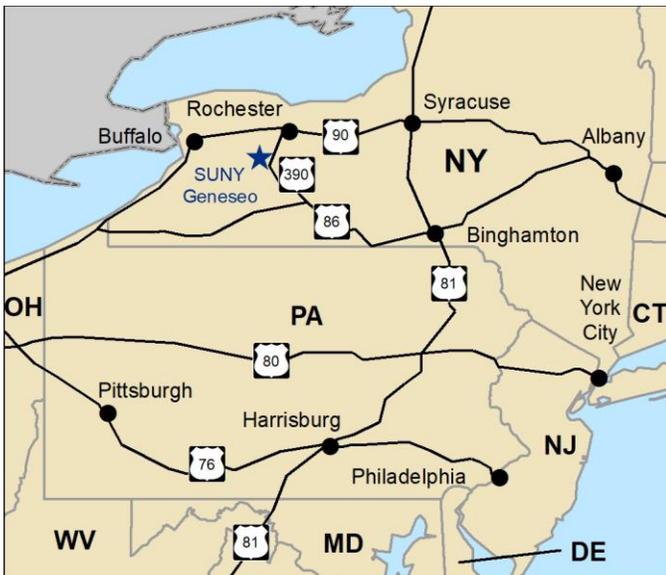
Call for Nominations for MSD Officers

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 (jwelch@wcupa.edu) by September 1.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2017, Geneseo, New York

**The 2017 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held at SUNY Geneseo
In Bailey Hall and the Big Tree Inn 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, and an address by incoming AAG President Dr. Derek Alderman. There will also be a field trip to Letchworth State Park Saturday afternoon.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, PANELS, AND LIGHTNING TALKS

Paper Sessions are 60-80 minutes long and consist of four presentations of 20 minutes. Papers on all topics of a geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, October 20 and Saturday morning, October 21. Each room is equipped with a

computer, digital projector and screen. We urge participants to use PowerPoint software for their presentations and to have your presentation on a flash drive.

The Poster Session will be held on Saturday October 21. Poster dimensions must be at least 36 inches in height and 48 inches in width but cannot exceed 60 inches in width and 48 inches in height. Poster mounting boards and easels will be available. Posters will be displayed on the second floor of the atrium in Bailey Hall, outside of the breakout rooms.

Panel- Roundtable Sessions are 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. A limited number of panels can be accommodated given facility and volunteer constraints. If you are interested in organizing either a panel or a roundtable session please contact James Kernan at kernan@geneseo.edu or 585-245-6194 before September 15, 2017, so that you have time to register for the discount rate by September 24, 2017.

5-Minute Lightning Talks (for undergraduates only) are a new addition, and are intended to give undergraduates an opportunity to speak about emerging research activities. Presenters should have one to three PowerPoint images to illustrate their work, and carefully prepare a five minute overview of their project.

Submitting Abstracts

Abstracts for papers, posters, panels, and lightning talks will be submitted during the online registration process. The combined title and abstract should not exceed 250 words. It is highly recommended that you compose your abstract in a word processor, proofread and edit it, and cut-and-paste into the appropriate location during registration. *Titles and abstracts will not be proofread or edited, and will be published in the program as submitted.*

Student Competitions

Students are encouraged to enter the paper or poster contests. See page two for instructions.

Child Care

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) will reimburse attendees up to \$150 in child-care costs. If anyone is interested in taking advantage of this support, please contact James Kernan at kernan@geneseo.edu or 585-245-6194 by October 1, 2017. The child-care provider must be certified and contracted by the MSD, and reimbursement managed through the MSD.

Letchworth State Park Field Trip

If there is enough interest indicated in the registration responses, the SUNY Geneseo Geography Department can provide vans to visit nearby [Letchworth State Park](#) for a 2-3 hour tour (with many stops) on Saturday afternoon. The park was voted "[Best State Park in the Nation](#)" in a USA 10 Best Readers' Choice poll in 2015, and was listed in "[The 25 Best State Parks in America You Absolutely Must Visit](#)" by Thrillist.com in 2016. The park features scenic vistas of the Genesee River gorge, several waterfalls, and spectacular fall scenery. Biogeographer Jim Kernan and cultural geographer Dave Robertson will provide a brief geography of the park that addresses its ecological and cultural significance. Topics will include geology, biodiversity, invasive species, conservation, the Native American influence, and the Civilian Conservation Corp legacy. There will also be plenty of scenic photo opportunities! If you need to get back home, you can follow the vans in your vehicle caravan-style and leave at any time. You can also drive through the park on your own before or after the meeting, but there is a \$10 per vehicle entrance fee.

Program

The program will be available online at the Middle States website at <http://msaag.aag.org/> in early-to-mid October and will be sent out to members via email. Registration is ongoing so the program will continue to be updated.

Registration

Registration will be online this year at <https://middlestatesaagfall2017.eventbrite.com>. *There is a 20 minute period for registration, so make sure that your credit card information is on hand and your abstract is prepared in advance if you are presenting.* Participants who register for the full conference by September 24th will receive a discount:

Fees*	Before 6 pm Sept. 24	After 6 pm Sept. 24
Faculty Full Registration	\$105	\$115
Student Full Registration	\$45	\$55
Faculty One Day	\$65	\$65
Student One Day	\$30	\$30

*Fees include program costs and ticket and payment processing fees charged by Eventbrite. *Note that there will be no refunds after October 10, 2017.*

Directions to SUNY Geneseo

From the West. Take the New York State Thruway to Batavia Exit 48. Follow Route 63 approximately 20 miles to Geneseo. Bear left at the fork after the traffic light, toward Route 20A. Turn left at the stop sign onto Route 20A. Turn left at the stop light onto Main Street (Route 39) and take the first left onto Park Street.

From the South. Take Route 390 North to Exit 7. Turn right onto Route 63/39 North approximately three miles. At the second traffic light, turn left onto Main Street (Route 39), then take the first left onto Park Street.

From the North or East. Take the New York State Thruway to Rochester Exit 46. Follow Route 390 South to Geneseo Exit 8. Turn right and follow Route 20A West approximately 5 miles. Turn right at the third traffic light onto Main Street (Route 39). Take the first left onto Park Street.



View of Bailey Hall from the east.

Parking at SUNY Geneseo

Parking information and additional maps will be included in the preliminary program, which will be emailed approximately one week before the conference.

Make Your Lodging Reservations

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 basic motel is a twelve minute drive from campus and is in a very small lakeside 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). Use the links above or contact the hotels directly:

Quality Inn

4242 Lakeville Road
Geneseo, NY 14454
Phone: 585-243-0500

Hampton Inn

4250 Lakeville Road
Geneseo, NY 14454
Phone: 585-447-9040

Rodeway Inn

6001 Big Tree Road
Lakeville, NY 14480
Phone: 585-346-233

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

Undergraduates: If you are looking to save money on lodging and would like to meet fellow geography students, there are a limited number of couchsurfing spots available first-come-first-served with our off-campus geography majors. If you are interested in couchsurfing, check "Yes" during online registration. Again, this is first-come-first-served, so register as soon as you can!