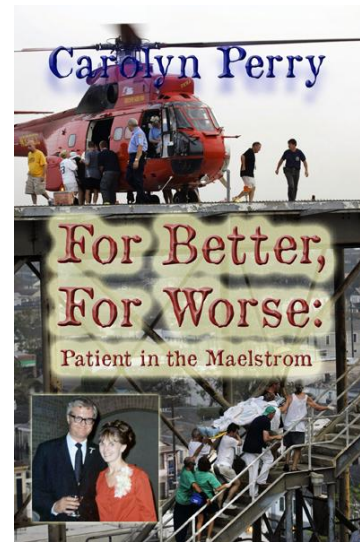


Trapped by Katrina
Author to share personal experience of flood in New Orleans

In 1972, when Hurricane Agnes swept through Pennsylvania, Lock Haven University English professors Carolyn and Bob Perry climbed out of their second-story window into a rowboat. They were young and newly married. Thirty-two years later, after settling in New Orleans, the Perrys once again faced devastation, not only from Hurricane Katrina, but also from Bob's worsening cancer. First trapped in the city's Memorial Hospital, the couple was later evacuated and separated under horrific conditions.



As the first author in the series "Write Now: Community Conversations with Contemporary Authors," Carolyn Perry will read, discuss, and sign copies of her new memoir, "For Better, For Worse: Patient in the Maelstrom." Her presentation will take place on Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 in the PUB Multipurpose Room. The event is free. The public is encouraged to attend and ask questions. Signed copies of "For Better, For Worse" will be available for purchase.



"For Better, For Worse" was an August 28 Times-Picayune "5 Hot Reads" pick. The paper's reviewer, Amanda Stouse, wrote: "After the levees broke, few things could compare to being marooned for almost a week at the sweltering Memorial Hospital, scene of much well-documented misery. Perry's book, part love story, part memoir, recalls the brutal storm within a storm that she and her sick husband, a fellow [retired LHU] English professor, survived without electricity, running water, and, as it seemed for the longest time, a way out." The Amazon.com product review says that Carolyn's book "adds a new perspective to the historical record of Katrina, but [is] also a story of coming home, of a widow's struggle to come to terms with living alone in a wounded city-and like the city, surviving."

From October 10 to November 10, in conjunction with Carolyn Perry's reading, the university library will display books and other materials about Bob and Carolyn Perry and their contributions to LHU. Carolyn Perry served as director of the LHU Writing Center. She and her husband both taught in the English Department.

The Perrys were loyal supporters of the LHU football team. They were fans, volunteer academic advisers, mentors, and friends to the Bald Eagles players. They established the "Bob and Carolyn Perry Academic Awards" and helped recruit prospective students. After Bob's death in 2005, Coach John Klacik started a Robert Perry Youth Camp in his honor. In 2006 Carolyn began a scholarship in Bob's name that gives an annual award to a student athlete.

The event is sponsored by the Lock Haven University English Department and the LHU Alumni Association, in partnership with the LHU MountainServe Center for Global Citizenship.

Through the MountainServe Center, LHU students have been serving the Gulf Coast since November of 2005 to provide direct outreach and rebuilding after Katrina. At the reading, MountainServe will have a table of flood relief volunteer opportunities and information, a display of photographs, and volunteers ready to talk with students and community members. These volunteers will include students who have participated in alternative spring break programs involving housing reconstruction and community development work in post-Katrina Gulf Coast communities, as well as students who have signed up for the March 2012 service program.

For more information, contact Marjorie Maddox Hafer mmaddoxh@lhup.edu or Dana Washington dwashing@lhup.edu , co-chairs of Write Now: Community Conversations with Contemporary Authors.