

PICKING UP THE PIECES...OF AN EXPLODED SPACE SHUTTLE

MVC to hold presentation about GPS and GIS technology used in recovery efforts of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Marshall, Mo. (April 18, 2006)—There were seven passengers on board when the Space Shuttle Columbia crashed on February 1, 2003 in rural Texas. NASA officials had a new “mission” on their hands—how to recover the remains of Columbia. That’s when they turned to Dr. Stephen C. Brown.

Brown, a professor at Kansas State University and director for Brown County Kansas Extension Office, used GPS and GIS technology to do exactly that. Brown will present “Mapping a Disaster: How GPS and GIS Were Used to Recover the Space Shuttle Columbia” at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 24 in the Formal Lounge in the Ferguson Center on the Missouri Valley College campus.

According to Brown, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the Global Positioning System (GPS) have transformed local, state, and federal responses to emergencies and disasters. GIS and GPS increasingly enable agencies to efficiently allocate resources, model risk, and direct emergency response and recovery personnel.

At the time of the crash of the Space Shuttle Columbia, Brown was director of the Environmental Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Texas at San Antonio. His research interests include the Global Positioning System, Geographic Information Systems and the environmental applications of these technologies. He holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, a master’s degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University.

Brown’s presentation will tell the story of how the space shuttle was recovered with actual maps and photos from the tragedy. The presentation is free and open to the public.

ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

Missouri Valley College is a liberal arts college that provides educational, social and cultural experiences in a decidedly Christian environment. Established in 1889, MVC offers 27 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 12 sports and 20 varsity teams. The liberal arts heritage focuses on scholarship, critical thinking and academic excellence to prepare students to become members of a responsible citizenry. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit www.moval.edu.