



Projections from the Chair

From the Desk of Professor Dan Trudeau

I'm thrilled to announce that the Geography Department has adopted a new logo! It's a vibrant and playful design that captures the essence of our department's mission and community. You can see a version of it framing this issue of *The Graticule*. And in this column I want to share information about its creation as well as its creator.



Dan Trudeau
Geography Professor & Chair

In the fall of 2022, I pitched the notion of generating a new visual identity for the Geography Department. The department has a few different stylized representations that appear on stickers, patches, and t-shirts and these have emerged on an ad hoc basis over the past several years. Since they were created, the department has added new faculty members and the curriculum has grown in volume and moved in new directions to cover additional facets of geographic study. With this growth in mind, the timing seemed right to work on a new logo. The pitch was enthusiastically embraced.

Department faculty and staff then asked Dio Cramer, '20 if she would be willing to work with us in designing a new logo. Some of you may be familiar with Dio's graphic work. As a student, Dio participated in the Cultural Atlas courses that produced *The Curious City*. Dio created the cover art for the atlas, shown below. As you will note, if you're not already familiar with her work, Dio creates vibrant drawings with a striking style that grabs attention. Her work is playful in a way that makes a 2-D image come alive. You can see more of her work at diocramer.com. In addition to appreciating her style, we also liked the idea of working with an alum, with someone who is familiar with the department and its community.



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We were delighted that Dio agreed to work with us. We spent some time discussing high-level ideas early on in 2023. By April, Dio presented a design motif at a department meeting. We were smitten with the core idea she presented: a cube on which distinct dimensions of Macalester's Geography Department are depicted on each facet of the block.

Dio calls this formation the “building block” of geography. Moreover, the facets can be re-arranged to display an unfolded map. You can see this later formation of the logo on the newsletter's header.

With the motif in place we then turned to consider what images should appear on the different facets. Dio generated some initial suggestions and the faculty and staff provided feedback, such as including the department's latitude and longitude coordinates as an homage to previous designs.

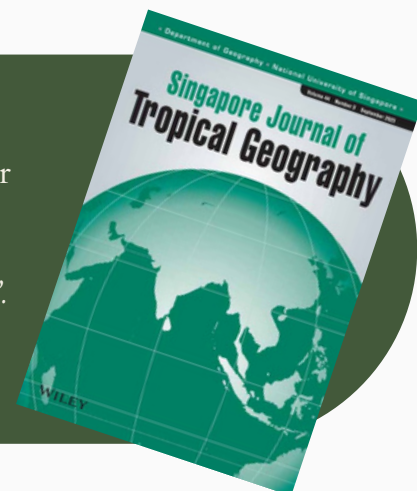
A couple months later, Dio shared a revised set of options for the different sides of the block and leaves of the map, about 16 or so. The revisions sparked a new round of feedback that included student input. In September, Gamma Theta Upsilon co-presidents, Corgan Archuleta and Joe Harrington, shared the revised options with senior geography majors at a community event. Joe and Corgan brought students' input on the images back to a department meeting at which a consensus was formed about what should appear on the block and map iterations of the logo.

I am proud of the new logo and what it represents. The images on the facets reflect the diversity of the department's interests and expertise. The logo invites people to see themselves in the imagery and to learn more about the many different ways that geography can help understand the world around us.

I look forward to what comes next. There will be new swag, including t-shirts, stickers, and patches. I expect the design will catalyze a refresh of the Department's website and letterhead. I can't wait to see how the new logo is used in the years to come.

Kudos!:

Macalester Geography Alumn Nethmi Bathige '22 published a peer reviewed journal article on October 3rd, titled “*Snapshot of a Crisis: Food Security and Dietary Diversity Levels among Disrupted Conventional and Long-Term Organic Tea Smallholders in Sri Lanka*”. Nethmi is currently working on her geography masters degree at the University of Kentucky and plans to start her PhD next year.



Geography Field Excursions

Freeman Boda

One of the great things about the Geography Department here at Macalester is the emphasis on actually “doing geography”: That is to say, the classes are jam-packed with real hands-on field studies and plentiful opportunities for geography-related excursions that see students breaking through the notorious “Mac Bubble”. In our first month or so back on campus there have already been many such great excursions and as such we’d be remiss not to mention a few of them:



Up North! Hibbing & Mille Lacs

In Professor Laura Smith’s class on US and Canadian regional geography, students traveled to various spots in northern Minnesota, including the Hull–Rust–Mahoning open pit iron mine and the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post. The trip culminated in a short excursion to the Grand Casino in Mille Lacs, where at least a few students walked out fiscally poorer, but intellectually richer, than when they first arrived.

A Trip to Mill City

Students in Professor Dan Trudeau’s Urban Geography class were treated to a trip to the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis a few weeks ago, with Dan giving insightful commentary on the history and origins of urbanization in the Twin Cities. The trip included a detour to the nearby former site of the Ford Motors manufacturing plant, where students had a picnic and learned about recent developments in attempts to redevelop the site into something new.



Ross Donihue, he/him '11

Sasha Joseph

In September I had the opportunity to speak to Ross Donihue '11 about his experiences with the Macalester Geography Department and his path to get to ESRI where he currently works on the Story Maps team as a place-based storyteller. He is also the founder of Maps for Good.

SJ: Thanks so much for chatting with me. Starting at the beginning how did you end up as a Geography Major at Macalester?

RD: Before I was a Geography major, in high school and middle school Geography was taught to me mainly as place recognition, just “what are the capitals?” Then when I got to Macalester Geography I saw it as this lens to look at the world through these questions of human environment, relationships across time, space, and scale and it just clicked with me. I took a first-year course with Bill Moseley called People and the Environment and it was a great introduction to Geography I knew I wanted to take more courses and it was really when I took my GIS course that I was like ohhh my gosh this is it, mapping can be applied to so many projects and disciplines and I really found my home.

SJ: During your years in the geography apartment, were any experiences particularly resonant or affected your future career?

RD: I remember taking a class with Laura Smith, this kind of advanced GIS course my junior or senior year. We worked with the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, supporting tribes, building maps and databases, and helping them reconnect tribal lands that have been broken apart due to horrible policies of the past. To be able to take GIS plus this concept of land tenure and land ownership and combine them together to create maps that tell a story of what’s going on and where there might be opportunities for tribes to expand. We got to present at the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis and it really sent me on a path of knowing GIS and maps can really make a big difference, and if I can take these tools and connect with people who need them the most, that’s gonna be a rewarding path.



THROUGHOUT MY TIME AT MACALESTER I LEARNED GIS AND MAPPING CAN BE APPLIED TO SO MANY DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES AND THAT IT WAS A REAL TOOL I COULD USE TO SUPPORT OTHER PROJECTS AND I REALLY FOUND MY HOME IN THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT.

~ ROSS DONIHUE ON HIS TIME AT MACALESTER

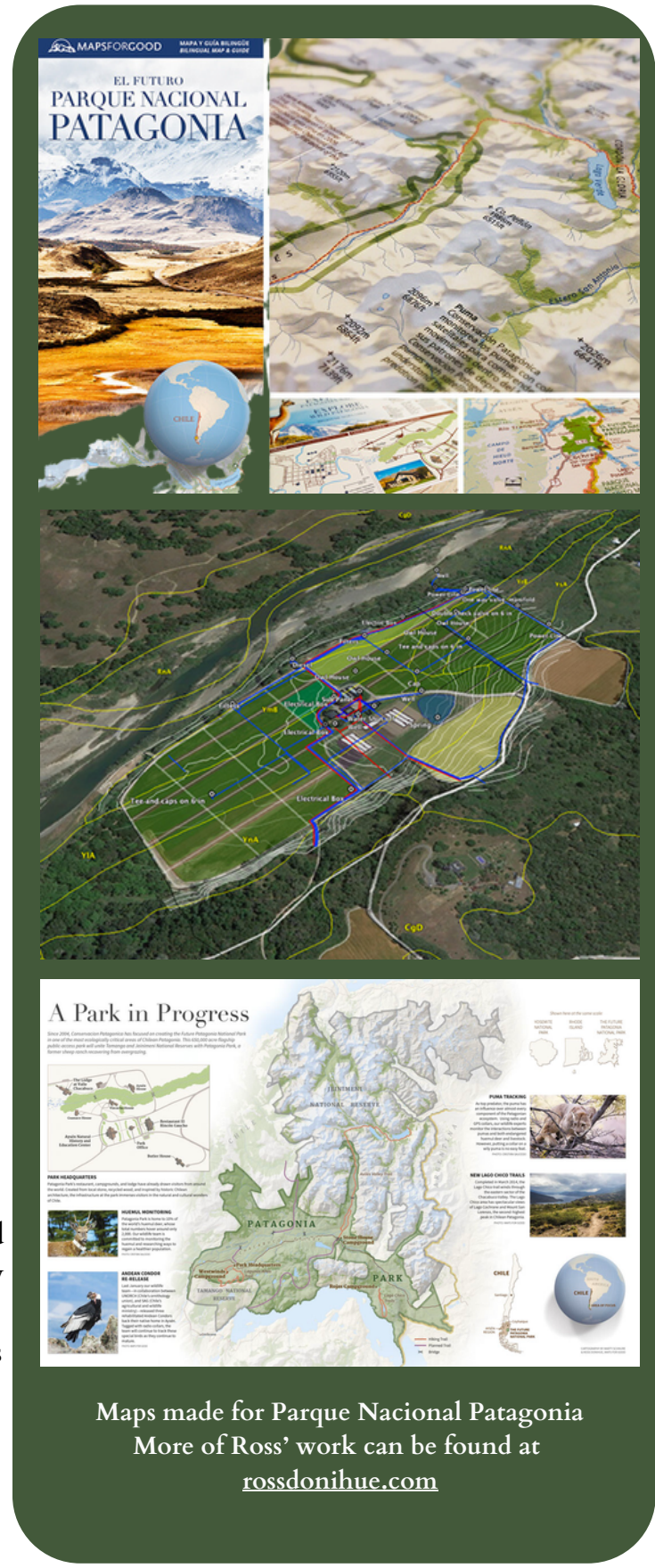
SJ: Going beyond Macalester, what did your path look like as an alumnus and how did it lead you to founding Maps for Good as well as your job at ESRI?

RD: So after my senior year I ended up applying for a National Geographic internship and I got it, so I essentially graduated on Saturday, flew out on Sunday, and started work at National Geographic on Monday. That internship was pretty crucial to my next stage which was learning about cartography and how to make maps go from, you know, GIS analysis to telling a story and really communicating information in a beautiful way. I was on the maps team there and got hired about a year after the internship. Later I ended up getting a job mapping a new National Park in Chile and the Patagonia region. It was this big organization saying “yeah we’ll take a chance on you”.

I launched a project called Maps for Good which is a company that I started after this project. The mission is to create maps and digital media for conservation groups in the US and abroad and I did that for about five years. After getting a master's in environmental management from the Yale School of the Environment an opening came up at ESRI on the story maps team and I've been on the content side ever since.

SJ: Any final advice for aspiring GISers or Geographers in general?

Follow your curiosity. If there’s something that makes you excited or curious that can be a good lighthouse to follow. The other thing that serves me well is to try not to specialize in one tool or one piece of technology. Have a toolkit you can use and think more about what you’re trying to accomplish. The reality is GIS and technology are changing all the time which is both exciting because it makes more powerful tools but it also means you have to relearn and teach yourself the same tools over and over.



Maps made for Parque Nacional Patagonia
More of Ross' work can be found at rossdonihue.com

Bill Moseley on his Forthcoming Book

Freeman Boda

In his forthcoming book, *Decolonizing African Agriculture: Food Security, Agroecology and the Need for Radical Transformation*, DeWitt Wallace Professor of Geography Bill Moseley delves into questions of food security and availability on the African continent.

“The basic conundrum is that a lot of effort has been put into addressing food security, [but] things are moving in the wrong direction,” Moseley says, continuing: “The question is ..why?”. In reality, Moseley does have a pretty good idea as to why attempts to address food security in Africa haven’t always panned out.



Bill Moseley giving his Inaugural DeWitt Wallace Professor speech last year

Moseley explains that in a lot of places the current economic philosophy is that African countries should be producing cash crops, such as cotton, that they are deemed to have a competitive advantage in producing relative to other countries. Then, these cash crops can be sold on international markets. Money gained from those cash crop sales ideally would then go to importing food for the nation's populace.

According to Moseley however, ensuring a nation’s food supply isn’t that simple; “In a country that’s highly unstable [...] it’s pretty risky to be building up a trade-based system. You’re much better off having a decentralized system”. He touts the ecological benefits of smallholder farming systems, and exalts the empowering of local farmers; “Farmers are scientists.. They’re continuously experimenting” Moseley says, emphasizing the importance of allowing local farmers to use their knowledge and agroecological principles to improve food security in unstable regions.

Throughout the book, Moseley taps into what he has learned as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali during the 1980s and a current member of the United Nations High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition to give case studies of agroecological programs in four countries, Mali, Burkina Faso, Botswana, and South Africa. Moseley's book is being published by UK-based Agenda Press, and is due to come out sometime in 2024.

Introducing this Year's Geography Honors Society Co-Presidents

Freeman Boda

The Macalester chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), an international geography honors society, has undergone its annual passing of the torch to this year's seniors and has now seen a change in leadership. Corgan Archuleta '24 and Joe Harrington '24, now GTU co-presidents, sat down with us to introduce themselves, and tell us what they have in store for the year.

“Here at Macalester, [GTU] is less on the Academic side and more on the social side, it’s about trying to create a cohesive and vibrant community in the Geography Department”, Harrington explains.

While talking about why one might take the plunge into joining GTU, or Mac Geography more generally, Archuleta added: “There are moments where [as a freshman] upperclassmen in Geography reached out to me just to hear about what I’m doing and what I’m interested in [...] I feel like that’s what really pulled me into the department”..

“Pretty much everyone can find a space in geography that tailors to both their personal and academic interests” Joe says, continuing that “Geography really makes a great case as discipline as we’re doing things and studying things that make a difference in the world”. He suggests that anyone interested in geography or on the fence about it as a discipline should consider taking a few different courses in the department and that they might be pleasantly surprised by what they find.

Archuleta and Harrington are hard at work planning community events for the geography department in the upcoming months, and say they want to emphasize “making sure that there are pathways to making connections outside of the classroom”.



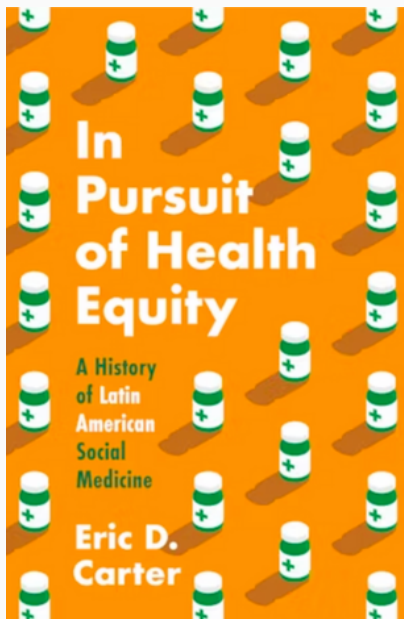
Corgan Archuleta (left) and Joe Harrington (right) are this year's GTU co-presidents



Students flew drones in Professor Xavier Haro-Carrión’s Advanced Remote Sensing class



Students experienced farming firsthand in Professor Bill Moseley’s People, Agriculture and the Environment class



Professor Eric Carter recently released his new book in Pursuit of Health Equity. Available to order now!



Professor Holly Barcus recently attended the International Geographical Union (IGU) Executive Committee meeting in Delhi as the organization’s Vice President and Treasurer.

Kudos!:

Professor Eric Carter has been named Associate Editor for the new Geography section of the *Latin American Research Review*. He also has a new article out about the COVID-19 pandemic in Argentina, which can be read by scanning the QR code to the right.



Geography Open House



(Left) Professor I-Chun Catherine Chang, Ashley Nepp (our Cartography/GIS guru), and Moyartu Manley '27 make Dymaxion maps while Students (Right) enjoyed light snacks during the “meet a geographer” session.

Geography Lunch



(Left) Students and Faculty listen to Geography Chair Dan Trudeau give a speech. (Right) Professors Xavier Haro-Carrión, Ashley Nepp, I-Chun Catherine Chang, and Joe Harrington '24 smile for the camera.



Jane Slentz-Kesler '24 (Left), Evelyn Kent '25, and Lucas Eggers '25 (Right), as well as many other Geographers, presented their summer research at this year's student showcase. Their work can be found at macalester.edu/summer-showcase/

Save The Date

For Thy Calendar

UPCOMING GEOGRAPHY EVENTS

OCT. 26TH
MACEXPLORE TWIN CITIES: URBAN PLANNING | 9AM - 3PM
REGISTER VIA HANDSHAKE

NOV. 13TH-17TH
GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

NOV. 17TH
ERIC CARTER ENDOWED CHAIR LECTURE | 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM
"IN PURSUIT OF HEALTH EQUITY: A HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL MEDICINE"
KAGIN COMMONS BALLROOM

NOV. 29TH
GEOGRAPHY WINTER DINNER | 5 PM - 6:30 PM
WEYERHAEUSER BOARDROOM

A Letter from the Editors

Freeman Boda & Sasha Joseph

Hey all, hope you enjoyed this first issue of *The Graticule*. This was our first time putting it together as a new cohort of newsletter contributors and we've experimented with the format a bit to provide a more enjoyable reading experience. It has been wonderful working closely with both faculty and peers while formulating this issue and it seems that there is never a quiet day in the Geography Department.

With that being said, there is often much more going on in the wider Macalester Geography community than we are able to touch on or even be privy to. If you are an alumni, current student, or faculty member with something you'd like to see included in a future *Graticule* we'd love to hear it. You can reach out to us at either fboda@macalester.edu or sjoseph@macalester.edu and we'll see about putting your geography news into the next issue of *The Graticule*!

Want More?

Keep up with the wider Macalester Geography community by joining our LinkedIn Group (Macalester College Geography Network), Facebook Group (Macalester College Geographers), or follow us on Instagram (@macgeography).



THE GRATICULE

Macalester Geography Department Newsletter



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Support Geography

When giving to Macalester, consider making a gift to the Geography Department. To direct your gift to our program, please select "other" in the "designate gift to" option and write "Geography" in the comments. Your gift will support high-impact activities, including field trips and professional development opportunities for students that are a signature part of the Macalester Geography experience.

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macalester.edu/geography