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New Book Chronicles History of Center for Coastal Studies

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The College of Science and Technology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has released “Center for Coastal Studies: The First 25 Years,” a history and informational book on the first research center at the Island University.

The Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) was created in 1984 to handle grants and contracts for research in the College of Science and Technology. In 1992 CCS received its first state funding, and in 1996, moved into facilities in the Natural Resources Center. Its current mission is to increase knowledge and understanding of the marine ecosystems, habitats, flora, fauna, and socioeconomics of the Texas coast and Gulf of Mexico through education and research.

“Center for Coastal Studies: The First 25 Years” chronicles the history of the founding, development, and successes of CCS and includes overviews of its programs written by the researchers in the areas of wetlands ecology, habitat restoration, creation, and enhancement; coastal habitat ecology and impacts; endangered species use of coastal habitats; benthic ecology; environmental physiology; coral reef ecology, environmental monitoring and impacts; oil spill impacts and habitat recovery; offshore artificial reef studies (including fisheries); and marine ecotoxicology.

The book was edited by Dr. Wes Tunnell, associate director of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies and director of the CCS from its establishment until August 2009. It also includes information on the education-outreach program, and summaries of CCS graduate education, scholarships, financial history, and publications.

“I decided that, after founding and heading the Center for 25 years, it was time to turn over that responsibility to a new director,” said Tunnell. “This chronicle should be of great assistance to the new director as well as a reference for others in the future.”

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