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MSU opens Science and Technology Center

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By PRISCILLA LOEBENBERG — Special to the Sun Herald

STENNIS SPACE CENTER -- Mississippi State University held a grand opening for its Science and Technology Center on Tuesday with a keynote address by U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker.

"The collaboration done at this center," said Wicker, "will be pushing the boundaries of innovation."

The \$9 million research center was funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and provides a centralized location for scientists to conduct coastal research in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The center will house the MSU Geosystems Research Institute, the Northern Gulf Institute, the NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service.

A NOAA Exploration Command Center, one of seven in the world, also will be housed at the center to provide two-way communication with scientists on research vessels at sea.

"The Gulf of Mexico is a vital part of our economy and our identity," Wicker said.

MSU President Mark Keenum said the center will help carry on a long tradition of science-based education. Research will include weather forecasting, natural resources management, coastal

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PRISCILLA LOEBENBERG/SPECIAL TO THE SUN HERALDU.S. Sen. Roger Wicker gives the keynote address Tuesday at the grand opening of Mississippi State University Science and Technology Center at Stennis Space Center.

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Keenum said the center may provide distance learning opportunities in the future.

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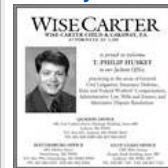


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