



## American Association of Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: Hamil Pearsall

### Mark Your Calendar!

Fall 2023 Meeting  
HOST Temple University  
Philadelphia, PA

October 27-28, 2023  
Abstracts due by October 7, 2023

### President's Message

Greetings from Temple University! I am thrilled to announce that Temple University will host the 2023 Middle States Division annual meeting. While the past three conferences have been virtual, we are planning for an in-person event and look forward to reconnecting, socializing, and meeting new colleagues in Philadelphia this fall. The meeting will be held from October 27-28, 2023 and will include paper and poster sessions, keynote presentations, a Geography Bowl, and more.

Temple University is Philadelphia's largest public university. We offer BA programs in Geography and Urban Studies, as well as Environmental Studies. We recently restructured our graduate programs, and this fall we will offer the MA and PhD in Geography. We also have two Professional Science Master's programs in GIS and Geospatial Data Science, as well as undergraduate and graduate certificates in GIS and a graduate certificate in Geospatial Data Science.

The meeting will take place at the Howard Gittis Student Center on Temple University's Main Campus in Philadelphia. Lodging is available at nearby hotels, and there are many ways to get to campus using public transportation. There are also parking garages. Please stay tuned for additional information about the meeting in our summer newsletter!  
*Hamil Pearsall, Temple University*

### 2023 Divisional Officers

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#### Nate Gabriel

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#### Jase Bernhardt

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Find more information at our website:

[msaag.aag.org](http://msaag.aag.org)

**Fall 2022 MSAAG Meeting Report – Virtual Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, PA**

There were 53 attendees at the remote virtual meeting hosted by AAG and organized by our past president Trish Beyer of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. There were 20 papers and 6 posters presented. Austin Kocher ran the Student Paper and Poster Competition and oversaw judging of many excellent entries. In the graduate student paper competition, Maria Morresi (West Chester University) won first prize, Salvesila Tamima (University of Delaware) placed second and Caroline J. Williams (University of Delaware) took third place. In the undergraduate paper competition, Carolyn Weinstein (SUNY New Paltz) was awarded first prize, Bettina Bonfiglio (SUNY Cortland) won second place and Ryan Rabenold (Temple University) was awarded third. The first prize undergraduate poster award went to Nicole Billard (Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania) and second prize to James W. Luma (Kutztown University). There were no entries for the graduate or the high school poster competitions.

**Geography Bowl Competition**

We were not able to hold our usual Geography Bowl in 2022 due to the logistical problems of a virtual meeting. At the in-person meeting this year we plan to hold our fun and exciting Geography Bowl Competition. All Division undergraduate and graduate students are invited to compete. You may either form a team (5-6 people) or sign up at the meeting to be placed on a team. The six highest-scoring students will be invited to represent the Division at the World Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting and provided with \$300 towards their expenses in attending the meeting.

**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 MSDAAG 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](http://msaag.aag.org). You may also contact the editors: Adam Kalkstein at [Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.edu](mailto:Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.edu) or Paul Marr at Shippensburg University, [pgmarr@ship.edu](mailto:pgmarr@ship.edu) if you have questions about submitting a manuscript or if you are interested in serving as a reviewer. Students presenting papers should consider submitting their paper for publication in the journal and faculty co-authors may be included after the student award competition has occurred. The *Middle States Geographer* is entirely an online journal. Articles from 1968 (Volume 8) through 2021 (Volume 54) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2022 issue (Volume 55) will be available soon. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors, and color graphics are possible at no cost to authors.

**Call for Program Excellence Nominations**

In 2024 AAG will honor a BA/BS Geography program. Each Regional division can nominate up to two programs for the 2024 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 (BA/BS) that you feel is deserving of the award. Send your nomination(s) for an outstanding geography program to **Hamil Pearsall** [hamil.pearsall@temple.edu](mailto:hamil.pearsall@temple.edu) by June 15, 2023.

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2023 Meeting hosted by Temple University****The 2023 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held Friday October 27 and Saturday October 28**

**Temple University** is delighted to host the Middle States Division AAG meeting this year! The meeting will be held in Temple's conference facilities in the Howard Gittis Student Center.

The 2023 meeting will take place over two days and will include paper and poster sessions, two keynote presentations, a graduate school and jobs panel, and the Geography Bowl. Friday will include a keynote, paper and poster sessions, dinner, and Geography Bowl. On Saturday, morning sessions will be followed by a second keynote presentation and buffet luncheon and a brief MSD meeting.

**Temple University** is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and there are many different hotel options available across the city. **The Conway Inn** is located on Temple's campus if you prefer to be close to the conference facilities.

**Transportation and Parking:** Temple's campus can be accessed by subway, bike share, regional rail, and bus. There are also parking garages on campus. Our summer newsletter will include more information about the meeting logistics.

**Registration** for the meeting will open in September. Registration and abstract submission will be through the AAG Portal and announced on the [msaag.aag.org](https://msaag.aag.org) website.

**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 2024. 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. The Executive Board will provide all the guidance and resources you need to be successful. Please consider these rewarding opportunities. You may contact or any current board member for additional information. Voting will take place in September 2023.

Please submit nominations to Past President **Trish Beyer** [pbeyer@bloomu.edu](mailto:pbeyer@bloomu.edu) by September 6.

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

2023 Annual Meeting  
Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers  
Temple University, Philadelphia PA  
October 27-28, 2023

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 and undergraduate paper competitions have 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 second prize of \$200 and a third prize of \$100.

There is also a Student Poster Competition with both graduate and undergraduate divisions and first prizes of \$200, second prizes of \$100 and third prizes of \$50. There is a Rob Mason Poster award of \$50 for High School students entering the Poster competition. This award is named after our 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.

**Submission Guidelines** Student status is as of May 1, 2023. 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 under the Student Competitions and *Middle States Geographer* tab at [msaag.aag.org](https://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.**

Students should register and submit abstracts through the AAG portal once it is announced on the [msaag.aag.org](https://msaag.aag.org) website in summer 2023. Students entering the Student Competition should send electronic copies of completed papers or pdfs of completed posters to **Josh Galster** MSAAG Student Competition Chair at [msaag.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:msaag.secretary@gmail.com) by **October 7**. 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. Applicants should send their scholarship application of no more than 250 words to **Hamil Pearsall** at [hamil.pearsall@temple.edu](mailto:hamil.pearsall@temple.edu) by **September 1**. Applicants should outline briefly their academic/research background and career goals and how participation in the MSAAG meeting will assist in meeting these goals. A nomination letter from a faculty mentor should accompany the student application. The chosen awardee will receive \$500 in funding towards their travel, meals and lodging costs in attending the Middle States Division Annual Meeting. The registration fees for the awardee will also be waived.