

Overview of Brown's Hurricane Response to Date  
(Updated October 24, 2005)

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

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

As of October 11, 2005, the Brown community has the privilege of hosting the following, underpinned in significant measure by the generosity of the Frank Fund (\$5M), 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.
  - o 22 of these have received additional needs-based financial assistance (i.e., scholarships), through the Frank Fund. As updated info on students' family situations emerges, additional requests for assistance may be expected.
  - 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.
- **27 graduate students** enrolled for one semester, tuition-free.
  - o They are being assisted in a variety of ways through the Frank Fund, from health services to transportation, and will be supported in other ways, as needs emerge more clearly.
  - 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.
  - o As of 9/29, semimonthly stipends were being awarded to 13 grad students with demonstrable need for the Fall semester, and funds have also been used for health fees/health insurance.

## **Support to Faculty Scholarly Work and Research**

- **4 Visiting Professors and 1 Post-doc Researcher appointed temporarily**, as of 10/22, pending reopening of their home institutions.
  - o Visiting Faculty/Post-doc profile: Population Studies, Modern Media & Culture, Public Health, Engineering, Neuroscience (Bio/Medical Division).
  - o For visiting faculty, a range of assistance is being provided as needs emerge (transportation from evacuation site to Brown, travel to research-related academic conferences, research-related equipment requirements, etc.)
  - o More visiting faculty may be expected from Gulf Coast colleges and universities this academic year, 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 continue to provide a “home base” of emotional and social support to student evacuees, including informal social activities.
- Within departments, faculty have reached out to serve as student advisors, academically and otherwise—and there is room for more faculty to join this effort.
- 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 is being made to advise them, so that their work is not further interrupted. A small host of research colleagues, graduate students and staff in both the Graduate School and Medical School have 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

### **Helping Other Educational Institutions**

- For many faculty, scholars and students from Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas whose own homes and families are rooted in the region, coming to Brown was not the most viable immediate option. We are working now on ways to extend the net

- of relief and support to them, as well, whether through partner institutions and networks, or here at Brown.
- Through the generosity of the Frank Fund, Brown provided an initial \$200,000 to Tougaloo College, to assist student evacuees from Dillard and Xavier now temporarily enrolled at Tougaloo, as well as to help Tougaloo begin repairs on some of its own badly damaged residence halls and classrooms.
  - The Brown-Princeton Partnership to Support Dillard University's Recovery is underway, as that institution rebuilds its campus.
    - o We are calibrating and shaping our efforts to match needs and resources, in ways most useful to them, responding to first-order priorities while medium-term actions and longer-range plans are still under discussion.
    - o As Dillard continues to take stock of the damages to its own campus, the current situation of its displaced faculty and students, and implements the measures needed for the school to open at least partially in temporary space at Tulane University, the Partnership may call on expertise within Brown, at Princeton or outside, to lend a hand in specific priority areas of Dillard's rebuilding and recovery effort.

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

- Brown students and faculty are volunteering 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.
  - o Medical School faculty provided assistance to evacuees in Rhode Island.
  - o Several Medical School students who were already Red Cross volunteers are now receiving training for future deployment.
  - o The Biology and Medicine Division is now temporary home to 14 of the Gulf graduate students, 2 of whom are studying for the Masters in Public Health (MPH).
  - o The Division is currently contemplating how best to assist with analysis to guide toxic clean-ups, better understanding of the challenges facing first-responders in disasters like Katrina and Rita, and care of the most vulnerable populations, such as the elderly.

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

- Brown students self-organized, throughout September and October, some of the most creative responses to Katrina, including:
  - 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 will donate proceeds to Habitat for Humanity.
  - Brown Lecture Board's 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.
- 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 to be donated to the Twenty-First Century Foundation's Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund.
- The Brown Community has also begun some 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).
- Four Hurricane Katrina Benefit Planning Joint Working Groups (faculty/staff/students) are organizing university-wide, multi-day, multi-site events in November, including a cultural event/benefit.
  - Purpose: 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.

## 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.

Geri Augusto, October 24, 2005.