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Alternative Spring Break

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Alternative Spring Break



Spring break had a new meaning for 18 students and two staff members who traveled to the Gulf Coast. With assistance from alumni, trustees and friends of the college who financed their trip, the group spent a week helping with the ongoing clean-up from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They learned how to “muck and gut” a house and how to shingle a roof. They gained an understanding of just how much local residents had lost. In some cases the students were able to salvage a few treasures ranging from family photographs to an American flag that had draped the coffin of one man’s father. They listened to the stories of residents who had lost everything, and they were touched by their resilience and spirit. They returned with hundreds of photos and a lifetime of memories. Linfield’s involvement with the Gulf Coast continues this summer with a research project by Robert Gardner in sociology and anthropology, and in January Term when he co-teaches a class in New Orleans with Ed Gans from mass communication.

