



American Association of Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: Michael Davis

Mark Your Calendar! Fall 2019 Meeting HOST Kutztown University Kutztown, PA

October 18-19, 2019
Abstracts due by September 27, 2019

President's Message

It was a pleasure meeting many of you at Montclair State in 2018, and seeing so many presentations that highlight the importance of the research our members are doing. Kutztown University will host the 2019 meeting in Kutztown, PA. Kutztown University, founded in 1866 as Keystone Normal School, is a public university with a vibrant undergraduate geography program. We are located between the cities of Allentown and Reading and are close to New York City and Philadelphia.

Kutztown's Geography Department offers a Bachelor's degree in Geography in four different tracks: Environmental, General, Globalization, and Planning. The Department also offers a B.S. in Environmental Science. The Department also offers three minors to students: Environmental, General, and Planning.

The meeting will be held in the Boehm Science Building and in the McFarland Student Union. Lodging is available at nearby hotels. Kutztown hosted the Middle States Fall Meeting in 2007 but that was held in Reading. We are excited to showcase our campus in 2019! We will provide more information in the upcoming summer newsletter in July, so keep an eye out!

Michael Davis, Kutztown University

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In this Issue:

	Page
• President's Message	1
• Fall 2018 Meeting Report	2
• Geography Bowl Competition	2
• <i>Middle States Geographer</i> Information	2
• Call for Program Excellence Nominations	2
• Fall 2019 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: msaag.aag.org

Fall 2018 MSAAG Meeting Report – Montclair, NJ

There were 192 attendees at the fall meeting held at Montclair State University, organized by our past president Pankaj Lal. Jase Bernhardt, past secretary, ran the Student Paper and Poster Competition and was tasked with evaluating many excellent entries. In the graduate student paper competition, Emily Holloway (Montclair State University) received best paper award and Chelsea Leiper (University of Delaware) was selected as second prize recipient. Odaine Pusey (Church Teachers' College) received an honorable mention undergraduate paper award. The graduate first prize poster award went to Rohi Muthyala (Rutgers University) and second prize to Sasha Leidman (Rutgers University). The first prize undergraduate poster award went to Emily Cantor (Kutztown University) and the second prize to Jillian Eller (Temple University). Fatimah Mozawalla (Hofstra University) received the Rob Mason Poster Award. Odaine Pusey received the Travel Award for travel from Jamaica.

Geography Bowl Competition at Montclair

Teams from Middle States division competed in the Geography Bowl at the Middle States Division meeting in Montclair in 2018. The six top individual scorers became the Middle States World Geography Bowl Team at the AAG Meeting in Washington, D.C. They were Dan Bouchard (Montclair), Sean McLaughlin (West Chester), Drew Arnum (SUNY Geneseo), Dan Ciarletta (Montclair), Sasha Liedman (Rutgers), and Zack Perry (SUNY Albany). 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 got \$300 for travel reimbursement from MSAAG for competing in Washington DC.

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 2019 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: msaag.aag.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 2017 (Volume 50) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2018 issue (Volume 51) 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

In 2020 AAG will honor a Community College program. Each Regional division can nominate up to two programs for the 2020 award. For a complete description of the award, eligibility, and nomination guidelines, please see award directions on the AAG's website <http://www.aag.org/programexcellence#description>

So, we need to hear from you! Nominate a Geography program that offers no higher than an associate's degree (AA/AAS/AASCET) that you feel is deserving of the award. Send your nomination(s) for an outstanding geography program to **Michael Davis**, midavis@kutztown.edu, by June 15, 2019.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2019, Kutztown University

The 2019 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held at Kutztown University on Friday October 18 and Saturday October 19.



Kutztown University extends a warm welcome to our campus in Kutztown, PA. The meeting will be held at the Boehm Hall, the building which houses the Biology and the Physical Sciences Departments on campus, and at the McFarland Student Union. The 2019 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. We are coordinating with local venues on potential field trip options that highlight the unique culture of Berks County. We will update you in the summer newsletter.

We suggest that you make arrangements for lodging early, as this is the peak season for fall foliage tourism! We have arranged for a blocks of rooms at the [Holiday Inn](#) for Friday 10/18 and Saturday nights 10/19 at the rate of \$109 plus taxes. We are working with other local hotels and will provide a wider selection of lodging alternatives in the Summer newsletter. Mention “Middle States AAG” 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.

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 2019 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 the **Secretary** position to serve one-year term. The term runs from January 2020 – December 2020. We also seek nominations for the **Vice President** position (2020). The Vice President becomes the President the following year.

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. Typically, the Secretary serves for one year as Secretary, and then can run for Vice-President, and in the third year moves on to be President.

Voting will take place in September 2019. The newly elected position will be announced at the Fall 2019 Meeting. Please submit nominations to Past President **Pankaj Lal** (lalp@montclair.edu) by September 8.

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

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

2019 Annual Meeting
Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers
Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA
October 18-19, 2019

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 People's Choice 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, 2019. 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 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 Michael Davis at msaag2019@kutztown.edu by **September 27**, and send electronic copies of completed papers to Nate Gabriel at nategab@geography.rutgers.edu, MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by **October 4**. Send an abstract of your poster to Michael Davis at msaag2019@kutztown.edu by **September 27**. Registration fees are refunded for paper/poster competition winners.

Scholarship for Student Geographer from Puerto Rico

The Executive Board has established a \$500 scholarship to encourage participation of a student geographer from Puerto Rico at the Divisional meeting each year. 2019 applicants should send their scholarship application of no more than 250 words to **Michael Davis** at msaag2019@kutztown.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.