

Global Media Research Center

presents a lecture and discussion with

Steve Gough
Little River Research & Design

Dangerous Creek!

The Science,
Media Coverage and Public Perception of River
Hazards

Wednesday, February 21st, 2007
4:30 p.m.
Dean's Conference Room
Communications 1032

Human history is one of conflict with rivers. During the last century, as people have increasingly occupied flood-prone land we have seen increasing loss of life and property from flooding. Economic forces and government policies have encouraged--or ineffectively discouraged--floodplain development. In North America, The Great Flood of 1993 and the Hurricane Katrina disaster both brought into view the problems with policy, science, and public perception of the hazards of living in flood prone areas. News reports affect public perception of flooding hazards, which in turn influences public policy. Public perception of flood victims is particularly important, and Steve will discuss the sharp contrasts between the media's portrayal of the victims of the Katrina disaster and those of other flood events in the United States.

Steve Gough is a fluvial geomorphologist and owner of Little River Research & Design, founded in 1991. He applies a broad technical knowledge of river process in advising a wide array of clients, including state and federal conservation agencies. Steve's recent projects include watershed-scale geomorphic assessments of urban streams and design of restoration and biostabilization projects in the St. Louis metro area. He produces educational videos, and is the developer of the Emriver moveable bed river model used in teaching and research.

Free Event: All Are Welcome.

For further information, please contact Laura Germann at felix@siu.edu or 453-6876.