From junior college to Tier One university in less than a century.

A quick overview of UH history and traditions.

A&F Leadership Seminar
July 16, 2009
June 5, 1927…
-- Houston Junior College opens doors.
-- 8 faculty members...  230 students.
-- Evening classes.
1934…
-- HJC becomes four-year University of Houston.

-- Continue holding classes in churches, high schools, other downtown locations.

-- Search begins for permanent campus.

-- Taub and Settegast families donate land on St. Bernard Street (now Cullen Boulevard).

-- Administrators approach oilman Hugh Roy Cullen for financial support.
Mr. Cullen and wife Lillie agree to chair fundraising campaign.

They make $335,000 lead gift.

Mr. Cullen’s only requirement: “UH must always be a college for working men and women and their sons and daughters. If it were to be another rich man’s college, I wouldn’t be interested.”

Tradition of giving continues to this day, with their heirs and foundations giving $130 million to UH.
June 4, 1939…

-- Roy Gustav Cullen Building (right), first on new UH campus, opens its doors.
1939...
-- Entire UH faculty sits for “class
The World War II Years…
-- UH becomes military training center for sailors, pilots, mechanics, radio operators.
The World War II Years...
1944...
-- After enrollment drops during war, returning veterans double it to 2,000 thanks to GI Bill.
Post-War Years…
-- More relaxed campus environment results in more leisure time for student activities.
1950s... early 1960s...
-- Enrollment and expenses go up, up, up...
  UH starts thinking of going “public.”

1961...
-- Bill to transform UH into public university
  introduced in Texas Senate.
-- One caveat... no doctoral programs!
-- House bill delays state funding till 1963.

September 1963...
-- First semester as a public university.
-- Tuition drops from $700 to $100 a year.
-- Enrollment skyrockets to 17,000.
1960s…

-- 25 new buildings, including the UC, Agnes Arnold Hall, Religion Center, Cullen College of Engineering.

-- Teaching centers open in Clear Lake, downtown Houston, Victoria… eventually become free-standing universities.

-- The 1970s, 1980s, 1990s to today… our time.

-- Spectacular growth…

-- 36,000 students at UH (59,000 system-wide).

-- From 136 nations.

-- Close to 300,000 alumni.

-- $3.1 billion economic impact on the region.
2009... two historic pieces of legislation clear the path for UH to attain Tier One status...

-- HB 51 creates the $50 million Texas Research Incentive Fund (TRIP), a matching fund for private gifts.

-- HJR 14, a constitutional amendment that creates the National Research University Fund (NRUF) to provide sustained, dedicated funding to finance top-tier research... scheduled for state-wide voter approval November 3.

-- Let’s get the vote out!
Traditions
Frontier Fiesta...
-- Oldest tradition... “Greatest College Show on Earth!”

-- 1940-1941.
-- Hiatus during World War II.
-- 1946... restarts.
-- 1953... peaks at 150,000 attendees.
-- 1958, restrictions limiting planning, participation.
--1959... last one.
--1992... reborn.
Shasta...
-- 1947, first mascot arrives from South Texas...
plane lands at small airport on South Main.
-- Contest to name mascot...


-- “Shasta have a cage... Shasta have a handler... Shasta have a winning team...”

-- Last live mascot, Shasta V, dies 1989.

Mr. Randol dances with Sasha at 2000 Golden Cougars reunion.
Cougar Sign
-- 1953, Shasta looses toe traveling to game in Austin.
-- UT fans mock UH team by imitating injury.
-- UH wins game, adopts sign as symbol of pride.
And in closing... a trivia question...

Can you guess what sport was one of the first to be organized as an official “Cougar” team?
COUGAR PUCK PUSHERS

Left to right: Ed Cadena, right wing; Harry Gray, spare defense; Eddie Chernosky, right wing manager; Starks Green, goalie (kneeling); Charles Miller, spare defense; Billy Fitzgerald, left wing captain; Harry Flavin, center.

Not in picture: Mayo Albert, right defense; Tom Crawford, left wing; Jesse Darling, left defense; Jack Potter, coach.

—Courtesy Houston Post
2027... UH’s Centennial!