



American Association of Geographers
Middle States Division
NEWSLETTER

Editor: Pankaj Lal

Mark Your Calendar!

Fall 2018 Meeting
HOST Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ

October 26-27, 2018
Abstracts due by October 5, 2018

President's Message

It was a pleasure meeting many of you in Geneseo in 2017, and seeing so many presentations that highlight the importance of the research our members are doing. Montclair State University will host the 2018 meeting in Montclair, NJ. Montclair State University, founded in 1908, is a leading public university and doctoral research university located near the Great Notch area of Little Falls, a short distance away from sprawling New York City.

Montclair's Earth and Environmental Studies Department offers a Bachelor's degree in Geography along with minors in Geographic Information Systems and Urban Studies. For graduate students, we offer the university's flagship trans-disciplinary Environmental Management Doctoral Program, in addition to offering Bachelors and Masters degree in Sustainability Science and Earth and Environmental Science.

The meeting will be held in the state of the art Center for Environmental and Life Sciences building, which was just opened in 2015. Lodging is available at nearby hotels, and transportation to and from campus is available with public transit options in the area. We will provide more information in the upcoming summer newsletter in July, so keep an eye out!

Pankaj Lal, Montclair State University

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In this Issue:

	Page
• President's Message	1
• Fall 2017 Meeting Report	2
• Geography Bowl Competition	2
• <i>Middle States Geographer</i> Information	2
• Call for Program Excellence Nominations	2
• Fall 2018 Meeting Announcement	3
• Call for MSD Officer Nominations	3
• Call for Student Papers	4
• Call for Puerto Rico Student Travel Scholarship	4

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

Fall 2017 MSAAG Meeting Report – Geneseo, NY

There were 160 attendees at the fall meeting held at SUNY Geneseo, organized by our past president James Kernan. Michael Davis, past secretary, ran the Student Paper and Poster Competition and was tasked with evaluating many excellent entries. In the graduate student paper competition, Meghann Smith (Montclair State University) received best paper award and Kathryn Hannum (Kent State University) was selected as second prize recipient. Tianna Andrews (Kutztown University) received first place undergraduate paper award. The graduate poster award went to Gia Nguyen (Montclair State University). There was a tie for undergraduate first prize poster award, and was awarded to Sam Heraghty (SUNY Geneseo) and Elizabeth Holland (SUNY Geneseo). Forest Swaciak (SUNY Geneseo) was selected as undergraduate second prize recipient and Glenn Roedell (Kutztown University) received Peoples' Choice Poster Award.

Geography Bowl Competition at Geneseo

Several teams from Middle States division competed in the Geography Bowl at the Middle States Division meeting in Geneseo in 2017. SUNY New Paltz was victorious! The Middle States World Geography Bowl Team at the AAG Meeting in New Orleans included: Tianna Andrews (Kutztown), Sean McLaughlin (West Chester), Peter Scilla (SUNY Geneseo), Jacob Roday (Hofstra), Liam Powers (SUNY New Paltz), and Benjamin Gammon (West Chester). 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 New Orleans.

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 upcoming Fall 2018 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 2016 (Volume 49) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2017 issue (Volume 50) 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 Program Excellence Nominations

2018 AAG Award for Bachelors Program Excellence was awarded to SUNY Geneseo. Congratulations! In 2019 AAG will honor a Master's program. Each Regional division can nominate up to two programs for the 2019 award. For a complete description of the award, eligibility, and nomination guidelines, please see award [description](#). So, we need to hear from you! Please nominate any non-Ph. D. granting program from the Middle States region offering a Master's degree that you feel is deserving of the award. Send your nomination(s) for an outstanding Master's degree geography program to **Pankaj Lal**, at lalp@montclair.edu, by June 10, 2018.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2018, Montclair, New Jersey

The 2018 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held at Montclair State University on Friday October 26 and Saturday October 27.



Montclair State University extends a warm welcome to our campus in Montclair, NJ. The meeting will be held at the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences (CELS), a 107,500 sq. ft. facility housing the Department of Earth and Environmental Studies and multiple Centers and Institutes. The 2018 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. Friday will include plenary and paper sessions, dinner, and Geography Bowl. On Saturday, a morning of sessions will be followed by a buffet luncheon with a brief MSD meeting and student awards. There will be optional field trips to Paterson Great Falls, Passaic River, and LEED Buildings in Newark, New Jersey. We are also exploring a food and migration related tour and will update you in the summer newsletter.

We suggest that you make arrangements for lodging early! We have arranged for a blocks of rooms at the [Holiday Inn](#) for Thursday 10/25, Friday 10/26, and Saturday nights 10/27 at the rate of \$109 plus taxes, and a block of rooms at the [Fairfield Executive Inn](#) for 10/25, Friday 10/26, for \$115 plus taxes. There is a more affordable option at the [La Quinta Inn & Suites](#) for Thursday for 10/25, Friday 10/26, and Saturday nights 10/27 for \$85 plus taxes. All hotels are within ten miles of campus, where the program will be held. Mention “Middle States Division of the AAG or MSU” when making your reservations. **Please make reservations early, as the number of rooms is limited and room rates will expire a month before the event (three weeks at Fairfield Executive Inn).**

Parking: Look for information about parking in the summer newsletter!

Stay tuned for the registration form and more information about the conference in the Summer 2018 Middle States Division newsletter in July.

Call for Nominations for MSD Officers

Please consider joining the leadership of MSDAAG. We are currently soliciting nominations for **Secretary** position to serve one-year term. The term runs from January 2019 – December 2019.

The Secretary organizes and judges the student paper and poster competitions at the fall meeting; keeps minutes of all official meetings of the Division including those of the Executive Board; and conducts other Division correspondence as required. The Board has two meetings a year, one a conference call in the spring and one at the annual fall meeting. Normally, the President serves first one year as Secretary, then as Vice-President, and in the third year the position of President.

Voting will take place in October 2018. The newly elected position will be announced at the Fall 2018 Meeting. Please submit nominations to Past President **James Kernan** (kernan@geneseo.edu) by September 15.

The Executive Board will provide all the guidance and resources you need to be successful. Please consider these rewarding opportunities. You may contact **Pankaj Lal** (lalp@montclair.edu) or any current board member for additional information.

Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers

Submit a paper to the AAG Middle States Division's

STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION

2018 Annual Meeting

Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers
Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

October 26 – 27, 2018

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 Middle States Division nominates an outstanding graduate paper at the regional meeting for AAG Council Award. Awardee receives \$1,000 in funding for use towards the awardee's registration and travel costs to the AAG Annual Meeting.

Student status is as of May 1, 2018. 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 at the web site at www.msaag.org. You can download the submission guidelines document [here](#). **Students are strongly encouraged to work with a faculty advisor on their entry.** Entrants should send abstracts of no more than 250 words to Pankaj Lal at msaag2018@montclair.edu by **September 30**, and send electronic copies of completed papers to Jase Bernhardt at Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu, MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by **October 5**.

There is also a Student Poster Competition with graduate and undergraduate divisions with a First Prize of \$100 and a Second Prize of \$50 along with People's Choice Poster award named after our past Regional Councilor Dr. Robert Mason from Temple University who passed away last year. He served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Division as well. Send an abstract of your poster to Pankaj Lal at msaag2018@montclair.edu by **September 30**.

Please note your status (Graduate/Undergraduate) on your abstract. Registration fees are not refunded for all the poster competition entrants, only the poster competition winners.

Scholarship for Student Geographer from Puerto Rico

The Executive Board has established a \$500 scholarship to encourage participation of a Puerto Rican student geographer studying at Puerto Rican University at the Divisional meeting each year. 2018 applicants should send their scholarship application of no more than 250 words to **Pankaj Lal** at msaag2018@montclair.edu by **September 1** and should be nominated by a faculty mentor. Applicants should outline briefly their academic/research background and career goals and how participation in this meeting will assist in meeting these goals. A nomination letter from faculty mentor should accompany the student application. Awardee will receive \$500 in funding for use towards the awardee's travel, meals and lodging costs towards the Middle States Division Annual Meeting. The registration fees for the scholarship awardee will also be waived.