



**A**T ORIENTATION FOR NEWLY ARRIVED U.S. EXCHANGE STUDENTS at Universität Dortmund in Germany last September, Walter Grünzweig called for a moment of silence for the horror still unfolding in the flooded, befouled city of New Orleans. Facing the young Americans, the thought suddenly struck him: “My God! There’s got to be more to do than just a two-minute silence. What’s going to happen to those students in New Orleans now?”

The American studies professor quickly set upon a plan: he would raise funds to bring several students from New Orleans for four months at Dortmund, a university in the Ruhr region known for its engineering, teacher training, robotics and, journalism programs, as well as ambitious exchanges with universities around the world. Grünzweig called his rector before tendering the offer. The rector not only gave a green light, but promised to absorb the costs if fundraising fell short.

**Brandi Boatner, right, a Loyola University of New Orleans student, studied at the University of Dortmund in Germany last fall. Here she holds a statue associated with the Brothers Grimm in Bremen, Germany.**



# STORM

In the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, an academic diaspora followed by the return of students and scholars to New Orleans

By Christopher Connell



And so it happened that on a Loyola University New Orleans blog, this message popped up:

*This is Walter Gruenzweig at University of Dortmund in Germany, a professor of American literature and coordinator of U.S. student exchanges.*

*Just like Loyola New Orleans, Dortmund is a member of ISEP, a consortium exchanging students from more than 120 U.S. colleges and universities with institutions of higher learning worldwide.*

*We would like to invite five Loyola students to spend this fall term—which only starts in mid-October and runs through the end of January—here with us. All expenses paid—we are working on flight, accommodation, and food allowance. No tuition charged. Regular credit issued through the established exchange mechanism. If students need to leave early to get back to school in January, we can make provisions for that. A knowledge of German is recommended, but little or no knowledge is not really a problem—many of our courses are in English. Students may also take intensive German language courses.*

*Dortmund is a city of 600,000 in the Northwest of Germany, only a few hours away from such capitals as Berlin, Brussels, Amsterdam, and Paris.*

*Please get in touch with me for further information.*



AP PHOTO/BERND KAMMERER

Students from the Louisiana State University pose with U.S. Ambassador Peter W. Bodde, left, and Hesse state minister for science and arts Udo Corts, right, after the students arrived at the Rhein-Main-Airport in Frankfurt, Germany, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005. Fourteen U.S. college students whose education was interrupted by Hurricane Katrina arrived in Germany to take up an offer to continue their studies. The students from LSU spent a year at German universities at the invitation of the state of Hesse, which also sent technicians to help pump floodwater out of New Orleans.

Thirty-five students promptly applied and Dortmund extended scholarships, furnished apartments and stipends to five and then, with a 20,000 Euro donation from DAAD, the German Academic Exchange Service, five more. The citizens of Dortmund took the New Orleans students to their hearts. They were feted and interviewed by German media. Eventually the townspeople, Dortmund professors, DAAD and Rotary International contributed 45,000 Euros—\$56,500—for their study abroad. The university extended the offer and three Loyola students stayed for the spring. “It was absolutely phenomenal, the opportunities they gave our students,” said Debbie Danna, director of Loyola’s Center for International Education. “They had a great experience in an awful situation. They were treated well everywhere because they were from New Orleans.”

The Dortmund-Loyola story is remarkable, but not extraordinary. Tulane University, the University of New Orleans, Xavier University and other institutions of higher education in Louisiana and neighboring states have similar tales to tell about the extraordinary help they received from other campuses across the United States and overseas. Louisiana State University made room for 3,000 students from New Orleans. Literally hundreds of campuses and international education programs opened their doors, waived tuition, bent rules and found space for the academic refugees. The Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation donated \$1 million to the University of New Orleans to help build an international studies center and support high school and college exchanges—the post-World War II Marshall Plan in reverse.

The rebirth of New Orleans will take years, but its wounded universities were back in business by January, and are moving forward. Observed the Rev. Kevin W. Wildes, S.J., the president of Loyola, “If the federal government would learn to respond with the same efficiency that higher education did, the city wouldn’t be in half the mess it is.”

International students were among the desperate survivors marooned without food or water in the Super Dome; others fled the city with meager belongings, not knowing where to go. These are

the tales of some of the strong survivors of New Orleans, and the international educators who came to their aid.

### Friday August 26 and Saturday August 27

On the eve of a new academic year, the sisters of Loyola University’s Gamma Phi Beta sorority gathered at a fashionable restaurant to map plans for their annual Swamp Stomp, a party the following evening that would jump start the social season. As senior Brandi Boatner drove home to Metairie, she noticed cars lined up at midnight outside gas stations and instinctively decided to fill up her 2004 Dodge Stratus. Fears were growing that New Orleans could be the next target for Hurricane Katrina, which that afternoon had cut a deadly swath across southern Florida.

Her mother, Mary Boatner, shook her awake at 8:00 a.m., saying, “We have to go! We have to go! The storm’s picking up speed.” Her father Walter, a retired Air Force pilot, drove up from his home in Thibodaux and they evacuated in one car to his brother’s home in Natchez, Mississippi. “We figured we’d be back in three days. I just took a few pairs of shorts and my flip flops,” said Brandi.

That same morning, Takuro Irie, a 29-year-old aspiring entrepreneur from Osaka, Japan, listened with apprehension to the television reports in the apartment he shared with a student from Taiwan. Both were enrolled in the University of New Orleans’s intensive English program. “I heard the news on TV that Katrina, the greatest hurricane in American history, might be coming to New Orleans directly. Nathan suggested we should get out of New Orleans to Alabama by his car. But I refused his suggestion because people in Japan, we always stay in our house when our city is struck by a typhoon. I thought, ‘It’s not gonna be terrible,’” he wrote later.

Before evacuating Tulane’s Center for International Studies, Executive Director Mary A. Clark and her staff made sure “we had our laptops and our memory sticks,” with basic records on every student studying abroad. “It was one of the most brilliant decisions we’ve ever made.”



AP PHOTO/BILL HABER

Floodwater marks from Hurricane Katrina are visible on the sign in front of the Xavier University in New Orleans, above. Administrators estimated total losses at more than \$90 million in storm damage and lost tuition and scholarship revenue—a devastating sum, considering its endowment was only \$52 million.

Below, the Tulane University campus is shown covered in floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. The hurricane-stricken colleges of New Orleans had insurance, endowments, and loyal alumni ready to provide emergency donations. For the schools to survive and thrive meant persuading students to return to campus.



AP PHOTO/DAVID J. PHILLIP; POOL

## Sunday August 28

With Katrina barreling towards New Orleans with winds up to 175 m.p.h., Mayor Ray Nagin belatedly ordered a mandatory evacuation of the city's half-million residents. Thousands were left behind in the city's poorest neighborhoods, trusting their fate to the elaborate canals and levees that protect New Orleans from the Mississippi River and the salt water of the Gulf and Lake Pontchartrain.

At Loyola, two music students, Rafael Howell of San Jose, Costa Rica, and Makiko Kimura, evacuated with the residential life staff and wound up in a shelter in Baton Rouge. Among the few left on their respective campuses were Presidents Scott Cowan of Tulane and Wildes of Loyola, who stayed behind to see their institutions through the storm.

## Monday August 29

Katrina made landfall at 6:00 a.m., with winds up to 145 m.p.h., and sent a 28-foot surge of water up the Mississippi. At first it seemed that the levees had held. Takuro Irie wrote in his diary:

*My house was shaking so I couldn't sleep. When I looked out of the window it was unearthly and I thought, 'What a hell!' The electricity was already cut off, the roof of my house was destroyed by strong wind and trees near my house were blown down...Around 4 p.m. I went outside and walked along St. Charles Avenue. It was hard to walk because many trees lay down on the street and there was lots of broken glass.*

## Week One: August 30–September 5

Overnight the earthen levees gave way and inexorably New Orleans—much of it below sea level—was engulfed by foul, brackish waters. There was no electricity, no running water, just suffocating heat across hundreds of miles, including Brandi Boatner's uncle's home in Natchez.

Takuro Irie woke to find people crowded into the streets, breaking into supermarkets. He wrote: "I had no food so I decided to join them....I had no choice. I just had to choose whether I die or attack the store." A patrol car drove up and a policeman ordered people away, but made no arrests.

Father Wildes had retired Monday night "thinking we were in pretty good shape." In the morning, the facilities director told him, "We've got a problem. The levees broke." Wildes, who had only become president of Loyola in the fall of 2004, replied, "I'm a guy from New Jersey. What does that mean? Don't they fix them?"

A third of Tulane's campus was under water. Cowan and his skeleton crew spent four days in survival mode, scrounging food from campus vending machines and paddling around campus in a canoe and makeshift motorboat, before escaping by dump truck and helicopter.

Loyola had backed up its computer systems out of state, and got a rudimentary Web site running the day after the hurricane. From her mother's house in Dallas, Danna, Loyola's international education director, posted her Yahoo e-mail address, her mother's phone

## The rebirth of New Orleans will take years, but its wounded universities were back in business by January, and are moving forward.

number and her cell phone number. “The text messaging worked even when the lines were down,” she said. Sometimes, mysteriously, even cell phone calls got through.

After three nights in the Baton Rouge shelter, “we knew that New Orleans was destroyed and there was no way to go back,” said Loyola’s Rafael Howell. He and Makiko Kimura rented a compact car and drove to Houston, where they dropped off two Costa Rican classmates. Uncertain where next to head, Howell remembered that a niece lived in El Paso. After an exhausting drive (“I didn’t realize Texas was so big”), the niece was not to be found. Kimura said she had always wanted to see Sante Fe and Taos in New Mexico, so they headed north.

In Las Cruces, New Mexico, they were stopped by a patrol officer who asked if they were U.S. citizens. Makiko produced her passport, but Rafael had left his in New Orleans along with his most valued possessions, two violas and a violin. “They are—in Spanish we say *machete*—my tools for work,” he said. He produced his Louisiana driver’s license and explained how he left his passport behind while fleeing Katrina. The officer said, “For now I’m going to let you go, because it’s late. But you have to have your passport because that is your primary document in the United States.” They drove on exhausted and stopped at an Albuquerque motel Thursday night. Turning on the television, they saw for the first time the nightmarish scenes from

New Orleans. “Those were the first images that we’d gotten. We realized the city was all covered by water. We didn’t know whether Loyola was going to open. I was thinking I’d have to go back to Costa Rica and start over,” said Howell, who needed only a few credits for his bachelor’s degree. Kimura was pursuing a master’s degree in music.

Still intent on the news, they heard next that the University of New Mexico was offering free tuition to students turned into nomads by Katrina. “We looked at each other and were like, ‘What?!’” Howell said.

The next morning, Friday, September 2, the pair found their way to the office of Linda L. Melville, the international advisement specialist in UNM’s Office of International Programs and Studies. Before the day was out, Howell and Kimura had met with professors from the music department and enrolled at UNM. Melville also helped both Howell and Kimura secure \$2,000 Katrina grants from the Institute for International Education. They were among 125 students from East Asia and 42 from other parts of the world aided by IIE with help from the Freeman Foundation and the Lumina Foundation for Education.

“We both found really good teachers here, and I got to play in the UNM Symphony, a really good orchestra. For something really bad, it ended in a really good thing for us,” said Howell, who

returned briefly to the Loyola campus to retrieve his damaged instruments—and his passport.

Back in New Orleans, the waters reached Takuro Irie’s block on Wednesday August 31. “According to the radio, Lake Pontchartrain was broken,” he wrote. That night, he was awoken after 3 a.m. “by the sound of (a) low voice from my backyard. I timidly went to watch by the window.” Two shadowy figures appeared poised to break in, but they left when an elderly neighbor began coughing. Frightened, Irie made up his mind to go to the Super Dome in the morning.

He waded through flooded streets to the massive arena, surrounded by troops. “There were people around the Super Dome as far as the eye can reach. To my surprise, I couldn’t distinguish ordinary people from homeless. Of course, I also looked homeless. It was like the Third World.” The stench of waste

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## RESULT-ORIENTED IMMIGRATION SOLUTIONS



**University of New Mexico international education adviser Linda Melville (r.) with two music graduate students from Loyola University New Orleans who found a new academic home in Albuquerque after the hurricane. The students are Rafael Howell of San Jose, Costa Rica, and Makiko Kimura of Tokyo, Japan.**

## Weeks Two to Six

As meticulously as the National Hurricane Center tracked Katrina, blogs sprang up to track those scattered by the storm. While [www.tulane.edu](http://www.tulane.edu) was still offline, Sallie Hughes, an assistant professor at the University of Miami's School of Communication, created a news-filled blog with personal postings and vital information for Tulane's Stone Center for Latin American Studies.

Executive Director Tom Reese sent out a message on September 23 that began, "The Stone Center is now reconstituted, at least virtually, through the Internet," and listed the half-dozen states and Cuernavaca, Mexico, that the center's senior staff was temporarily calling home. Reese concluded: "From every disaster there emerge prospects for leadership, reflection, and productive new direction....Many of us bring to the Gulf

was everywhere. He queued up to wait for a bus to Houston, but after hours gave up. "It was terrifically hot and humid. Some people started fighting with each other. I heard booing, crude heckling and countless slang words there. Finally I was dizzy," he wrote.

Irie approached a National Guard officer and asked for help getting back to Japan. The officer said they must evacuate the sick first by helicopter, but "after that we call you."

"I said, 'Sure, you must save sick person first of all. Thank you so much!!'" Irie replied. He ate a Meal Ready to Eat, then slept outside the Super Dome. "When I looked up at the night sky, it was star-studded. Because we didn't have electricity, I could enjoy the sight of a shooting star," he wrote.

Friday afternoon, soldiers came as promised for Irie. He posed for a picture with a captain. "I was really excited because I saw the military helicopter without doors right in front of me! As soon as I got on, the helicopter started to take to the air. When I looked down, I could see some houses (on) fire...enveloped in smoke and almost all New Orleans was flooded. The helicopter flew over Lake Pontchartrain and the bayou. I was so impressed by the scene from air." He was embarked on a journey that would take him to Los Angeles.

Brandi Boatner and her parents had left Natchez on Wednesday August 31 for Baton Rouge, where an aunt had running water. It wasn't until Friday when the power came back that they learned how dire conditions were in New Orleans. Brandi Boatner, who had worked as promotions coordinator for six major movie studios in the New Orleans market, was text messaging everyone she knew, and even tried Google Earth in a vain search to find a current picture of her home.

region insightful knowledge of Latin Americans' own experiences in planning and coping after massive dislocations and suffering caused by natural and human violence. Indeed, we might productively today consider forging paths that will allow us to work in conjunction with on-going real-life efforts in the Gulf region."

The blogs and the list-servs were brimming with anxious messages. American students worried about losing coverage under their parents' health insurance if they stopped attending college full-time. International students had an even more somber fear: would they be deported if they did not land quickly at another university?

"After those first couple of weeks of just incredible stress, and things happening so fast, we started getting offers from around the world to host our students," said Alea Morelock Cot, the UNO international education director. The University of Orléans in France offered 50 scholarships, including airfare, housing and stipends. "In the fall, frankly, it was hard to get many together. A lot of our people had lost homes," said Cot. But the mayor of Orléans and the rector extended the offer to the spring, and UNO wound up sending 25 students then. The University of Innsbruck, a UNO partner for 30 years, invited a dozen students for the fall semester and raised \$50,000 for Katrina victims at a jazz brunch in October. The Austrians earmarked \$20,000 for 40 UNO faculty and staff they knew had lost homes and apartments in the flood.

Mary Clark, director of Tulane's Center for International Studies, relocated to Baton Rouge, and bought a condo when she and her husband could find no place to rent. Senior program coordinator Joanie Vicknair drove her camper north and set up shop in a Vidalia, Louisiana, campground with wireless internet.



## NAFSA Joined Effort to Help After Hurricane Katrina

**A**FTER HURRICANE KATRINA NAFSA moved very quickly to assist affected universities. By September 1, 2005, a special Web page was created to provide assistance to members and other international educators affected by the hurricane ([www.NAFSA.org/hurricanehelp](http://www.NAFSA.org/hurricanehelp)). Striving to meet members' needs for current and updated information and professional needs, NAFSA engaged in several efforts to make the aftermath of Katrina less chaotic and foster a sense of support among members:

- Established a discussion forum for school officials to identify their needs and for others to offer assistance.
- Formed a Policy and Practice Task Force to identify the regulatory problems that resulted from Katrina for members and to present these to government and advocated on behalf of the schools and students. (There were displaced students who didn't have passports or ID with them who needed to transfer to new schools within 30 days or leave the country, displaced Designated School Official/Responsible Officers (DSO/ROs) without access to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to authorize transfers or report status to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), closed U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), passport, and other government offices in the coastal areas, etc.)
- As NAFSA staff learned of new policies and procedures, often the result of NAFSA's liaison contact with the government agencies, they posted these on the special Web page.
- Contacted the Boards of Regents or Department of Education in coastal states to give them NAFSA contact info, offer assistance with immigration-related information sources for schools, and to identify which campuses were still open.
- The hurricane help Web page included links to NAFSA-developed resources and to other organizations' Web pages that offered information of interest. For approximately two months, the Web page was updated on an almost daily basis.
- Through the task force, NAFSA learned where the DSOs from the University of New Orleans, Tulane, and Auburn set up interim "offices" and helped put them in contact with various government offices or asked questions on their behalf.
- Replaced the *Adviser's Manual* free of charge for any adviser who was a current subscriber, had relocated due to the storm, and provided NAFSA with a new shipping address. NAFSA paid for the shipping/handling and waived payment.
- Posted the chapter on dealing with natural disasters from NAFSA's publication *Crisis Management in a Cross-Cultural Setting*.
- As new storms headed toward the United States, NAFSA sent blast e-mails to all members in the affected states with links to specific resources such as which documents advisers and students should take with them during an evacuation, etc.
- Hosted an "After Katrina" session at the 2006 annual conference about how schools were impacted and to share lessons learned.
- Annual conference registration was waived for attendees from affected areas.

Gary Rhodes, director of the Center for Global Education at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, set up a temporary web site for Tulane's international educators. "That was crucial," said Clark. "We linked that to Tulane's own emergency site, and that helped us put communications back together. We were able to get application information on that web site so that students could still fill out applications and send them to Joanie." Some 138 Tulane students studied abroad in the fall and 150 in the spring.

Vicknair returned to her unflooded New Orleans home after four weeks. She made two forays onto campus—with special permission—to ferry the office desktop PCs and other equipment back to her house to retrieve more information from their hard drives. "I'm really surprised at how well it all went," said Vicknair. "I had scanners, I had a fax machine, I had everything I needed right there." They processed transcripts "because we had students trying to graduate in December

and in the spring, and they needed those grades," Clark said. Tulane's three resident directors in Madrid, Paris, and Florence ran their programs without a hitch, and without help from New Orleans.

Syracuse University made room in its education abroad programs for 70 Tulane students. "Our partner institutions were so kind in bending deadlines and being patient with us. The mail was all messed up here. We could not have done it without their giving us a lot of leeway," said Clark, who also singled out the American University in Paris, the London School of Economics and the University of East Anglia for their help.

At the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, "there was absolutely no interruption for most of our work. We are a very global school. We work a lot internationally, so we are set up to work remotely," said Dean Pierre Buekens, who quickly relocated with other faculty and administrators to the University of Texas School

of Public Health at Houston. Texas and the 35 schools of public health across the nation quickly welcomed Tulane's 1,300 graduate students—15 percent of them international—into their folds. "Many took 20, 40, 60 students for the semester, then they came back in January," said Buekens, who was back in temporary New Orleans quarters within a month and back inside the public health school's building on Canal Street outside the French Quarter in November.

Buekens, an epidemiologist from Belgium who specializes in childbirth problems, and his 110-member faculty have immersed themselves in Katrina-related studies. "We feel it's public health's time in New Orleans. We are very happy, actually, to be in the middle of the battlefield. We are not happy there is a battlefield; we are happy to be in the middle of it," he said.

Before becoming president of Loyola University, Father Wildes dealt frequently with biomedical issues at Georgetown University's medical facilities. As Loyola struggled to get back on its feet, and as he made a decision to keep all faculty and staff on the payroll until the end of the year, regardless of whether they returned to New Orleans, Wildes said, "It dawned on me this is like when I was back in the hospital. You don't have perfect knowledge, you don't know what the outcome is, but you still have to make decisions, so on you go."

Congress appropriated \$100 million last winter for Gulf Coast colleges and universities and came up with \$50 million more in June,

but it denied their request for low-interest loans to rebuild. Loyola's physical losses were not as great as those suffered by Tulane, Xavier, Dillard and Southern universities.

The Gulf Coast colleges also lobbied to get the Department of Homeland Security to relax rules for international students displaced by Katrina. On November 25, the day after Thanksgiving, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services published in the *Federal Register* a temporary rule suspension for the 5,500 international academic students with F-1 visas attending affected high schools and colleges in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The move meant students could apply for permits allowing them to work off campus until February 1, 2006, and take less than a full course load.

"People from SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) went out of their way to help. One woman called me at home at 8:00 p.m.," said Loyola's Danna. Janice Thomas, UNO's director of international students and scholars, agreed that federal officials "were very sympathetic to our plight and did the best they could, but they couldn't say, 'Well, all right, forget about the student maintaining status.' They are bound, like we are, by federal regulations."

In the post September 11 atmosphere, international students understood the urgency of staying in status. Thomas, who had relocated to Monmouth County, New Jersey, said, "One student came to my parents' house to get his I-20 forms signed."

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Tulane counted 1,004 international students among its 12,691 undergraduate and graduate students in fall 2004 and anticipated a similar number before Katrina for 2005-06. Like Tulane's domestic students, they returned in overwhelming numbers for Tulane's spring semester. But Cynthia Cherry, vice president for student affairs, said Tulane anticipates its international enrollment will "be down at least 10 percent, maybe more" this fall due to cutbacks in engineering and other programs.

When the hurricane hit, 738 international students were enrolled at the University of New Orleans. Some 131 universities in the U.S. and Canada hosted 412 of those UNO students for the fall; a quarter went to LSU, 30 to the University of Houston and 20 to Texas A&M.

On September 11, the Boatners spent six hours making what is normally a 45-minute drive back to Metairie. Authorities were allowing residents to make brief visits back to assess damages. "It looked like a war zone. We had to have masks. The smell was putrid," said Brandi. "Everything was muddy and slimy." Five and a half feet of water had coursed through the house, and the mud-caked Dodge Stratus sat ruined out back. "My mom and I got our jewelry, but everything else—baby pictures, yearbooks, my cheerleading certificates, my baptismal record—was gone. When I went into my room I broke down; I couldn't catch my breath. My dad took me out, walked me to the car and said, 'Sit here. We'll take care of it,'" she related.

### 'Student Opportunities'

The Boatners moved to Houston, and a week later endured the colossal traffic tie-ups during that city's pre-Hurricane Rita evacuation. Boatner could not find locally the courses she needed to graduate, and spent hours in her hotel room, watching Katrina coverage nonstop and feeling her life was in tatters. One Sunday morning she awoke to hear her parents' bickering "and again, trying to maintain my sanity, I got online to check the Loyola Web site," she recalled. There, under "Student Opportunities," she spotted Dortmund's scholarship offer.

"I emailed Professor Grünzweig and literally begged him for help. I told him how I'd lost everything and I was just hanging on by a very thin thread," she said. "He wrote me back right away and told me to apply." She did so and three days was accepted. Boatner, a fluent Spanish speaker, spoke not a word of German, but that did not worry her. "Professor Grünzweig could have been from Russia, he could have been from Bangladesh, he could have been from anywhere—anything to get me out of where I was," she said.

Boatner had never traveled outside the United States and lacked a passport. Passport officials insisted that she produce a birth certificate or baptismal certificate. The Louisiana vital statistics office

in New Orleans wasn't operating. Finally, her father dashed back to Metairie, dug through the slime and found Brandi's birth certificate. Two weeks later, she flew to Dusseldorf and boarded a train to Dortmund. Veronika Hamann, a German student who had volunteered to be her "Dortmund Double," was waiting to greet her. The two became good friends, and everything quickly fell into place for the Loyola students at Dortmund, including Marianne Dauphin, one of Brandi's Gamma Phi Beta sorority sisters.

"The warmth and the care and the support from the citizens of Dortmund was overwhelming," said Boatner. Grünzweig took the students under his wing, serving as their adviser as well as professor. Five more Loyola students joined them on DAAD scholarships

in Dortmund, and three, including Boatner, accepted the university's offer to stay for a second semester.

For Grünzweig, who has written a book on international education, the Loyola students' experience has intriguing implications.

"Here we had a group from New Orleans who were not among the students who always knew they were cut out for the international experience, and they came here and really were extremely good," said Grünzweig. "They did as well or better than the students who had been planning for two or three years to study abroad."

Perhaps, Grünzweig added with a laugh, "if you went anywhere into an American college or university and almost randomly

selected people and gave them money to go abroad, they might be just as good as the people we feel we need to prepare."

Takuro Irie returned to New Orleans from a language school in Los Angeles and this fall hopes to begin M.B.A. studies at UNO. Brandi Boatner is weighing offers for graduate school. Rafael Howell and Makiko Kimura are both in graduate studies at the University of New Mexico. Several international student offices at New Orleans' universities are operating with smaller staffs. And some area universities are making institution-wide changes with last year in mind: Dillard University created its academic calendar for this year to begin in late September—a month later than usual—to avoid what is normally the worst part of hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico.

But life, and international education, has returned to New Orleans.

And this fall, Eberhard Becker, the rector of Universität Dortmund, will journey with Walter Grünzweig to New Orleans to sign a permanent exchange agreement with Loyola University. **IE**

**CHRISTOPHER CONNELL** is a veteran Washington, D.C. journalist and former assistant bureau chief of the Associated Press.

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