

ACE Gazette



Hurricane Awareness

by Madison Smith

Even though a natural disaster is defined as “a natural event such as a flood, earthquake, or hurricane that causes great damage or loss of life,” that does not mean we should be any less prepared to minimize the loss. With access to so many sources of information like Google and YouTube, we should be well informed on almost everything. The problem then lies in the fact that not many people document what people should do during a natural disaster before the disaster happens. That is what **Professor Jeffrey Wozniak**, along with ACE facilitator David Yebra, strive to do. The students of their in a **Honors Seminar ACE course** created an interactive hurricane awareness website on the KatSafe Emergency Response System to help those in Huntsville and surrounding cities to be prepared before disaster strikes. Their hurricane preparedness video provides essential information about steps to take before, during, and after the storm. During Hurricane Harvey, their website was accessed over 57, 400. Professor Yebra said, “The families of our

students are comforted to know the extent we go to in promoting readiness for emergency situations including inclement weather.” During the production of the video, students were able to learn about the decision-making process involved in the dissemination of KatSafe messages and how engaged the University leadership is in that process. The students were also able to see how the actions of the community affect our decisions and vice-versa. Student Brooklyn Young said “I am enjoying being able to contribute to educating a community that was so recently impacted by a hurricane.” After this project was completed, Professor Wozniak had his students complete a personal reflection. He said, “In that assignment they provide a detailed account of how the project has impacted them and how it pulls together the core concepts of the class and their interaction with the community.” Unfortunately, natural disaster are here to stay, but that doesn’t mean we, as a society, can’t be more prepared for the storms to come.