

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 (361) 825-2420 FAX (361) 825-2620

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CONTACT: Cassandra Hinojosa 361.825.2337; or Steve Paschal 361.825.2336

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Haas Family Commits \$30,000 to Mechanical Engineering Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Darryl and Teresa Haas of Corpus Christi have committed \$30,000 toward the upcoming mechanical engineering program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Their commitment, which was announced today (Friday, Feb. 6), creates the Darryl and Teresa Haas Fund in Mechanical Engineering. The new Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi awaits final approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

“The mechanical engineering program will open many doors for students and help us meet the growing needs of employers in the Coastal Bend,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “We are grateful for support from generous individuals like Darryl and Teresa Haas who help this University grow.”

Dollars from the Darryl and Teresa Haas Fund are designated for student scholarships, laboratory equipment and other needs to help establish the mechanical engineering degree at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Haas, who has a degree in mechanical engineering, has been a general partner with Haas-Anderson Construction since 1981. The \$30,000 gift is his first contribution to the University.

“This mechanical engineering program has had my support since the beginning,” Haas said. “I’m interested in creating opportunities for more engineering programs being developed locally, so this is a step in the right direction. Down the road, this market will

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benefit from having locally-educated engineers.”

Several area businesses have joined the City of Corpus Christi and Port of Corpus Christi in support of having a mechanical engineering degree program at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. The University currently offers the mechanical engineering technology degree and has labs that can be adapted for the new curriculum. Last fall a \$1 million pledge was made by the city for the program.

The Darryl and Teresa Haas commitment is among several from corporations and individuals the University will be announcing in upcoming weeks.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering at its January meeting, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board could give final approval by April. The University is planning for the first classes to begin fall 2009.

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