



American Association of Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: Megan Heckert

Mark Your Calendar!

Fall 2024 Meeting
HOST West Chester University
West Chester, PA

November 1-2, 2024
Abstracts due by October 18, 2024

President's Message

We are excited to invite you to attend the 2024 Middle States annual meeting at West Chester University on November 1st and 2nd. We'll have paper and poster sessions, student competitions, the geography bowl, a keynote talk from AAG President Patricia Ehrkamp, a grad school fair, and a roleplaying game workshop.

It is time to register for the MSAAG annual meeting!

Registration opens on September 1st and the abstract submission portal will open September 16th. Abstracts and student competition materials are due on October 18th. Early discounted registration ends on September 30th. Submissions on all aspects of our diverse discipline are welcome, and we look forward to generative conversations. Our annual meeting is a wonderful place for students and faculty to present their work and make connections across the region, so please spread the word.

This Newsletter includes MSAAG news, including a call for MSD officer nominations for 2025 and new Middle States Geographer editors, as well as information about the 2024 MSAAG annual meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns about this year's meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out!
Megan Heckert, West Chester University

2024 Divisional Officers

PRESIDENT

Megan Heckert
Department of Geography
and Planning
West Chester University
West Chester, PA
mheckert@wcupa.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Josh Galster
Earth and Environmental
Studies Department
Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ
galsterj@montclair.edu

SECRETARY/TREASURERK

Kwame Adovor Tsikudo
Humanities and Sciences
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA
Kxa305@jefferson.edu

REGIONAL COUNCILOR

Nate Gabriel
Department of Geography
Rutgers University
Piscataway, NJ
nategab@geography.rutgers.edu

MIDDLE STATES GEOGRAPHER

Adam Kalkstein
USMA West Point
Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.edu

Paul Marr

Shippensburg University
pgmarr@ship.edu

PAST PRESIDENTS

Hamil Pearsall
Temple University

Patricia Beyer
Bloomsburg University of PA

Nate Gabriel
Rutgers University

STAND ALONE GEOGRAPHER

Renata Blumberg
Department of Nutrition
and Food Studies
Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ
blumbergr@montclair.edu

In this Issue:

	Page
• President's Message	1
• Fall 2024 Meeting Announcement	2-3
• Call for MSAAG Officer Nominations	4
• <i>Middle States Geographer</i> Information	4
• Call for Student Competition Papers and Posters	5
• Geography Bowl Competition	5

Find more information at our website:

<https://msaag.aag.org/>

**The 2024 Middle States Division AAG Meeting with AAG support will be held
Friday November 1 and Saturday November 2**



West Chester University is delighted to host the Middle States Division AAG meeting this year!

The 2024 meeting will take place over two days and will include paper and poster sessions, a keynote presentation, 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 buffet luncheon.

West Chester University is located in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and there are several different hotel and lodging options available. Nearby hotels include:

[Hotel Warner](#), 120 N. High Street, West Chester, PA

[Microtel Inn & Suites](#), 500 Willowbrook Ln, West Chester, PA

[Quality Inn & Suites](#), 943 S. High Street, West Chester, PA

[Holliday Inn Express & Suites](#), 1310 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA

[Brinton Suites](#), 1516 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA

[Sheraton Great Valley Hotel](#), 707 Lancaster Ave, Frazer, PA

[Hampton Inn Philadelphia/Great Valley/Malvern](#), 635 Lancaster Ave, Frazer, PA

Campus map <https://www.wcupa.edu/campusMap/>

Transportation and Parking:

West Chester is accessible from the Philadelphia Airport and by Amtrak via the Exton train station. Parking is available through several garages on campus and student commuter lots are free to park on Saturday.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS AND PANELS

Paper Sessions are typically 60-80 minutes long and consist of three or four presentations of 15 minutes each, plus a question period. Papers on all topics of geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2. **Students** who are submitting their papers for the paper competition should consult the guidelines and scoring rubric under the Student Competition tab at <https://msaag.aag.org/> website for guidance. Competition papers require a faculty letter stating the poster is solely the student/s work. Completed papers should be emailed by **October 11** to MSAAG Student Competition Chair msaag.secretary@gmail.com

Poster Sessions will be held on both Friday and Saturday. Students who are submitting their poster competition should send pdfs of their poster to the MSAAG Student Competition chair msaag.secretary@gmail.com by **October 11th** (note that this is earlier than the general conference abstract submission deadline). Consult poster competition guidelines and the judging rubric under the Student Competition tab on the website msaag.aag.org for guidance. Competition posters require a faculty letter stating the poster is solely the student/s work.

Students presenting papers or posters do NOT have to enter the competitions.

Panel Sessions are welcome. Panel discussion sessions typically consist of three to four panelists and are organized around a theme. Roundtable discussion sessions are moderated by the chair of the round table who 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 President **Megan Heckert** before **October 18** mheckert@wcupa.edu

Registration and Abstract Submission will be managed through the AAG. Registration opens September 1 and Abstract Submission will open September 16th. Abstracts will be due by October 18th.

Conference registration is online this year at the AAG portal (aag.org). **To start the process**, you will need to create an AAG account (this does NOT require AAG membership!).

[Click here to register](#) starting September 1.

You must register for the meeting **before** you submit an Abstract.

Abstract Submission will open September 16th. The site is still being finalized, and a link will be sent by email when it is available.

Be sure to submit your paper or poster abstract by October 18. Participants who register for the conference before October 1 will receive an early bird discount.

Fees

Faculty/Professional Full Registration	\$140 (early bird ends Sept 30) \$160
Student Full Registration	\$50
Faculty/Professional Friday only	\$90
Faculty/Professional Saturday only	\$75

Full Registration includes buffet dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday.

Student volunteers who work for 2 hours at the conference can have their registration fees refunded. To express interest in a volunteer position, contact [Megan Heckert](#).

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 2025. The **Secretary/Treasurer** takes minutes at division meetings, organizes and co-ordinates judging 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 online in October 2024.

Please submit nominations to President **Megan Heckert** contact mheckert@wcupa.edu by October 11.

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. 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 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 2022 (Volume 54) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2023 issue (Volume 56) will be available soon. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors.,

We are seeking new editors for our journal. If you want to know more about the journal or anything about the rewards and duties of being an editor, please contact Adam or Paul by email.

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 by **September 30**. 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.

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

2024 Annual Meeting
Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers
West Chester University, West Chester, PA
1-2 November 2024

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, 2024. 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 **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 website in September 2024. Students entering the **Student Competition** should email completed papers or pdfs of completed posters to **Kwame Adovor Tsikudo** MSAAG Student Competition Chair at msaag.secretary@gmail.com by **October 11**. Registration fees are refunded for paper/poster competition winners.

Geography Bowl Competition

Calling all students (undergraduate and graduate)! Consider participating in the Middle States Division Geography Bowl at the annual meeting on Friday, November 1 in West Chester, 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 April 2024. 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 Josh Galster galsterj@montclair.edu.