

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

*The Island University*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Targets Coastal Bend Community for Breast Cancer Awareness Month Observance** **Events include ‘Lights of Life,’ ‘Paint the Island Pink’ Expo and ‘Paws for a Cause’**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Women’s Center for Education and Service at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will hold its fifth annual “Paint the Island Pink” expo Thursday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the University Center, Lone Star Ballroom. The event is free and open to the public.

The expo, which is part of the University’s Breast Cancer Awareness Month observance, will provide information on the importance of regular self-examinations for early detection of breast cancer, which claims more than 40,000 lives each year in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately two million women in the United States have been treated for breast cancer and 1-in-8 women and 1-in-1,000 men in the country will develop the disease sometime in their life.

Breast cancer survivor Cinda LeBus, director of education for Planned Parenthood; Wonda Wilson, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi alumna and two-time breast cancer survivor; Dr. Gerard J. Voorhees, radiation oncologist with the Corpus Christi Cancer Center; and Dr. Burk Strong, radiologist for Radiology Associates, LLP, will discuss their experiences and answer questions about breast cancer. Local cancer organizations will display materials showcasing the treatment, care, and support options available for patients in the Coastal Bend. The Women’s Center will sell “Paint the Island Pink” Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirts for \$10 with proceeds benefiting the Center’s programs. For more information, call 361.825.2792.

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Other “Paint the Island Pink” events open to the public are:

**Wednesday, Oct. 8** –The Women’s Center will hold the “Lights of Life” celebration and candlelight vigil from 7-8:30 p.m. in Hector P. Garcia Plaza to honor the courage of those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and remember the lives of those who lost their battle. Honorary speaker will be Wonda Wilson. Attendees will be able to speak and share stories with other friends and family members about their experiences. Pink carnations will be sold for \$1 to honor a loved one and help raise money for First Friday, a non-profit program dedicated to underwriting free mammograms for South Texas. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 361.825.2792.

**Friday, Oct. 10** – The “Paws for a Cause” dog walk will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the hike and bike trail near the University’s Natural Resource Center. Proceeds from the 15-minute walks will benefit First Friday. There will also be contests and prizes for the Pinkest Pooch (the best-dressed pinkest dog: male or female) and the Pinkest Pair (best-dressed, pinkest dog and owner). Registration is \$5. Attendees may either walk their own dogs or borrow people-friendly dogs from the Gulf Coast Humane Society, Coastal Bend Small Breed Rescue and the Corpus Christi Care Shelter. Information on pet adoption will be available. All dogs must be vaccinated, have rabies tags, be people and pet-friendly and be on a leash. For more information, call 361.825.2454.

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