

TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY

In late August, in anticipation of Katrina's wrath, thousands of Pitt healthcare professionals stood at the ready, waiting to be called to respond by FEMA or a state emergency management agency. No one called. Some went anyway.

By mid-September, Louisiana was trying to pull itself together. Andrea Fox, an associate professor in Pitt's School of Medicine and a geriatrician, was sweltering in Hammond, La., along with fourth-year medical students Young-Sin Kim and Jonathan Landry. All three had volunteered through the Veterans Administration.

The thermometer hit 115 degrees. Downed trees were everywhere, as were bugs. A curfew was in effect, and the National Guard patrolled. Fox, Kim, and Landry tended to the needs of military veterans, evacuees, and aid workers.

During 12-hour days, they saw patients with common conditions made more serious by the world Katrina had left for them. With other volunteers, they heard sorrowful tales and witnessed resiliency to the tune of 250 patients a day.

"A dentist from the New Orleans VA dropped by," Fox says of a woman whose home had been destroyed. "She always seemed to me, even though she was extremely helpful and worked extremely hard, on the verge of tears the whole time." *—Joe Miksch*

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DESTRUCTION BY HURRICANE KATRINA IN THE GULF COAST REGION