A man not easily deterred, Dr. Raymond Scurfield works amongst the debris left by Hurricane Katrina in the same location where his desk used to sit.

Meet Dr. Raymond Scurfield. While originally a specialist in war trauma, Dr. Scurfield has recently applied his doctorate in Social Work to the comparative study of the impacts of war and natural disasters on the human psyche. When the university founded the Katrina Research Center, or KRC, Dr. Scurfield was quickly chosen to direct the center.

His days are busy ones; in addition to his regular duties as both a professor and director of the Katrina Research Center, Dr. Scurfield serves as President of the Gulf Coast Faculty Council, a senator for the university’s faculty senate, and a member on countless boards and committees. He has also doubled as the Gulf Park campus’ counselor ever since Katrina.

“I volunteered to be the counselor to give the basis for his career in social work.” Scurfield admitted. “I went on active-duty as an Army social worker immediately upon receiving my master’s degree, and within nine months I was serving on a team in Vietnam treating psychiatric casualties.”

Dr. Scurfield’s current driving passion is locating “the nexus between war and natural disasters in terms of impact, experience and healing.” His accolades include several recent efforts towards locating and articulating that nexus of experiences. Perhaps, however, the clearest and sincerest appreciation comes from Dr. Scurfield’s colleagues at the Katrina Research Center.

“He’s played a vital role in not only the direction and leadership of the KRC, but also to our understanding of and working with trauma,” said Dr. Jamie Allen, Assistant Director of the KRC and an assistant professor of Counseling Psychology for Southern Miss. “Dr. Scurfield has put his stamp on the literature for professional helpers, and has greatly contributed to the way mental health professionals provide services to trauma survivors.”

“He supports members of the KRC and allows each of us to pursue our personal goals,” said Dr. Deanne Nuwer. “His actions take him on many paths, but the aim is always the same. Ray is dedicated to the recovery of the Gulf Coast.”

“Hopefully, the KRC will provide an on-going and significant role in this as the natural repository and center of learning for such because of our location and what Southern Miss has to offer here on the Gulf Coast,” said Dr. Scurfield. “The bottom line, for me, is that of course Katrina was and is a life-changing event for tens if not hundreds of thousands of residents of the Gulf Coast. We have much to remember, and much to learn.”