

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Alumni Welcome Center Honors Longtime University Benefactor and 50-Year Alumnus Coastal Bend entrepreneur Woo Sung Lee receives proclamation

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Longtime benefactor, alumnus and local entrepreneur Woo Sung Lee was honored today (Friday, April 24) during a groundbreaking ceremony for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's new Alumni Welcome Center.

The ceremony honored Lee and his family at the future center site, located near the intersection of Ocean Drive and Alameda Street. Lee was presented with a proclamation naming him a "50-Year Distinguished Alumnus."

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's new welcome center will be named after Lee and be called the Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center pending approval from The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. Lee, a 1959 graduate of the University of Corpus Christi, has generously provided the resources to build the Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center on South Alameda Street. The facility, which is expected to be completed this fall, will house the University's alumni relations operation and several development functions. Currently, the University numbers more than 30,000 alumni.

"Our alumni have long needed a special place to call their 'home away from home' when visiting the Island University, and this gift by alumnus Woo Sung Lee is a wonderful opportunity for many to embrace their alma mater," said University President Flavius Killebrew. "This beautiful facility will also serve as the window to campus for many prospective students and their families. It will also be the place where students mark milestones in their college career."

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Killebrew also pointed out that when students reach junior status, they will visit the Alumni Center to order their senior rings. And when preparing for graduation, seniors will visit the Alumni Center to obtain their robes and diploma frames.

After graduation from the University, Lee, a Korean foreign student, went into the restaurant business and turned his one fast-food establishment into a chain of highly-successful “Boat-N-Net” Restaurants.

The University’s new Alumni Welcome Center is the latest gift Lee has bestowed upon Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. In 1999, he established a scholarship fund at the University and, in 2001, provided the resources for the creation of Lee Plaza, a garden area with stone benches, shade trees and a dome-shaped fountain which has become a gathering spot for students to study or relax between classes. The sanctuary is a testament to Lee’s memories of his University days as well as a memorial to his late son, Yongnam Lee.

In 2004, Lee received the Distinguished Alumni Award for his volunteer efforts and financial contributions to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. He also has been honored by the President’s Council and his photograph is on the Honor Wall of Recognition in the University Center’s Legacy Hall for his gifts to the University’s scholarship and building funds.

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