

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 4, 2010

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[High Resolution Photo](#)

Grand Opening Celebration of Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center Honors Longtime University Benefactor Named after Coastal Bend entrepreneur and alumnus Woo Sung Lee

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – A crowd of University officials, community members and the public gathered today (Thursday, Feb. 4) for the grand opening celebration of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s new Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center.

Woo Sung Lee, a longtime benefactor, alumnus and local entrepreneur, and his family were honored during the ceremony. Following the ceremony, the public was invited to tour the new facility, located at 6129 Ennis Joslin Road, near the intersection of Ocean Drive and Alameda Street. The grand opening was a highlight event for the week-long Homecoming celebration at the University.

The 1959 graduate of the University of Corpus Christi generously provided the resources to build the Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center, which opened its doors in October 2009 and houses the University’s alumni relations operation and several development functions.

During the Center’s groundbreaking ceremony held on April 24, 2009, Lee was presented with a proclamation naming him a “50-Year Distinguished Alumnus.”

“We extend our sincerest gratitude to Woo Sung Lee for this beautiful facility, which greets prospective students and their families as they enter the campus,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “The Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center will create memorable experiences for our alumni, who have a ‘home away from home’ when visiting the Island University, and for our students as they mark milestones in their college careers.”

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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.

Lee was born on Jeju Island, South Korea, where he lived until age 19. His father, Hak Yong Lee, was president of the Jeju City Chamber of Commerce and owned two companies. Woo Sung Lee is one of six children.

After graduation from the University, Lee, a Korean international 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 has been honored by the President’s Council and his photograph is on Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Wall of Recognition in the University Center, Legacy Hall, for his gifts to the University’s scholarship and building funds. His plaque is also on the Woo Sung Lee Alumni Welcome Center’s Wall of Fame.](#)