



American Association of Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Mark Your Calendar!
Fall 2022 VIRTUAL Meeting
HOST Bloomsburg University
Bloomsburg, PA

October 28-29, 2022
Abstracts due by October 8, 2022

President's Message

Hi, all! I have enjoyed reconnecting with geographers in the Middle States region again. The variety of work presented at the 2021 fall meeting and the impressiveness of our students shows that, even in these difficult times, good ideas flourish and geography continues to shine as a discipline.

The Geography faculty of Bloomsburg University are proud to be part of the Department of Environmental, Geographical & Geologic Sciences (EGGS). Our program offers a B.S. degree with four track options: Geography & Planning, Environmental Geosciences, Professional Geology, and most recently, GIS & Spatial Analysis. In past five years, we have added minors in Soil Sciences, Hydrology, and GIS & Spatial Analysis, giving our students the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in these leading fields. We will continue to adjust our curriculum in the future as we integrate with two other Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education institutions, Lock Haven University and Mansfield University.

The Middle States Division fall 2022 meeting will be held virtually on October 28-29, 2022. Ideally, in a few years, with our new colleagues from Lock Haven and Mansfield Universities, we can invite you all to Bloomsburg's campus on the hill above the Susquehanna River.

Patricia Beyer, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

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Find more information at our website:

msaag.aag.org

Fall 2021 MSAAG Meeting Report – Virtual meeting hosted by AAG and Rutgers University, NJ

There were 69 attendees at the virtual remote meeting hosted by AAG and organized by our past president Nate Gabriel of Rutgers University. Hamil Pearsall ran the Student Paper and Poster Competition and oversaw judging of many excellent entries. In the graduate student paper competition, Logan Gerber Chavez (University of Delaware) won first prize, and Sasha Leidman (Rutgers University) placed second. In the undergraduate paper competition, Eliza Leal (Colgate University) was awarded first prize, Macy Turner (Kutztown University) won second place and Ivana Mulcahy (Hartwick College) was awarded third. In the graduate poster division, first prize went to Jing Xiao (Rutgers University) second prize to Leonardo Calzada (Rutgers University) and third prize to Trang Luong (Montclair State University). The first prize undergraduate poster award went to Joseph Norvilas (Kutztown University) and second prize to Abby Wheeler (Kutztown University). In the high school poster competition, the Rob Mason first place award went to Eileen Zhao (North Shore High School, Long Island) and second prize to Summer Looney (MacArthur High School, Long Island).

Geography Bowl Competition at Rutgers Virtual Meeting

Due to Covid-19, we were not able to hold our usual Geography Bowl in 2021. Jase Bernhardt organized a friendly competition. The winning students who participated were Kutztown students James Luma, Joseph Norvilas and Macy Turner and Sasha Leidman (Rutgers) and Alex Sankaran (West Chester). Since only 3 of these team members were able to participate in AAG's 2022 February meeting which was also remote, the logistics in recruiting a team within competition guidelines and time constraints meant MSAAG will wait until 2023 to fund travel expenses for a team.

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 annual Fall MSAAG meetings to submit a manuscript for publication in the next issue of the *Middle States Geographer*, although manuscripts from all researchers are welcome year-round.

Paper submission guidelines are available on the region's website at: msaag.aag.org. You may also contact the editors: Adam Kalkstein at Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.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 2020 (Volume 53) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2021 issue (Volume 54) will be available soon. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors, and color graphics are now possible at no cost to authors.

Call for Program Excellence Nominations

In 2023 AAG will honor an AA/AS Geography program. Each Regional division can nominate up to two programs for the 2023 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 a bachelor's degree (AA/AS) that you feel is deserving of the award. Send your nomination(s) for an outstanding geography program to **Patricia Beyer**, pbeyer@bloomu.edu by June 15, 2022.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2022 Virtual Meeting hosted by Bloomsburg University and AAG

**The 2022 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held Virtually by Bloomsburg University
Friday October 28 and Saturday October 29**



Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania invites you to virtually participate in the Fall 2022 meeting of the MSAAG on Friday & Saturday, October 28-29. The meeting will feature online presentations and poster sessions both days, with a keynote plenary session on Friday. We hope to once again host a Geography Bowl competition on Friday evening.

A virtual meeting allows you to participate from your chosen location but also requires you to provide your own coffee breaks and meals.

A virtual meeting also makes it easier for students to participate. Please consider having your students present their work and submit entries for the student paper and poster competition (see page 4 of this newsletter for details).

Keep an eye out for information about registering and submitting abstracts for the Fall 2022 meeting through the AAG portal on the website msaag.aag.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Patricia (Trish) Beyer pbeyer@bloomu.edu

Call for Nominations for MSD Officers

Please consider joining the leadership of MSAAG. The Executive Board has two meetings a year, one a conference call in the spring and one at the annual fall meeting. We are soliciting nominations for **Secretary/Treasurer** and **Vice President**. The Secretary/Treasurer serves a one-year term beginning January 2023. The Secretary/Treasurer takes minutes at division meetings, organizes and judges the student paper competition at the fall meeting and reports on the Division's finances, which are handled by AAG. The Secretary/Treasurer may run for Vice President the following year. The Vice President position is a three-year commitment. After serving as Vice President, that person becomes 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. Voting will take place in September 2022. The newly elected positions will be announced at the Fall 2022 Meeting.

Please submit nominations to Past President **Nate Gabriel** (nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu) by September 6.

The Executive Board will provide all the guidance and resources you need to be successful. Please consider these rewarding opportunities. You may contact **Patricia Beyer** pbeyer@bloomu.edu or any board member for additional information.

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

2022 Annual Meeting

Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers

October 28-29, 2022

Middle States AAG encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition and Posters to the Student Poster Competition. 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 \$1000 (provided by AAG to fund the awardee's registration and travel costs to the AAG Annual Meeting, a second prize of \$200 and a third prize of \$100.

There is also a Student Poster Competition with both graduate and undergraduate divisions with first prizes of \$200, second prizes of \$100 and third prizes of \$50. There is a Rob Mason Poster award of \$100 first prize and \$50 second prize for High School students entering the Poster competition. This award is named after our late past Regional Councilor Dr. Robert Mason from Temple University who passed away in 2017. He also served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Division.

Student status is as of May 1, 2022. 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 using the format specified and use the guidelines and rubrics for judging on the website under the tab Student Competitions in preparing their entries.**

Submissions for competition

Students should register and submit abstracts through the AAG portal once it is announced on the msaag.aag.org website in summer 2022

Students should also send paper and poster abstracts of no more than 250 words to President Patricia Beyer at pbeyer@bloomu.edu by **September 25**,

Students should send electronic copies of completed papers or pdfs of completed posters to Austin Kocher MSAAG Student Competition Chair ackocher@syr.edu, by **October 2**.

Registration fees are refunded for paper and poster competition winners.