

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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MEDIA ALERT

DATE: March 4, 2010

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*****PHOTO/MEDIA OPPORTUNITY*****

WHO: Department of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and South Texas Alliance of Academic Institutions

WHAT: Coastal Bend Engineering Competition

WHEN: Saturday, March 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Best Media Opportunities: 9-11 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m.

WHERE: University Center, Lone Star Ballroom

Students Participating in Coastal Bend Engineering Competition Will Build Catapults to Demonstrate Ancient Scientific Principles

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Teams of students from local junior high and high schools will build miniature catapults capable of launching beanbags to demonstrate ancient scientific principles during the first Coastal Bend Engineering Competition on Saturday, March 6, at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Assisted by Texas A&M-Corpus Christi undergraduate mechanical engineering students, teams from Cunningham, Driscoll and Corpus Christi middle schools and Moody, John Paul II, Flour Bluff, King and Collegiate high schools will build the catapults during the morning session from 9-11 a.m. using only their imaginations and provided materials. During the afternoon session from 2-3:30 p.m., the teams will each launch five beanbag projectiles at targets

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at distances ranging from four-to-six feet. Judges will score based on simplicity and ingenuity of design, quality of construction and accuracy and range of the catapults.

The catapults will be constructed from assorted woods and metal pieces, tie straps, bean bags and shock cord to propel the catapults which will be 20 inches in base length. Teams will consist of five-to-seven members and a coach and will compete among other schools at the same grade levels. Each school may enter up to three teams. The winners of the high school, middle school and undergraduate competitions will be invited to compete in the South Texas Engineering Alliance, Regional Competition on Saturday, May 22, at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

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