

Scattered to the Four Winds

*If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break
If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break
And all these people have no place to stay*

—from “When the Levee Breaks” by
Blues artist Kansas Joe McCoy (1929)

THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY along the U.S. Gulf Coast was just as heavily impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita as the cities and towns in which they exist. Campuses were flooded, trees crashed through roofs, and buildings were torn asunder by high winds.

The rapid evacuation of the region in the path of the devastation created hardships for all of the students attending schools in the region and an especially trying situation was created for international students who had just arrived at their colleges and universities to begin a new semester. Christopher Connell's article in this issue follows the trials

of several students who experienced a few of the many difficult scenarios spawned in the wake of the storms. Connell also follows one of the many U.S. students at a New Orleans university who was able to continue her studies during the fall of 2005 by accepting a generous offer from Universität Dortmund in Germany to attend classes there temporarily while her home university was putting itself back together.

Connell's interviews with several key administrators and university officials provide a unique opportunity to see how the institutions coped with the devastation while always keeping the needs of their students, both domestic and international, at the forefront.

Also in This Issue

The latest installment in our series of articles occasioned by the U.S. Senate's declaration

of 2006 as the Year of Study Abroad is an article by Karen Leggett on the changing role of internships in this field. As Martha Johnson, associate director of education abroad at the University of Minnesota, notes in the article, internships are becoming more and more a regular part of the education abroad experience and, “the breadth and depth of what is available is amazing.”

David Tobenkin's article, “Escape to the Ivory Tower,” explores an often overlooked area of the international student population in the United States: political asylees and refugees. The unique status of these students often causes them undue difficulties when they apply for admission to U.S. colleges and universities because they are incorrectly treated as foreign students (like those on F-1 or J-1 visas). But a completely different set of rules apply to refugees and asylees that international educators need to know. **IE**

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