

Two Lycoming Professors Featured in WVIA Documentary

Two Lycoming College professors appear in a documentary, "Looking to the River," that will air on WVIA –TV on December 2 at 9 p.m. with rebroadcasts on Dec. 6 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.

The documentary takes a closer look at contemporary issues pertaining to the Susquehanna River watershed. Two of the expert commentators are Dr. John F. Piper, Jr., academic dean of Lycoming College and professor of history, and Dr. Mel Zimmerman, professor of biology at Lycoming College and director of the Clean Water Institute.

Dr. Piper has been a history professor at Lycoming College since 1969 and Dean of the College since 1993. As a local historian, Dr. Piper co-authored a book called *Williamsport: Frontier Village to Regional Center*, with Dr. Richard Morris and Dr. Robert Larson, two other Lycoming College professors of history. The book includes the city's lumber era and its devastating floods.

As Director of the Clean Water Institute at Lycoming College, a program that he founded in 1999, Dr. Zimmerman and his students have historically monitored trends in both biology and chemistry for local watersheds. The "Clean Water Institute" has helped a number of watershed groups compile data and evaluate trends, needs and solutions.

Dr. Zimmerman is a recent recipient of a Governor's award for "Lighting the Way" through his positive impact on Pennsylvania's environment. He was one of six Pennsylvanians cited for his environmental efforts. He was extensively involved in the formation of the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies. He also serves on the board of the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers and is the chair of the Keystone Stream Team. Dr. Zimmerman became a member of the Lycoming College faculty since 1979.

The documentary will eventually be broadcast on all PBS stations in Pennsylvania.