



American Association of Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nate Gabriel

Mark Your Calendar!

Fall 2021 Meeting
HOST Rutgers University
Piscataway, NJ

October 29-30, 2021
Abstracts due by October 10, 2021

President's Message

Greetings from my home office to yours! This has been a trying year for a lot of us, after more than a year of hybrid and online teaching, but it seems we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. While last year's online conference was a smashing success, I'm pleased to say that we are planning our 2021 conference as an in-person affair. Of course, we're keeping in mind that things can always change, and will remain flexible if we need to take an unexpected turn and shift online again.

This year's conference will be hosted by Rutgers University in New Jersey, founded in 1766, where the Department of Geography offers the BA, MA, and PhD in Geography, a new BA program in Environmental Studies, and a minor in International and Global Studies.

The meeting will be held in the Livingston Student Center on the Livingston Campus. Lodging is available at nearby hotels, and a campus bus system provides transit to and from the five sub-campuses. We will provide more information in the upcoming summer newsletter and website so keep an eye out!

Nate Gabriel, Rutgers University

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Additional division information may be found on our
website: msaag.aag.org

Fall 2020 MSAAG Meeting Report – Virtual Meeting

There were 69 attendees at the virtual remote meeting hosted by AAG and organized by our past president Jase Bernhardt of Hofstra University. Nate Gabriel ran the Student Paper and Poster Competition and oversaw judging of many excellent entries. In the graduate student paper competition, Matthew Walter (University of Delaware) won first prize, Taylor Wiczerak (Montclair State University) placed second and co-authors Logan Gerber-Chavez (University of Delaware) and Alina Pavalea (Babes-Bolyai University) placed third. In the undergraduate paper competition Sheoveney O'Brien (Church Teachers' College) was awarded first prize, Dillon Kadish (Manhattan College) won second place and Falon Treis (Hartwick College) was third. In the graduate poster division, first prize went to Caitlyn Linehan (CUNY, Lehman College) second prize to Loonibha Manandhar (University of Delaware) and third prize to Anish Adhikari (University of Delaware). The first prize undergraduate poster award went to Shaquille Landell (Church Teachers' College). In the high school poster competition, the Rob Mason first place award went to Matthew Friedman (Oceanside High School, Long Island) and Mia Frattura (MacArthur High School, Long Island). The second place award went to Olivia Teng (Herricks High School, Long Island).

Geography Bowl

Due to Covid-19 and the logistics involved in doing a remote meeting, we were not able to hold our usual Geography Bowl in 2020. Jase Bernhardt organized a friendly competition and the winning students who participated were Alex Sankaran (West Chester), and Abby Wheeler (Kutztown), Macy Turner (Kutztown) and Jaylin Calistro (Kutztown). AAG's 2021 April meeting is again remote and the logistics in recruiting a team within competition guidelines and competition time constraints meant MSAAG will wait until 2022 to fund travel expenses for our 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 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 2019 (Volume 52) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2020 issue (Volume 53) 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 2022 AAG will honor a MA/MS Geography program. Each Regional division can nominate up to two programs for the 2022 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 master's degree (MA/MS) that you feel is deserving of the award. Send your nomination(s) for an outstanding geography program to Nate Gabriel nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu by May 21, 2021.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2021, Rutgers University

The 2021 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held at Rutgers University on Friday October 29 and Saturday October 30



Rutgers University extends a warm welcome to our campus in New Brunswick, NJ. The meeting will be held in the Livingston Student Center on Livingston Campus, home of the Department of Geography.

The 2021 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. Friday will include plenary and paper sessions, dinner, and Geography Bowl. On Saturday, a morning of sessions will be followed by a buffet luncheon with a brief MSD meeting and student awards.

We are coordinating with local venues on potential field trip options that highlight New Brunswick and the surrounding region. We will update you in the summer newsletter.

We are in the process of arranging for a block of rooms at the Rutgers University Inn for Friday 10/29. We are working with other local hotels and hope to provide a wider selection of lodging alternatives in the summer newsletter.

Look for guidance for the Student Competitions on the website Annual Meeting tab, and more information about the conference and Eventbrite registration in the summer 2021 Middle States Division newsletter.

Call for Nominations for MSAAG 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** and **Vice President**. The Secretary serves a one-year term beginning January 2022. The Secretary takes minutes at division meetings, and organizes and oversees judging of the student paper competition at the fall meeting. The Secretary may run for Vice President the following year. The Vice President position is a three-year commitment. After serving as Vice President, the person assumes the role of 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 2021. The newly elected positions will be announced at the Fall 2021 Meeting. Please submit nominations to Past President **Jase Bernhardt**, Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.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 or any current board member for additional information.

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

2021 Annual Meeting
Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers
Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ
October 29-30, 2021

Middle States Division AAG encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition of the MSAAG annual conference. The graduate and undergraduate paper competitions both have a first prize of \$1000 (provided by AAG to fund the awardees' 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 \$150 and a third prize of \$150. 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 Rob Mason Poster award for High School students 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 as well as Regional Councilor.

Student status is as of May 1, 2021. 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 and use the guidelines and rubrics for judging on the website under the tab Student Competitions.** Students should send paper abstracts of no more than 250 words to President **Nate Gabriel** nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu by **October 10**, and send electronic copies of completed papers to MSAAG Student Paper and Poster Competition Chair, Hamill Pearsall hamil.pearsall@temple.edu by **October 15**. Send an abstract of your poster to **Nate Gabriel** nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu by **October 10** and a pdf of your poster to MSAAG Student Paper and Poster Competition Chair, Hamill Pearsall hamil.pearsall@temple.edu by **October 15**. 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 at the Divisional meeting each year. Applicants should send their scholarship application of no more than 250 words to **Nate Gabriel** nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu by **September 1** and should be nominated by a faculty mentor. Applicants should outline briefly their academic/research background and career goals and how participation in this meeting will assist in meeting these goals. A nomination letter from faculty mentor should accompany the student application. Awardee will receive \$500 in funding for use towards the awardee's travel, meals and lodging costs towards the Middle States Division Annual Meeting. The registration fees for the scholarship awardee will also be waived.