



# Cartographic Perspectives

Journal of the  
**North American Cartographic  
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## From the Editor

Dear NACIS Members:

The winter of 2010 was quite an ordeal to get through here on the eastern side of Big Savage Mountain. A nearby weather recording station located on Keyzers Ridge (about 10 miles to the west of Frostburg) recorded 262.5 inches of snow for the winter of 2010. For the first time in my eleven-year tenure at Frostburg State University, the university was shut down for an entire week. The crews that normally plow the sidewalks and parking lots were snowed in and could not get out of their homes. As storm after storm swept through the area, plowing became more difficult. There wasn't enough room to pile up the snow. Even today, snow drifts remain dotted amidst the green- ing fields. However, it appears as though spring will pass us by as summer apparently is already here with several days that have broken existing record high temperatures.

Once again, this issue of *CP* contains a mixture of cartographic offerings which I hope you will find intriguing. I hope you took time to read through the letter from President Margaret Pearce. As you can tell, there is quite a lot happening in the NACIS and *CP* world. I will detail a bit more on changes that you will see to *CP* later. For now, this issue of *CP* begins with an opinion piece from Tom Patterson entitled "Outside the Bubble:

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Real-world Mapmaking Advice for Students" that should be a must read for every cartography student (and their professors, too!). Tom relates his decades of map-making experience, offering guidance in simple terms on how to make better maps. The two featured articles both highlight experimentation. The first article titled "Considerations in Design of Transition Behaviors for Dynamic Thematic Maps" by Sarah Battersby and Kirk Goldsberry reports research findings that investigate how static principles of thematic map design do not always effectively communicate in a dynamic environment. The second article titled "Non-Connective Linear Cartograms for Mapping Traffic Conditions" by Yi-Hwa Wu and Ming-Chih Hung discusses novel ways to represent traffic flows through cartogram symbolization.

The individual sections follow. First up is the Book Reviews where you will find reviews from a sampling of four mapping-related texts. Next is the Cartographic Collections section. Before the main piece in this section, you will find

a correction to Martin Wood's piece titled "The Maps Collection of the National Library of Australia" that appeared in issue #63 and contained several errors. A corrected version of the opening paragraph is reprinted. The main piece titled "More than Just a Pretty Picture: The Map Collection at the Library of Virginia" is penned by Cassandra Farrell of the Library of Virginia. Here, she gives an overview of the map collection housed at the Library of Virginia. The next section, "The Practical Cartographer's Corner," replaces the Mapping Methods and Tips section. Alex Tait, of International Mapping, is the editor for this new section. Here, Alex gives practical advice (hence the name) targeted toward the novice map maker on a broad range of topics. We welcome Alex's wealth of knowledge in the mapping field and look forward to his continued practical map making advice in issues to come. The Visual Fields piece presents "3D Birds-Eye-View Raster Maps" by Derek Tonn and Michael Karpovage, both of whom are associated with mapformation, LLC. Their

piece describes how they utilized Adobe Photoshop to create realistic landscapes for Hudson Valley Community College's new 3D birds-eye-view campus map.

And now, I will report on some important updates to *CP*'s status. I recently met with the NACIS Board in Madison, Wisconsin, as part of the annual spring NACIS Board meeting where I reported on the rather gloomy status of the journal. To date, I have not received any submissions for peer-reviewed publication consideration in 2010. This number comes on the heels of only a handful of submissions for 2009. If the journal maintains this submission status quo, it will cease to exist out of attrition. This fact is non-refutable, and thus some kind of new thinking has to emerge or *CP* will fade. Thus, the first order of business was to discuss the future of *CP*. Strong consideration was given to the results of the *CP* readership survey that was conducted in January of 2009 and the *CP* panel session held at the last NACIS conference in Sacramento, California, which collectively indicated that changes are not only afoot but they are necessary. As many of you know, *CP* experimented with a digital version (*CP* issue #64) in 2009. This issue was met with considerable success and reflected what many commented on in the *CP* readership survey and panel session: allow *CP* to go digital. At the board meeting this sentiment was in the forefront as the decision to move *CP* completely digital was made. In light of this move, this issue will be the last printed version of the journal that you will, by default, receive in the mail. Fu-

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## The Cover

### Casting Lots

1992, 60" x 84", oil and acrylic/canvas

Susanne Slavick

Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Art  
Carnegie Mellon University

In *Casting Lots*, the directional winds (originally designated by Aristotle and usually personified as cherubic faces exhaling with inflated cheeks) become gloved hands in anonymous acts of inadequate altruism — toward any imagined need, a need that is infinite. They surround an emptied world, measured only by ghostly traces of longitudes and latitudes. The resulting black hole is not one of nihilism, but a space for re-imagining, reawakening — much like the pregnant absences of the Buddhist plenum void, the empty space full of potential. It is a realm from which anything can spring forth.

<http://artscool.cfa.cmu.edu/~slavick/>

(letter from the editor continued)

ture issues of *CP* will be digitally served through NACIS' Web site. In addition, *CP* will become completely open source allowing free access to the journal. The decision to go in this new direction was made after serious consideration of the NACIS budget. The cost involved in printing a paper version of *CP* typically runs around \$7,500 while the electronic version of *CP* cost \$1,800. Obviously, three issues of print *CP* greatly consume a considerable amount of the annual NACIS budget. Three (or more) issues of digital *CP* per year offers a considerable cost savings.

What does this new direction mean to you? I feel there are several advantages to this new approach.

Digital publication means that new types of articles and interaction with the articles are now possible. Links to mapping applications, interactive opportunities, imbedded videos/animations, and color figures in-line with text are just a few of the possibilities that a digital publication offers over the print environment. For a field such as mapping that is so tied to technology, the decision to go digital seemed like a logical leap to make.

Digital open source means that authors wishing to publish have faster turn-around times from submission to "print."

Open source also means that a greater number of individuals will have instant access to your scholarly work.

Open source also satisfies the longstanding problem of *CP* readers not being able to get a copy of the journal from their local university or public library.

*CP* will still be available in print form through a "print on demand" service. NACIS members desiring a printed copy can still order one and have it shipped to your door for around \$15.00.

No other cartographic journal

offers completely digital and open source which should help draw contributors and thus increase exposure of *CP* and NACIS to a broader community.

*CP* will still offer the same peer-reviewed content as in issues past.

Obviously, this decision will cause concern among some of the readership. A *CP* Transition Committee has been established to detail the foreseeable issues that are involved with the move from print to digital format. But, I want to assure each of you that this new move was done to help ensure that *CP* continues to be healthy, cutting edge, and responds to its readership. More information on the move to all digital will be revealed in future *CP* issues and at the fall NACIS conference as the transition becomes more evident and we are able to work through some of the issues that will undoubtedly reveal themselves. In the meantime, I encourage you to send me your thoughts and concerns regarding the transition and how it may impact you.

On a personal note, I am entering into my final year as *CP* Editor. It has been a rewarding experience being at the helm of *CP*. In spite of the new experiences and challenges the position has offered, I formally announced my decision at the spring board meeting to not seek another three-year term as editor. Although I have enjoyed my time in the editorship, I believe that someone else should step up and carry *CP* into the future. After a brief search, Patrick Kennelly will begin his three-year term as *CP* Editor in January 2011. Patrick is an Associate Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science at CW Post Campus / Long Island University. Patrick has accumulated many publications mostly focusing on terrain mapping and has a longstanding service record to the NACIS community. I have great confidence that Patrick will con-

tinue forging a solid future for *CP*. I hope you will help in welcoming him into the editorship.

I also wish to thank the following individuals who served as external reviewers during 2009 for their time and thoughtful comments.

James Akerman  
Nat Case  
Mathew Dooley  
Rob Edsall  
Ian Muehlenhaus  
Michael Peterson  
daan Strebe  
Lynn Usery

I encourage each of you to consider *CP* as the publication outlet for your peer-reviewed papers, opinion pieces, information on map libraries, mapping methods and techniques, and visual fields. I know there is much that is happening in the mapping world out there. *CP* and its readership would like to hear about it.

I offer this issue to you for your contemplation and reading pleasure. I welcome your questions, comments, and discrepancies.

Until next time,  
Fritz

## From the President

Greetings, NACIS!

Whew, what a year of change this has been. Some years, it seems we talk about the changes we want to make and the projects we want to pursue, but leave it at that. It's the bantering-about-projects phase that innocently transpires during the conference coffee breaks and in the din of the hospitality suite. In fact, if it was a polygon, I'd give it a gradient fill, with 15 percent

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