Gerrymandering and Geometry

What: **Bi-State Colloquium**
When: **Wednesday, February 28, 4pm**
Where: **Loras College, Hennessy 350**
Who: **James Swenson**

The government of the United States is a democratic republic: the people elect representatives to do the work of ruling the country. Typically, each representative comes from a specific geographic region. Gerrymandering is the process of drawing those regions in a way that intentionally favors one political group. In this talk (the first in a series), we'll discuss how gerrymandering works, what rules exist to regulate it, and how geometry can help us to identify it.

James Swenson is in his thirteenth year at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, studying algebraic topology under the direction of Mark Feshbach. In his spare time he hangs out with his family, reads, plays games, and directs a choir. His Erdös number is five.