MEDIA ALERT
DATE: May 13, 2011
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PHOTO/MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

WHO: 125 Smith Elementary School fourth graders; the ELITE Graduate Program at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi; and University volunteers
WHAT: Field trip to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
WHEN: Tuesday, May 17, from noon to 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: Various Locations:
Science Tour: Center for Science Loading Dock room 119B and 119C
Wetland on Wheels: Between Center for Science and the University Center
Zumba/Nutrition Talk: Dugan Wellness Center room 240
Library Tour: Mary and Jeff Bell Library, touring building
Math Project: Early Childhood Development Center room 210 math lab

Smith Elementary Fourth Graders Learn about University Programs, Gain College Experience on Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Field Trip

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Nearly 125 Smith Elementary School fourth grade students will touch and feed snails, tour the Wetlands on Wheels mobile station and learn Zumba dance during a field trip to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi on Tuesday, May 17, from noon to 2:30 p.m.

Students will alternate every 30 minutes between five different stations. Activities are: a tour of the science labs with Dr. Riccardo Mozzachiodi; a tour of the Wetlands on Wheels with Jay Tarkington; a Zumba and nutrition talk led by Stephanie Arevalo; a comprehensive tour of the Mary and Jeff Bell Library led by Kristen Davis; and a math project led by Dr. Faye Bruun titled “Are You a Square?” where students will measure each other’s height and arm span to determine if they are a square, or a tall or wide rectangle.

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The field trip is coordinated by Dr. Laura Rosales, director of the ELITE Graduate Program, and Bruun, assistant professor in the College of Education, to provide the students with a “college experience” for the day as they learn about activities the University offers and to introduce students to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields.

The ELITE Graduate Program will provide graduate student volunteers to guide the student groups around campus. Others providing activities for the students are: Mozzachiodi, assistant professor in the College of Science and Technology; Tarkington, program coordinator with the Center for Coastal Studies; Arevalo, assistant director of Recreational Sports; and Davis, Bell Library information literacy coordinator.