



Association of American Geographers

**Middle States Division
NEWSLETTER**

Editor: Amy Richmond Krakowka

**CALL FOR PAPERS AND
POSTERS**

**Fall 2010 Meeting
United States Military Academy
West Point, NY**

**October 22-23, 2010
Abstracts due by September 10, 2010
(See page 4)**

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President's Message

I hope everyone is having a relaxing and productive summer.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank Larry McGlenn and Jo Margaret Mano for hosting an outstanding 2009 MSDAAG meeting in New Paltz.

This year the Middle States Meeting will be on October 22-23 in West Point, NY. West Point is 50 miles from New York City located on the scenic Hudson River. The Hudson Highlands boast magnificent physical geography and visitors can enjoy many outdoor activities which will allow them to experience firsthand outstanding views of the fall foliage. West Point is home to the United States Military Academy, which has been graduating cadets since 1802. Attendees can take an inexpensive tour with West Point Tours and enjoy the campus, which is a historic landmark and home to many storied and beautiful sights. The Hotel Thayer, where the conference will be located, is designated a "historic hotel of America" and has housed past presidents, world leaders, and celebrities.

I hope all of you take advantage of this unique meeting location and I am looking forward to seeing you in the October!

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**ADDITIONAL DIVISION INFORMATION
MAY BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTP://DEPARTMENTS.BLOOMU.EDU/
GEO/MSD/INDEX.HTML](http://departments.bloomu.edu/geo/msd/index.html)**

Fall 2009 Meeting Report – SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY

The 2009 Annual Meeting was hosted on campus by the SUNY New Paltz Geography Department. There were 132 participants, 85 of whom were students. 58 papers and 11 posters were presented in 3 or 4 concurrent sessions for a total of 15 sessions. Students wrote or co-wrote and presented 38 of the conference papers. The keynote speaker was Carol Harden, President of the Association of American Geographers, who presented *Geography and Ecosystems Services: Land, Water and People in the Andes and Appalachians*. The MSDAAG Geography Bowl competition was won by the home team. Many thanks to all participants, and we hope to see you again at West Point in October!

World Geography Bowl



A hearty congratulations to the 2010 Middle States Bowl Team for participating at the national competition of the World Geography Bowl this spring in Washington DC! Our team members are, pictured from left to right: Team Captain, Steve Michejda, Jordan Thaler, Alex Peimer, Alex Colucci, Marie Hokenson and Eric Murphy.

The World Geography Bowl is intended to be a friendly, fast-paced academic competition among college and university students. The game challenges teams of students on fundamental concepts and trivia with geographic themes. Each year, the MSDAAG conducts the division Geography Bowl at its annual regional meeting.

The highest-scoring students are then invited to represent the Middle States Division at the World Geography Bowl Finals at the AAG annual meeting (Seattle in Spring 2011). We invite all division undergraduate and graduate students to compete this fall at the United States Military Academy. Form a team (six 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, contact Dr. John Dobosiewicz, Kean University, at jdobosie@couger.kean.edu. The Bowl will take place on Friday night, October 22nd.

Standalone Geographers (SAGE)

The AAG has launched an effort to identify standalone geographers (individual geographers and geographers in non-geography departments) and involve more of them in national activities. There are many ways that this networking could benefit geographers working outside of a geography department including: external reviewers for tenure, access to geographic resources, funding for research, and recognition for awards. The AAG has established a standalone geographers' affinity group and will have a reception at the annual meeting. The Middle States' SAGE representative is David Fyfe from York College of PA. He is compiling a network of standalone geographers in the region. There will be a panel session at the MSDAAG in October for those interested in learning more. Standalone geographers contact David at dfyfe@ycp.edu.

Middle States Geographer

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. The journal is presently edited by Kelly Frothingham and Stephen Vermette, Department of Geography and Planning, Buffalo State College.

If you are presenting a paper at the Fall 2010 MSDAAG meeting, we invite you to submit it 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>. You may also contact the editors at frothikm@buffalostate.edu or vermetjs@buffalostate.edu if you are interested in submitting a paper or serving as a reviewer. Students who present a paper at the conference and submit it for publication in the journal have their conference registration refunded.

Presently, Middle States Geographer is entirely an online journal. Articles from 1987 (Volume 20) through 2009 (Volume 42) may be viewed at the journal website. Manuscripts from the 2009 issue (Volume 42) have been recently posted. 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 extra cost to authors. Many thanks to Kelly and Stephen for all their efforts on behalf of the journal.

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

All **STUDENTS** are urged to come and present a paper at the fall conference. The reduced rate for enrolled students is \$55.00 before September 10th. MSDAAG also encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition. **CASH PRIZES** are awarded. Student status is as of May 1, 2010. Conference fees are returned to students who both submit the completed paper in writing by the deadline and present 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 Middle States Division AAG web site at (http://geographyplanning.buffalostate.edu/msg_guidelines.htm). Entrants should send abstracts of no more than 250 words to Amy Krakowka at middlestatesmeeting@yahoo.com by August 30, 2010 and send electronic copies of completed papers to Paul Marr at pgmarr@ship.edu, MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by September 10, 2010.



Photos courtesy of Jon Malinowski

Fall 2010 Meeting – The United States Military Academy, West Point, NY



Photo courtesy of Jon Malinowski

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held at the United States Military Academy in West Point NY, in the beautiful Hudson Valley. The conference will be hosted by the United States Military Academy, Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at the Thayer Hotel on Friday, October 22nd and Saturday, October 23rd.

The United States Military Academy is 50 miles north of New York City. It is located at a significant bend in the Hudson River, which was of strategic importance during the revolutionary war.

West Point Tours schedule frequent tours of the campus to see many of the historic sites (<http://www.westpointtours.com/>). Another noteworthy destination is the West Point Museum (<http://www.usma.edu/museum/>) and the West Point visitor center (<http://www.usma.edu/dcomm/vic.htm>), where tour tickets are available. Reservations for tours are recommended.

The fall 2010 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. Friday night will include a hot buffet supper and the Geography Bowl competition. On Saturday, a morning of papers will be followed by a hot buffet luncheon, speaker, and student paper awards. Please join us for this event.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

To participate, please submit an abstract (not exceeding 250 words) by *10 September 2010*. Please note whether your abstract is for a paper, poster, or discussion panel. Please attach your abstract as a WORD file and send to Amy Krakowka at middlestatesmeeting@yahoo.com. To ensure your place on the program, please also fill out the accompanying registration form, enclose a check, and send it to Amy Krakowka, Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996. If you are submitting a paper for the student paper competition, write "Student Paper Submitted" on the lower left side of the check, and it will be refunded. Conference food expenses at the historic Thayer Hotel are VERY high this year, so each student registration fee is being reduced by contributions from the MSDAAG.

MAKE YOUR LODGING RESERVATIONS

The Thayer Hotel is where the conference is located. There are a block of rooms available for \$155 a night. Please make sure you mention the MSDAAG geography conference when making your reservations. Please also reserve your room early; rooms at the conference rate are only available until September 22nd.

West Point is an active, functioning government installation with high security. Access to the campus beyond the Thayer Hotel is limited. Please bring a photo ID. For more information on visiting West Point, please see: <http://www.usma.edu/visiting.asp>.

The Thayer Hotel
674 Thayer Road
West Point, NY 10996
845.446.4731
www.thethayerhotel.com



Postal mail this page with check (payable to MSDAAG) to:

Dr. Amy Krakowka, Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, United States Military Academy,
745 Brewerton Road, West Point, NY 10996

**Association of American Geographers - Middle States Division
2010 Meeting Pre-Registration Form (Complete a Separate Form for Each Person)
October 22nd-23rd, the Thayer Hotel, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York**

_____	_____	_____	_____
Last Name	First Name	Phone #	Email
_____		_____	_____
Address		City	State Zip

Affiliation			

<u>REGISTRATION FEES</u>	<u>Before Sept. 10</u>	<u>After Sept. 10</u>	<u>Enclosed</u>
FULL REGISTRATION (Friday supper, Saturday Lunch, all sessions)	\$125.00	\$140.00	\$ _____
STUDENT REGISTRATION (Friday supper, Saturday Lunch, all sessions)	\$55.00	\$65.00	\$ _____
FRIDAY ONLY (Friday supper, all Friday sessions)	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$ _____
SATURDAY ONLY (Saturday Keynote Lunch, all Saturday sessions)	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED			\$ _____

Make Checks Payable to MIDDLE STATES AAG. Postal mail registration form and check to:
Dr. Amy Krakowka, MSDAAG, Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, United States Military Academy, 745 Brewerton Road, , West Point, NY 10996.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER September 10th. Credit cards are not accepted with postal registration or at the conference.

Call for Nominations

Please consider joining the leadership of MSDAAG. We are currently soliciting nominations for secretary position. Voting will take place in September 2010 and the new secretary will be announced at the fall meeting.

Secretary

The term for Secretary will run January 2011 – December 2011. 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 Vice President is in charge of writing questions for and leading the Geography Bowl at that year's regional meeting, and the President is in charge of organizing the MSDAAG bowl team for the national competition, meetings of the board, communication with the regional division including newsletters, and the annual meeting for that year. The board has two meetings a year, one is a conference call in the Spring, the other is held at the fall meeting

Send all nominations, as well as a brief statement that you would like published by your name on the ballot, to Amy Krakowka, President, Middle States Division of the AAG, at amy.krakowka@usma.edu. Deadline for nominations is August 15, 2010.