

**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**

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June 5, 1927...

- Houston Junior College opens doors.**
- 8 faculty members... 230 students.**
- Evening classes.**



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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.**

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- **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.**

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June 4, 1939...

**-- Roy Gustav Cullen Building (right),
first on new UH campus, opens its doors.**



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1939...

-- Entire UH faculty sits for "class"



The World War II Years...

-- UH becomes military training center for sailors, pilots, mechanics, radio operators.



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The World War II Years...



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1944...

-- After enrollment drops during war, returning veterans double it to 2,000 thanks to GI Bill.



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Post-War Years...

-- More relaxed campus environment results in more leisure time for student activities.



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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...

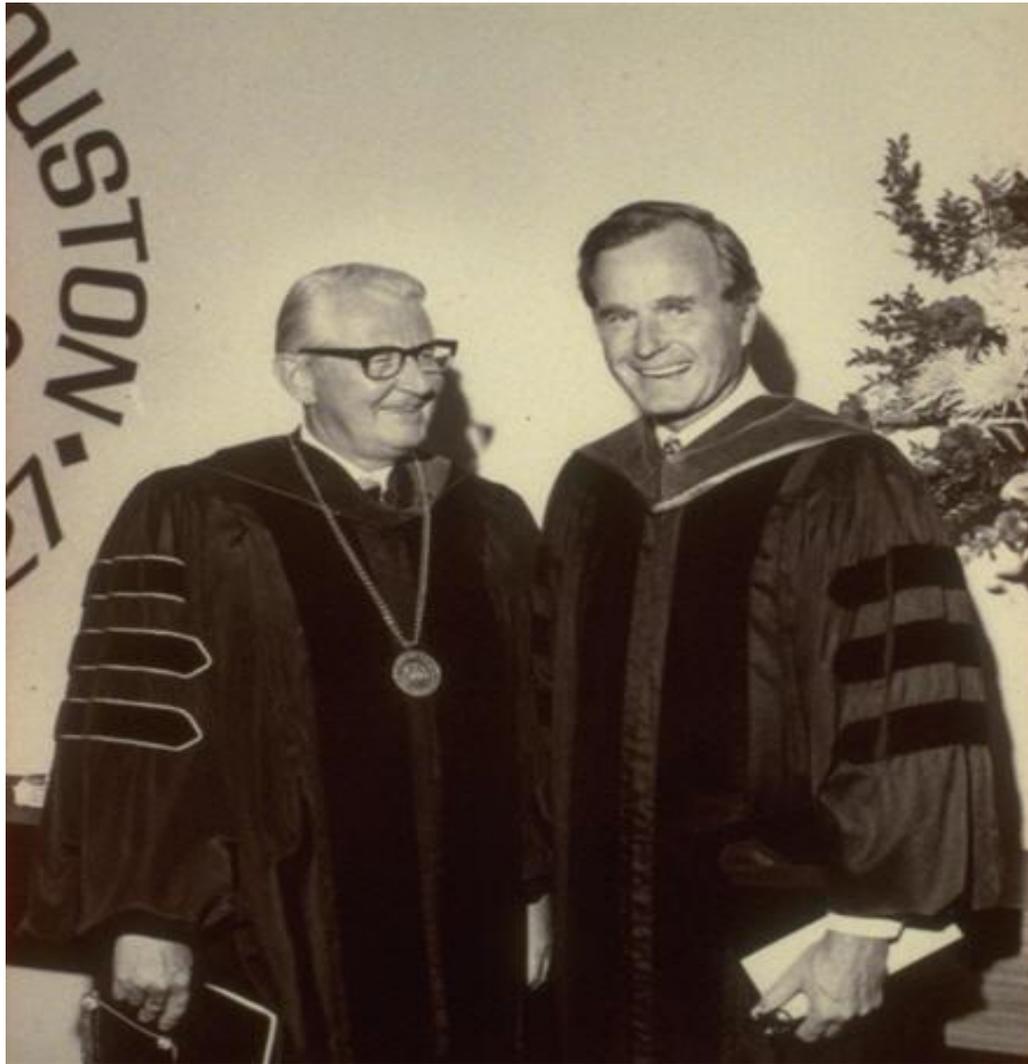
- First semester as a public university.**
- Tuition drops from \$700 to \$100 a year.**
- Enrollment skyrockets to 17,000.**

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1960s...

- Modern UH created during Phillip G. Hoffman's presidency (1961 to 1977).**
- 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.**
- State law creates UH System in 1977.**

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**--First Board of Regents as a public institution:
Ed Manion, James Elkins, Mrs. Gus Wortham,
James Duke, Col. William Bates, Corbin Robertson Sr.,
Aaron Farfel, Jack Valenti, George Hawn.**



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- 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!**

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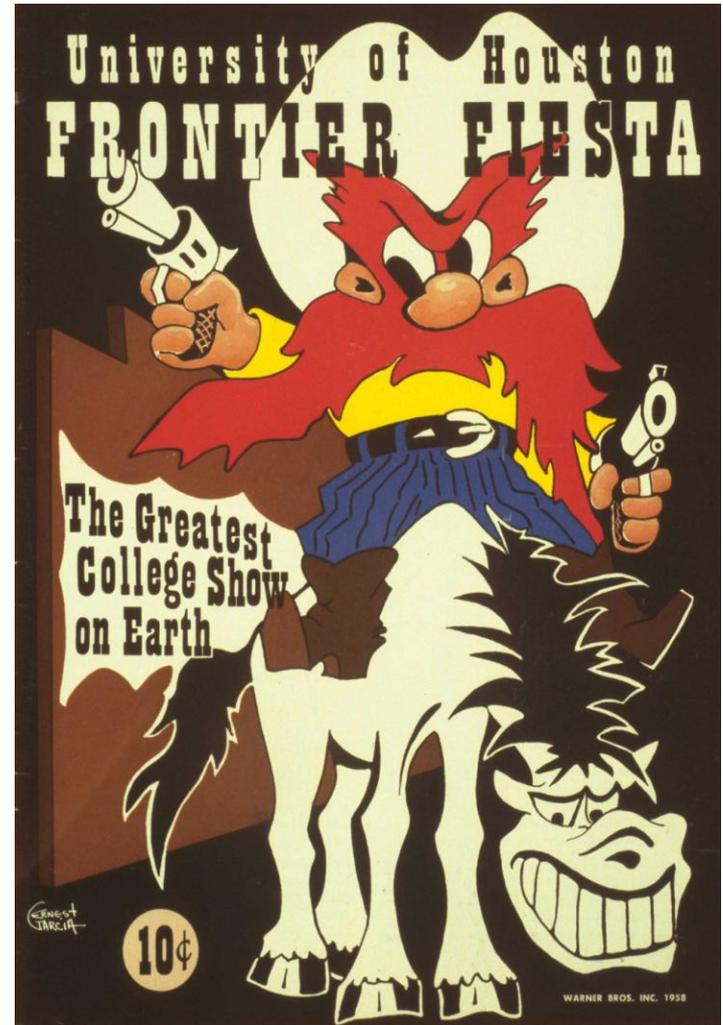
Traditions



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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.



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Shasta...

-- 1947, first mascot arrives from South Texas...
plane lands at small airport on South Main.

Mascot Arrives By Airplane Today

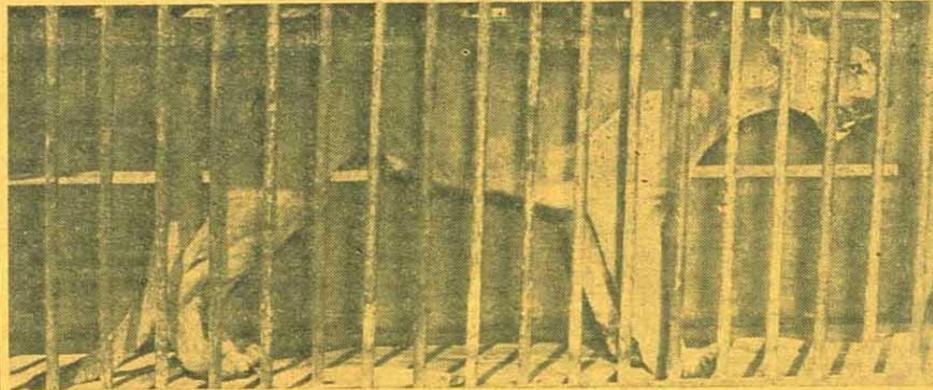
The Cougar fund, sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity, for the purpose of raising enough money to buy a cage for the mascot, was strengthened this week when four clubs made donations.

"Clubs and other campus organizations wishing to give money to the fund may do so by turning their contributions in to the student activities office," Denton Priest, director of the Cougar fund said.

Contributions thus far have passed the \$400 mark. Boxes are placed around the campus for individual donations.

Clubs donating this week:

Co-ed club	\$25
Press club	10
Red Masque Players	10
Art club	10



THIS exclusive photograph of the University's first mascot was sent direct to the Cougar by Manuel King, wild game hunter. The 75-pound puma will arrive at Bill Nierth's South Main airport at 4:15 p.m. today. He is being flown from Brownsville through the courtesy of Mr. Nierth.

The first University cougar mascot is winging his way to the campus by special air express. Accompanied by Denton Priest, president of Alpha Phi Omega pledges, and Jack Wilson, president of the Press club, the cougar will arrive at Bill Nierth's South Main airport at 4:15 p.m. today.

Mr. Nierth contributed air transportation for the new mascot. Priest arranged for the purchase of the animal and Wilson arranged the special trip and reception.

The Cougar band, cheer leaders and school officials will be on hand to greet the newcomer from Mexico, when he arrives at the airport, Radio Station KATL will wire record the reception, Bob Matthes, station representative, announced.

"We want every loyal University student on hand at the reception to welcome our new mascot, the

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THE COUGAR

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- Contest to name mascot...
- Winning name, “Shasta,” submitted by Joe Randol.
- “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.



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Cougar Sign

- 1953, Shasta loses 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 !