

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 20, 2008

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*****PHOTO/MEDIA OPPORTUNITY*****

WHO: The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies' Laguna Outreach Project at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Cunningham Middle School Seventh Graders

WHAT: "Virtual Reality Day"

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Best Media Opportunity is 10-11:30 a.m. or 12:45 to 2 p.m.)

WHERE: Education Center for Math and Science, Adjacent to the Early Childhood Development Center

'Virtual Reality Day' Teaches Middle School Students about Hurricanes, Sea Level Changes and the Coastal Environment

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Cunningham Middle School seventh-graders will learn about sea level changes and the coastal environment through virtual fly-bys and 3-D topography drawings of Earth and the Gulf of Mexico during a "Virtual Reality Day" from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies' Laguna Outreach Project will host the event at the Education Center for Math and Science for more than 70 students at the Innovation Academy for Engineering, Environmental and Marine Science.

Downstairs, students will learn about the scientific method through experiments that relate to hurricanes including a classical candle lab educating them on high and low pressures and a hurricane model that demonstrates erosion.

Upstairs, a virtual reality interface will teach students about sea level changes and the Texas coastal environment to help them visualize the effects global warming and how rising sea levels will impact their lives, especially living on the coast.

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