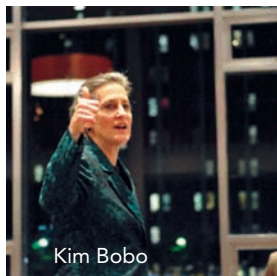


A Compelling Experience



From October 28 through November 17, JSRI staff hosted a compelling series of events for students, faculty, staff, and the wider community as part of our annual conference titled “People on the Move and the Common Good—Migration, Poverty, and Racism, Converging Concerns for Our Future.” Seven separate events moved participants from the experience of the “internally displaced people” of Katrina’s New Orleans in the first week to the migrating peoples of the South in the second to the plight of immigrant peoples of the United States in the third to the internationally displaced in the last week.

More than 400 people participated in one or another of the conference events made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. (Other students, faculty, or community activists heard speakers in classes or meetings arranged to complement the main events.) The key events were:

- (1) the award-winning documentary, *Trouble the Water*, and discussion with the film protagonists **Kimberly Rivers Roberts** and **Scott Roberts**;
- (2) a panel on Katrina and its aftermath featuring **Dr. Allison Plyer** of the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, **Liz McCartney** of the St. Bernard Project, and Loyola students **Kimble Wright** and **Maceda Jackson**;
- (3) a lecture by **Dr. Manuel Vásquez** of the University of Florida on migration trends in the Southeast (see Dr. Vasquez’s article on page 6);
- (4) a panel on local opportunities to accompany migrants with **Martin Gutierrez** of Catholic Charities, **Anna Chavez** of the JSRI staff, an audio “Dream Act Story” from *This American Life*, and Loyola student **Molly Thomas**;

- (5) a talk by **Kim Bobo** of the Chicago-based Interfaith Worker Justice on justice for immigrant workers in the U.S., along with a testimonial from representatives from the New Orleans Worker Center for Racial Justice;
- (6) a panel on international opportunities for immersion and service with **Fr. Tom Greene, S.J.**, Loyola professor and JSRI associate, **Justine Diamond**, alumna ('07) working with the Hispanic Apostolate of the Archdiocese, **Josh Daly** of University Ministry and the Ignacio Volunteers, and students **Margaret Sands**, **Marie Briard**, and **Luis Baker** from the Loyola Center for International Education; and
- (7) a final talk on the plight of refugees and asylum seekers by **Dr. Katrine Camilleri**, internationally honored advocate with Jesuit Refugee Service Malta.

Various conference activities were co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of New Orleans, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Loyola’s Office of Mission and Ministry as part of Loyola Week, and the Center for International Education. Loyola’s Women’s Center also sponsored a companion film series on Women on the Move to complement the conference.

Of 130 completed evaluations of various events, 128 participants rated events “excellent” or “good” and overwhelmingly affirmed the events’ impact on their knowledge of migration realities, appreciation of the plight of refugees, and resolve to learn more and become more involved. As the nation enters into what will assuredly be an intense and heated debate over immigration reform legislation, our attendees hopefully will participate with enhanced solidarity with people on the move.

If you would like to receive *JustSouth Quarterly*, please send an e-mail to jsri@loyno.edu
