



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 fall 2018 and seeing so many presentations that highlight the important research of our Middle States members. Kutztown University is honored to host this year's 2019 Middle States AAG meeting. Kutztown hosted the 2007 Middle States AAG meeting, but it took place off-campus in Reading. We are excited to showcase our campus for the 2019 meeting.

Kutztown University is located in rural Berks County between the cities of Reading and Allentown. Founded in 1866 as a Keystone Normal School, it is a public university with a vibrant undergraduate program. Kutztown's Geography Department offers a BA degree in Geography with four different tracks: General, Environmental, Globalization and Planning. The Department also offers a Geography minor in Environmental, General or Planning as well as a BS in Environmental Science in a consortium with other campus physical science departments.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Boehm Science Building and the McFarland Student Union. Conference discount priced lodging is available at the newly constructed Hampton Inn, a short drive from Kutztown University or at the Holiday inn at Breinigsville on I78. We hope to see you at Kutztown University this fall!

Michael Davis, Kutztown University

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Additional division information may be found at
<http://msaag.aag.org/>

2020 AAG Annual Meeting

Join the American Association of Geographers (AAG) at the Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, April 6-10, 2020, for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GI Science. 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>.

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 Renata Blumberg at blumbergr@montclair.edu.

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

You may also contact the editors: Adam Kalkstein at the USMA West Point, Adam.Kalstein@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. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors, while reducing printing costs. Furthermore, color graphics are available at no cost to authors.

Call for Nominations for MSAAG Officer

Please consider joining the leadership of MSAAG. We are currently soliciting nominations for **Secretary** position to serve a one-year term. The term runs from 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020.

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 is a spring conference call and the other at the annual fall meeting. The Secretary can run the following year for Vice President. The Vice President serves for a year and then the next year becomes the President. Voting will take place online in early October 2019. The newly elected position will be announced at the Fall 2019 Meeting.

Please submit nominations to Past President **Pankaj Lal** at lalp@montclair.edu by September 18. Please consider this rewarding opportunity. You may contact **Michael Davis** at MiDavis@kutztown.edu or any current board member for additional information.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2019, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA

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



Kutztown University welcomes you to our campus in Kutztown, Pennsylvania for the 2019 MSAAG Annual Fall meeting. The meeting will be held in the Boehm Science Building and in the McFarland Student Union. The meeting begins Friday afternoon with paper sessions, a buffet dinner and the Geography Bowl competition. If you arrive early, consider our Friday field trip to the Pennsylvania German Cultural Center on Kutztown's campus.

On Saturday, the morning paper and poster sessions will be followed by a buffet luncheon with a Keynote address by AAG Vice President Amy Lubbock, a brief MSAAG meeting and student awards. On Saturday afternoon, there will be a walking tour of Kutztown's Main Street.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, PANELS, AND LIGHTNING TALKS

Paper Sessions are typically 60-80 minutes long and consist of three or four presentations of 20 minutes. Papers on all topics of geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19. Each room is equipped with a computer, digital projector and screen. We urge participants to use PowerPoint software for their presentations and have presentations saved on a flash drive.

Poster Sessions will be held on both Friday and Saturday. Poster dimensions must be at least 36 inches in height and 48 inches in width (36" h x 48" w) but cannot exceed 48" h and 60" w. Poster mounting boards and easels will be available. Posters will be displayed in the Boehm Hall Lounge.

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 round table 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. If you are interested in organizing either a panel or a roundtable session please contact Michael Davis at msaag2019@kutztown.edu before September 17, 2019.

5-Minute Lightning Talks (for students only) are intended to give undergraduates and graduates 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 must 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 Microsoft Word, proofread and edit it, and copy-and-paste into the appropriate location during registration. Your submission will NOT be proofread or edited and will be published in the program as submitted. All abstract submissions for paper, posters, panels and 5-minute lightning talks are due **September 27, 2019**.

2 FIELDTRIPS ARE OFFERED



The first field trip will be at **12PM Friday October 18th** to the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University. This is an on-campus open air folklife museum and research center dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Pennsylvania German heritage. This field trip cost will be \$5.



The second field trip is a walking tour of Kutztown at **2.30PM Saturday October 19th**, led by former mayor Sandy Green. Several stops will be made at the local businesses that line Main Street in our small town. The tour will conclude with wine and cheese at the Main Street Bed and Breakfast patio. Participants do not need to be 21, but participants must be 21 years of age to consume alcoholic beverages. This field trip cost will be \$5.

EVENT LOGISTICS

Registration

Registration will be online this year at <https://msaag2019.eventbrite.com>. There is a 20-minute period for registration, so make sure that your credit card information is on hand, and your 250-word abstract is prepared in advance if you are presenting. Please check in at the lobby of Boehm Hall for the conference starting at 12 PM on Friday October 18th and 8 AM on Saturday October 19th. The deadline for abstract submission is September 27th. Participants who register for the full conference by September 11th will receive a discount:

| Fees* | Before Sept. 11 | After Sept. 11 |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Faculty/Professional | \$120 | \$130 |
| Student | \$50 | \$55 |
| Faculty 1 Day | \$75 | \$85 |
| Student 1 Day | \$30 | \$35 |

**Fees include program costs and ticket and payment processing fees charged by Eventbrite. Note that there will be no refunds after October 9, 2019.*

***You must pre-register to attend field trips as there are limited spaces available.*

****Walk-in tickets include meals but will only allow you to participate as a spectator. To present during this conference you must register online to submit an abstract. Pricing for walk-in tickets will match the prices under "After Sept.11."*

Parking

Vehicles may park in the B3 lot and the Kutztown Fairgrounds on Friday. The B3 lot is an approximate 5-10 minute walk to Boehm Science Center where Registration will take place. The Fairgrounds parking is across College Blvd from the MacFarland Student Union. After 4.30pm on Friday, vehicles can be moved to any white lined space on campus. On Saturday, free parking is available on any white lined space on campus.

Directions

Directions to Kutztown University campus and a campus map are found at <https://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/our-campus/directions-to-ku.html>

Make your Lodging Reservations

We suggest that you make arrangements for lodging early, as fall is the peak season for fall foliage tourism! We have arranged for a block of rooms at Breinigsville [Holiday Inn](#) for Thursday 10/17, Friday 10/18, and Saturday 10/19 nights at the rate of \$109 plus taxes, and a block of rooms at the Kutztown [Hampton Inn](#) for 10/17, 10/18 and 10/19 for \$125 plus taxes. Mention "Middle States Division of the AAG or MSAAG" when making your reservations. Please make reservations by phone before September 17 as the number of rooms is limited, and room rates will expire then.

Holiday Inn

7736 Adrienne Drive
Breinigsville, PA
610-391-1000

Hampton Inn

15080 Kutztown Road
Kutztown, PA
484-641-6800

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| FAQs |
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How can I contact the organizer with questions?

President Michael Davis is the meeting organizer. **Contact** him at msaag2019@kutztown.edu

How and When do I submit an abstract?

If you are **presenting**, you will be prompted to enter your title, co-authors, and abstract in 250 words or less during online registration. Have your completed abstracts ready to cut-and-paste, as you will only be given 20 minutes to complete your registration. Abstracts will be published in the meeting program as submitted. You **MUST** submit an abstract if you would like to participate in a paper, poster, panel, or lightning talk session. The deadline for abstract submission is **September 27, 2019**. You can still register after then but you will **not** be able to present a paper, poster or lightning talk.

How do I enter the Student Paper or Poster Competition?

You will be asked if you wish to enter a student competition during registration. You select the paper or poster option and student status (undergraduate or graduate) or to not compete. See <http://msaag.aag.org/> and view guidelines and judging rubrics at <https://msaag.aag.org/student-competitions/> details on requirements under the Tab "Student Competitions."

How do I participate in a Panel-Roundtable Session?

If you are interested in participating in a panel-roundtable session email Michael Davis msaag2019@kutztown.edu before **September 17, 2019** with your ideas.

Can I attend the conference without presenting?

Yes! When registering write in NA for any required field (i.e. Project Title, Abstract), and select 'Attendee only' where it asks how you would like to participate in the conference.

Can I pay on site?

Online registration is **required** if you are presenting. If not, you can pay with credit card, cash or check for "AAG" at the Walk-in rate. You can only participate as an attendee at this rate.

What's the refund policy?

No refunds after October 9, 2019

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 or Jamaica at the Divisional meeting each year. To apply students should email **Michael Davis** at msaag2019@kutztown.edu by **September 13** with the following details:

- A nomination letter from a faculty member
- A 250-word description of their academic/research background, career goals, and how this conference will assist in meeting these

The awardee will receive \$500 in funding for use towards travel, meals and lodging costs for the Middle States Division Annual Meeting. The registration fees for the scholarship awardee will also be waived.

Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers**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 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. Students should send paper abstracts of no more than 250 words to President Michael Davis at Davis 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**.

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 <http://msaag.aag.org/> and also under the tab **Student Competitions**.

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. Send an abstract of your poster to Michael Davis at Davis msaag2019@kutztown.edu by **September 27**. Registration fees are refunded for poster competition winners

Students must have a faculty advisor recommend their entry and use the guidelines and rubrics for judging on the website <http://msaag.aag.org/> under the tab Student Competitions.

Geography Bowl Competition

Calling all students (undergraduate and graduate)! Consider participating in the Middle States Division Geography Bowl at the annual meeting on Friday, October 18 in Kutztown, PA. You may form a team beforehand (5-6 people) or sign up at the meeting to be placed on a team. The top six highest-scoring students will be invited to represent the Division at the World Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting in Denver, CO in April 2020. Students who accept the invitation and represent MSAAG will receive partial funding support to attend the meeting. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact our Vice President, Dr. Jase Bernhardt at Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu