

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 361.825.2420 FAX 361.825.2620

MEDIA ALERT

DATE: March 3, 2010

CONTACT: Amy Koenning 361.215.5007 (cell); Dorothy Runyen 361.825.3892; or Steve Paschal 361.825.2336

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

WHO: The College of Education GEAR UP/STAR Faculty Fellows and Mathis High School Students

WHAT: GEAR UP/STAR Faculty Fellows Host Mathis High School Students

WHEN: Thursday and Friday, March 4-5

- 8:30 a.m. – Karma Floating Classroom leaves at 8:45 a.m.
- 10:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. – Meet at Early Childhood Development Center's (ECDC) Math Science building in the downstairs classroom then walk as a group to University Beach or water tower on Hike and Bike Trail for Environmental Geocaching

WHERE: Various Locations

- Karma Floating Classroom – Lawrence Street T-Head in Downtown Corpus Christi
- Meet at ECDC, then go to designated areas on University Beach and Hike and Bike Trail

Mathis High School Students Explore Biological Habitats Through Texas A&M-Corpus Christi GEAR UP/STAR Program

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – More than 60 students from Mathis High School will explore area biological habitats surrounding Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi on Thursday and Friday, March 4-5, as part of the GEAR UP/STAR Program.

The biology students will take a two-hour excursion into Corpus Christi Bay from the Lawrence Street T-head on the Karma, the Floating Classroom Program's 57-foot teaching vessel docked at the municipal marina in downtown Corpus Christi. They will also collect and observe marine life from microscopic plankton to adult fish, crabs and shrimp. In addition, they will be introduced to concepts such as salinity, density and heat

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Page 2, Mathis High School Students

capacity through interactive demonstrations; and observe dolphins, pelicans, and ocean-going ships crossing the bay.

And at the beach across from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, GEAR UP/STAR Faculty Fellow Mark McNamara will teach students about sea organisms. Also on campus, students will participate in environmental geocaching, where they will search for hidden 'Geocaches,' or hidden prizes, using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

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