Cal Poly welcomed 10 students from campuses closed by Hurricane Katrina.

A business student with her husband and 13-month-old daughter drove across the country with only their car and the clothes on their backs. Another student traveling by bus had to make an unscheduled stop in Los Angeles, where his wife gave birth to their son.

While these students and tens of thousands of others were heading to campuses away from the storm’s devastation, Cal Poly graphic communication senior Nick Hoover followed his heart to Jefferson Parrish, La., to volunteer with the American Red Cross. Hoover chronicled his stay with photos and stories published in The Tribune, San Luis Obispo’s local paper, where he works as a photo technician and photojournalist.

(Above) End of the line - train tracks proceed underwater near St. Bernard’s Parish in New Orleans. The water level in some areas reached over 10 feet.

(Below) A stop sign barely peaks out over the water on what was a street near the French Quarter of New Orleans. Most rescue crews operated with fan boats to avoid obstacles hiding in the murky black flood water.

(Above) A car sits abandoned in several feet of flood water off Interstate 10 in New Orleans. Vehicles lay strewn about as owners rushed to flee the city before Katrina touched down.

(Left) Cal Poly welcomed new students (left to right): civil engineering student Alyssa Schorer, theatre and political science major Andrew Zabko, and environmental engineering student Vetta Sturovec.