

Overview of Brown's Hurricane Katrina Response to Date  
(Updated January 10, 2006)

Though statistics alone can not tell the full story of Brown's response to the disaster—that is a human story that is unfolding all over the campus, and down on the Gulf Coast, as academic year 2005/6 goes on—we can provide a brief current overview.

1. Providing a Temporary Home at Brown for Students, Faculty and Scholars

During Fall 2005, the Brown community had the privilege of hosting many colleagues displaced from Gulf Coast educational institutions, an endeavor underpinned in significant measure by the generosity of the Frank Fund (\$5M),<sup>1</sup> but also by numerous volunteer gestures on the part of staff, students and faculty across the campus.

**Student Enrollment**

- **59 undergraduate students** enrolled for one semester as special students, tuition-free, 24 of whom received additional needs-based financial assistance (i.e., scholarships), through the Frank Fund.
  - o Undergrad student profile: distributed across a range from freshmen to senior; about 2/3 from Tulane, others from Xavier, Loyola, Dillard and University of New Orleans; wide range of science, engineering, humanities and social science majors, though largest group in biology and pre-med.
- **29 graduate students** enrolled for one semester, tuition-free, many of whom were assisted in a variety of ways through the Frank Fund, from needs-based semi-monthly stipends, to health services and transportation.
  - o Grad student profile: primarily from Tulane; also Dillard, LSU, University of New York, UNO, University of Southern Mississippi; range of disciplines, including Philosophy, Hispanic Studies, Literary Arts, Public Health, Biology and Medicine, Ecology, Economics, Neuroscience, and Sociology.
- Five of the displaced graduate students will continue at Brown in Spring 2006, due to academic hardship.

**Support to Faculty Scholarly Work and Research**

- **4 Visiting Professors and 1 Post-doc Researcher** appointed temporarily, pending reopening of their home institutions.
  - o Visiting Faculty/Post-doc profile: Population Studies, Modern Media & Culture, Public Health, Engineering, Neuroscience (Bio/Medical Division).

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<sup>1</sup> This fund was established by the late philanthropist Mr. Sidney E. Frank, for Brown to use in responding, by means of direct relief and support, to Hurricane Katrina.

- A few visiting faculty and artist/scholars may be expected from Gulf Coast colleges and universities during Spring 2006, to complete projects of writing and reflection, as guest lecturers and speakers, etc.

### **Student and Faculty Support**

- Continuing and Summer Studies was the frontline of response to all Gulf Coast evacuees at Brown, and its teams worked throughout September to take incoming students (as well as a few faculty) quickly “from suitcase to classroom,” assisted in finding housing and other essential support by PAUR’s (Public Affairs and University Relations) network of student, faculty, alumni and community volunteers.
- Staff in Continuing Studies continued to provide a “home base” of emotional and social support to student evacuees, including informal social activities.
- Within departments, faculty reached out to serve as student advisors, academically and otherwise.
- Upon arrival, grad students were found to have a range of study/life situations, from those still deciding on a research topic, to those just about to finalize their doctoral dissertations. Every effort was made to advise them, so that their work was not further interrupted. A small host of research colleagues, graduate students and staff in both the Graduate School and Medical School worked to help reconnect scholars with family, as well as to academic associations, dissertation committees, conference opportunities, research grant institutions, etc.

## 2. Extending the Net of Relief and Support

### **Assisting Other Educational Institutions**

- For many faculty, scholars and students from the Gulf Coast whose own homes and families are rooted in the region, coming to Brown was not the most viable immediate option. We have found other ways to extend the net of relief and support to them, as well, whether through partner institutions and networks, or here at Brown.
- With the endorsement of Sidney Frank, Brown utilized \$1.3 million of the hurricane relief fund that his generosity made possible, to do the following:
  - Provide an initial \$200,000 to Tougaloo College (Mississippi) in September, to assist student evacuees from Dillard and Xavier temporarily enrolled at Tougaloo, as well as to help Tougaloo begin repairs on some of its own damaged residence halls and library.
  - Provide needs-based one-semester scholarships at several Gulf Coast educational institutions, as they began a Spring 2006 “recovery semester” in January, which are helping to ensure institutional viability and provide relief to some of the most heavily-impacted families, in this time of transition, i.e.:

- \$100,000 to Tougaloo
  - \$250,000 to Xavier (New Orleans)
  - \$750,000 to Dillard (New Orleans)
- Underwrite Hurricane Katrina Service Clerkships for Medical and Public Health Students, which will be a collaboration between Brown's Division of Biology and Medicine, and local partner institutions in the Gulf Coast area (see below).
- Support the Brown University Habitat for Humanity Chapter's spring break trip to New Orleans, where several students will work on reconstruction of housing, alongside the local Habitat chapter.
- The Brown-Princeton Partnership to Support Dillard University's Recovery is underway, as that institution gradually rebuilds its campus.
  - We continue to calibrate our efforts to match needs and resources, in ways most useful to Dillard, including the Sidney Frank Renewal Scholarships (see above).
  - While Dillard reopens, as a member of the academic consortium forged with Tulane, Xavier and Loyola Universities, utilizing temporary arrangements to resume academic operations in January 2006, the Partnership has begun to call on expertise within Brown, at Princeton and outside, to lend a hand in specific priority areas such as strategic planning and re-envisioning the curriculum, particularly in science and public health.
  - Brown is participating in the Dillard Visiting Research Faculty Program, a program designed by Dillard's Office of Academic Affairs, to find short-term visiting professorships, mini-sabbaticals and guest lectureships for interested faculty in Spring 2006.
  - Led by the Swearer Center for Public Service, discussions are underway for service learning and community rebuilding projects in spring and summer 2006, involving students from Tulane, Dillard, Brown and Princeton, as well as other consortium partners.

### **Donations-in-Kind and Service Offers**

- Visiting students from the Gulf Coast and Brown students joined together in a clothing drive, from October 16<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>, to collect clothing for people who were displaced by Katrina to the New England area, including visiting students from the Gulf Coast, as well as for children at the Fox Point Day Care Center. The Medical School and the Brown Christian Alliance also helped with the clothing drive. Clothes collected in the drive were also donated to the Urban League to distribute to people displaced by Katrina in Rhode Island and the rest of New England.
- Inspired by the first campus-wide Hurricane Katrina Colloquium at Brown (see below), Rhode Island fire chiefs have started a useful goods collection program, at local fire stations, in support of the Biloxi, Mississippi Fire District.

### 3. Responding to Critical Needs on the Bio-Med Frontline

- Brown students and faculty volunteered individually through the local Red Cross and Department of Health to provide assistance to evacuees and other services.
- As part of a national disaster-response team, Professor of Anthropology Richard Gould helped recover and identify victims of Katrina in the Gulf Coast region.
- The Division of Biology and Medical School's Katrina response started even before the disaster, and has been multi-faceted:
  - o As a U.S. Department of Health grant-holder on emergency-preparedness, the Medical School assisted with volunteers on response and recovery in Louisiana, as well as in preparedness planning in Rhode Island.
  - o Some Medical School faculty members were deployed to the Gulf Coast just before the storm, including two faculty physicians who have been doing 2-week stints, and sharing their experiences both in class and in the community, as well as several Brown Emergency Service staff persons.
  - o Medical School faculty provided assistance to evacuees in Rhode Island.
  - o Several Medical School students who were already Red Cross volunteers have received training for future deployment.
  - o The Biology and Medicine Division was temporary home to 14 of the Gulf graduate students, 2 of whom were studying for the Masters in Public Health (MPH).
  - o Katrina Clerkships for small cross-institutional groups of physician faculty, medical students and master of public health students will provide services this spring and summer to affected communities, while expanding their learning about how to deal with disasters.

### 4. Using Culture and Reflection to Understand and Respond

- Brown students self-organized, throughout Fall 2005, some of the most creative responses to Katrina, including these:
  - Residential Peer Leaders table on the Green \$1 donations brought in \$1800, to be matched by Whole Foods to benefit the Red Cross.
  - Chattertock/Derbies concert hurricane donation box netted \$2480 for the Red Cross.
  - WBRU raised \$3400 at their Summer Concert Series show for RI United Way's Hurricane Katrina Fund, which Dunkin' Donuts topped up to \$7000.
  - A South Asian Student Association (SASA) charity event at Tantric Lounge donated proceeds to Habitat for Humanity.
  - Brown Lecture Board speaker James Carville gave his total fee of \$10,000 to a Katrina-related charity.
  - An outdoor concert in Wriston Quad organized by UCS, Phi Psi, Sigma Chi, Habitat for Humanity, and Student Creative Arts Council brought in \$5,500 for Habitat for Humanity's New Orleans reconstruction effort.
  - The sale of luminarias during a reflective vigil on December 3, in conjunction with the first Hurricane Katrina Colloquium (see below), netted \$300 in

donations which were shared between relief donations for Gulf Coast students and for victims of the Pakistani earthquake.

- Alum Liza Reynal organized A Trinidadian-style Masquerade to Benefit Victims of Katrina, at Providence's WaterPlace Park, donating proceeds to the Red Cross.
- Brown's Department of Music presented a hurricane relief concert in September, donating proceeds to the Red Cross.
- The Writers for Relief - Hurricane Benefit Reading, sponsored in part by the Program in Literary Arts, with Brown University faculty members Forrest Gander, Michael Gizzi, and C.D. Wright, raised funds which were donated to the Twenty-First Century Foundation's Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund.
- The Brown Community also engaged in deeper reflection on the significance of recent events, including:
  - A community gathering on "Lessons from New Orleans: Reflections and Action on Poverty and Racism" at Beneficent Congregational UCC, supported, among others, by the Swearer Center and several groups at the Brown Medical School.
  - A number of presentations at the Slavery and Justice Committee's most recent interdisciplinary workshop (09/30 – 10/01).
  - Reflections on the relationships between race, poverty and Hurricane Katrina by Prof. Glenn Loury, at a colloquium on Economic Justice at the kickoff of Brown's Campaign for Academic Enrichment (10/22).
  - Congressman Charles Rangel's (D-NY) public lecture at Brown on "Katrina: the Costs of Poverty" (10/24).
- The Hurricane Katrina Benefit Planning Working Groups (faculty/staff/students) came together in September to devise a program of yearlong activities whose aims are: to raise awareness, provide on-site service opportunities, mobilize and inspire additional response, provide opportunity for reflection and analysis, embrace New Orleans culture, and raise funds. The first activity was a campus-wide colloquium, on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, featuring panel discussions by Rhode Island emergency responders who served in the Gulf, commentary by New Orleans *Times-Picayune* reporters, a dialogue between the presidents of Brown and of Dillard on rebuilding higher education in the Gulf, a poetry by reading by the poet-laureate of Louisiana, and reflections by the light of luminarias on the Main Green.

#### 5. Using Research and Teaching to Gain Insight and Impact Change

- Prof. John Logan, Department of Sociology, will be heading up a team which will, with NSF support, undertake an eco-social study of the vulnerability of coastal communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina, as the recovery and reconstruction unfold. The team is organizing a conference in March, 2006 on ecological and social resilience in the face of disaster.
- Brenda Marie Osbey, poet-laureate of Louisiana, will visit the Department of Africana Studies in Spring 2006, to guest lecture and work with students on the culture and social history of New Orleans, as reflected in creative writing and art.

**Geri Augusto, Coordinator for Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts, Office of the President, January 10, 2006.**