

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

**A quick overview of UH
history and traditions**

Student Leadership Forum

**Division of Administration and Finance
Division of Student Affairs**

May 16, 2013

*How the city saw the need
for world-class university:*

But let's start with a junior college first...



June 5, 1927...

- Houston Junior College opens doors.**
- 8 faculty members... 232 students.**
- Evening classes at San Jacinto High School.**
- Public institution under HISD management.**



1934...

- HJC becomes 4-year University of Houston – a private university, but still under HISD.**
- Classes continue in high schools, churches, other downtown locations.**
- Search begins for permanent campus.**
- Taub and Settegast families donate land off St. Bernard Street (now Cullen Boulevard).**
- Administrators approach Hugh Roy Cullen in 1936 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 heirs and their foundations giving \$130 million-plus to UH.

1939...

-- First building opens...

-- Total construction cost... \$335,000!

Cougar Dance Tonight

THE COUGAR

Cougar Dance Tonight

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COMPLETED CULLEN MEMORIAL BUILDING AT UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACCEPTED

Newest addition to Houston's college facilities is the beautiful Cullen Memorial liberal arts and cultural building, just completed on the University of Houston campus on St. Bernard street.



U. of H. Trustees Accept New Cullen Memorial Building

\$10,000 Is Withheld From Contractor Pending Adjustment

The University of Houston trustees accepted the \$335,000 Cullen Memorial Building Wednesday at a meeting at Sam Houston Senior High School, called especially for this purpose. Trustees withheld \$10,000 of the \$41,683 still due the contractor, until minor adjustments are made.

The building, a memorial gift from Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Cullen, is located at 113 St. Bernard street on a site donated by Ben Taub and the Settegast heirs.

The interior finish is in polished shell stone, buff and green plaster, and all of the halls and stairways are covered with composition flooring. An air conditioning and heating unit has been installed, as has a loudspeaker system. All classrooms and lecture halls are equipped with acoustical ceilings and indirect lighting. There are venetian blinds throughout.



1939...

**-- Roy Gustav Cullen Building (right).
Science Building (left).**



1939...

-- Entire UH faculty sits for class photo.



1940's...

-- One of first commencements in new campus



1945...

- UH finally breaks ties with HISD Board of Education.**
- Independent Board of Regents appointed...
Hugh Roy Cullen elected Chairman.**

Hugh Roy Cullen's heirs continue legacy of service...

--Daughter **Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Smith...**

No. 1 Cougar Fan

--Son-in-Law **Corbin J. Robertson, Sr....**

Board of Regents vice chair (1963 to 1965)

--Grandson **Corbin J. Robertson, Jr....**

Advocate for Texas Center for Superconductivity

--Granddaughter **Lillie Robertson...**

Supporter of Creative Writing Program, the arts

--Granddaughter **Wilhelmina "Beth" Robertson...**

BOR chair (1993 to 1996)

--Granddaughter **Carroll Robertson Ray...**

Appointed to BOR in 2008, immediate past chair



The World War II Years...

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



The World War II Years...



1946...

-- Thanks to GI Bill, 6,500 returning veterans push UH enrollment to 12,000.



1947... The famous “trailer village”



Post-War Years...

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





1950s to early 1960s...

-- Expenses out of control...

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...

- Modern UH created during Phillip G. Hoffman's presidency (1961 to 1977).**
- 25 new buildings, including the UC, Social Work, Agnes Arnold Hall, Religion Center, Social Work, Cullen College of Engineering, McElhinney Hall.**
- Teaching centers open in Clear Lake, downtown Houston, Victoria... later become free-standing universities.**
- State law creates UH System in 1977.**

--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.



-- And another important 1960s milestone...

May 1967...

- Oscar graduates – finally! – with a BA after six years of hard work and untold hours at Daily Cougar as copy editor, managing editor, and editor!



-- The 1970s, 1980s, 1990s to today... our time...
spectacular growth across the board...

In 2012...

- 40,747 students (66,000 system-wide).
- \$114M research expenditures.
- \$75M in annual giving.
- \$589.7M in endowment.
- 7,840 degrees awarded.
- Close to 300,000 alumni.
- \$3.1B economic impact on the region.

2009...

Two historic pieces of legislation provide pathway for UH to attain Tier One status (as determined by the State of Texas)...

- HB 51 creates \$50M Texas Research Incentive Fund (TRIP), a matching fund for private gifts.**
- HJR 14, constitutional amendment creates National Research University Fund (NRUF) provides sustained, dedicated funding to finance top-tier research...
first distribution was \$16M for biennium**

January 12, 2011...

--Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching elevates UH to its highest category...

“very high research university” ... or TIER ONE!

--Carnegie classifies 4,000 universities every 5 years:

Of these, only 300 are “research universities.”

Of these, only 109 are “very high research universities.”

Of these, only 3 public universities in Texas...

UT, A&M, and now UH...

--Carnegie designation is first major milestone on journey to achieve national recognition...

**Next... TARU (Top American Research Universities)...
Other criteria besides research will be considered...
Student success will be very important to be ranked
by TARU...**

**And then.. AAU (Association of American Universities)...
Membership by invitation only...
Only 63 member universities currently.**

***How the values of the “founding fathers”
still inform our mission today:***

***“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.”***

--Hugh Roy Cullen

- **“Best Colleges for Undergraduate Education”** ...
ranking based in part on feedback from students.
Princeton Review
- **“Best Value Colleges”**
Princeton Review
- **“Top 200 Universities”** ... for the very first time!
U.S. News & World Report
- **“No. 7 in U.S. graduating students with least debt”** ...
U.S. News & World Report

*How the university meets the needs
of a twenty-first century society:*

Just one example...

**The approval in February by the
UH System Board of Regents of the
University of Houston Health Science Center**

- 11,000 students in 97 health-related programs.**
- 1,800 health-related degrees in 2011.**
- That is 23% of health degrees awarded in region.**
- More than any other institution in Texas!**
- Research awards totaled \$40.5M in FY 2012.**
- That is 38% of total UH research.**
- UH already a member of Texas Medical Center.**
- New Health Science Center will provide more efficiencies and opportunities for collaboration, enhance health-related work force.**

Traditions



Frontier Fiesta...

-- Oldest tradition...

“Greatest College Show on Earth!”

-- 1940-1941.

-- Suspended during WW II.

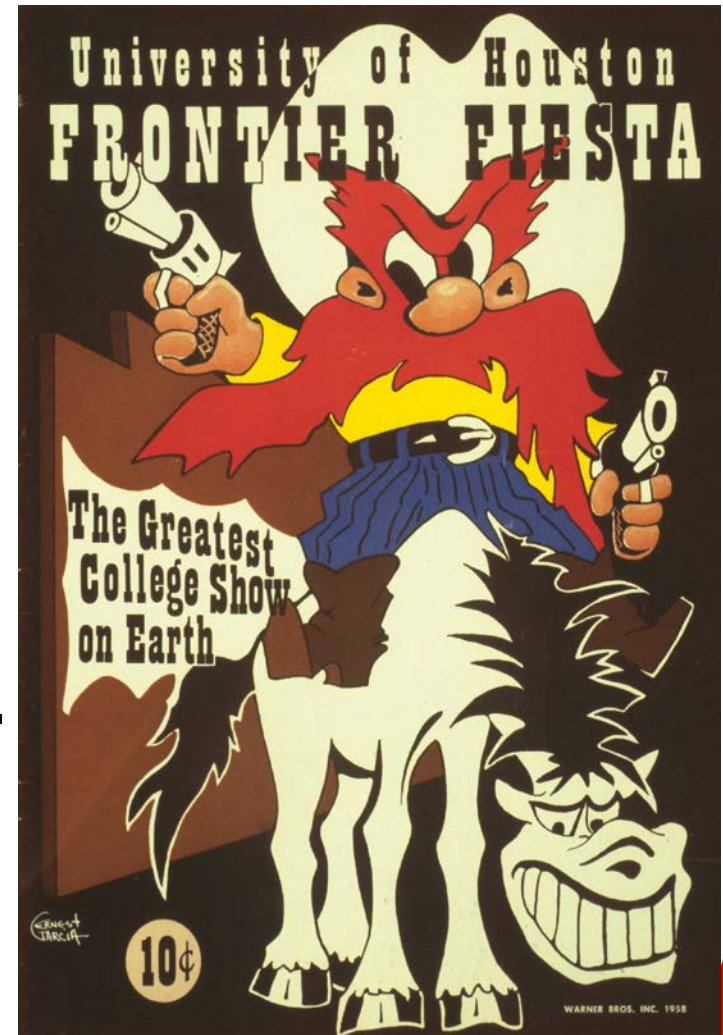
-- 1946... resumes.

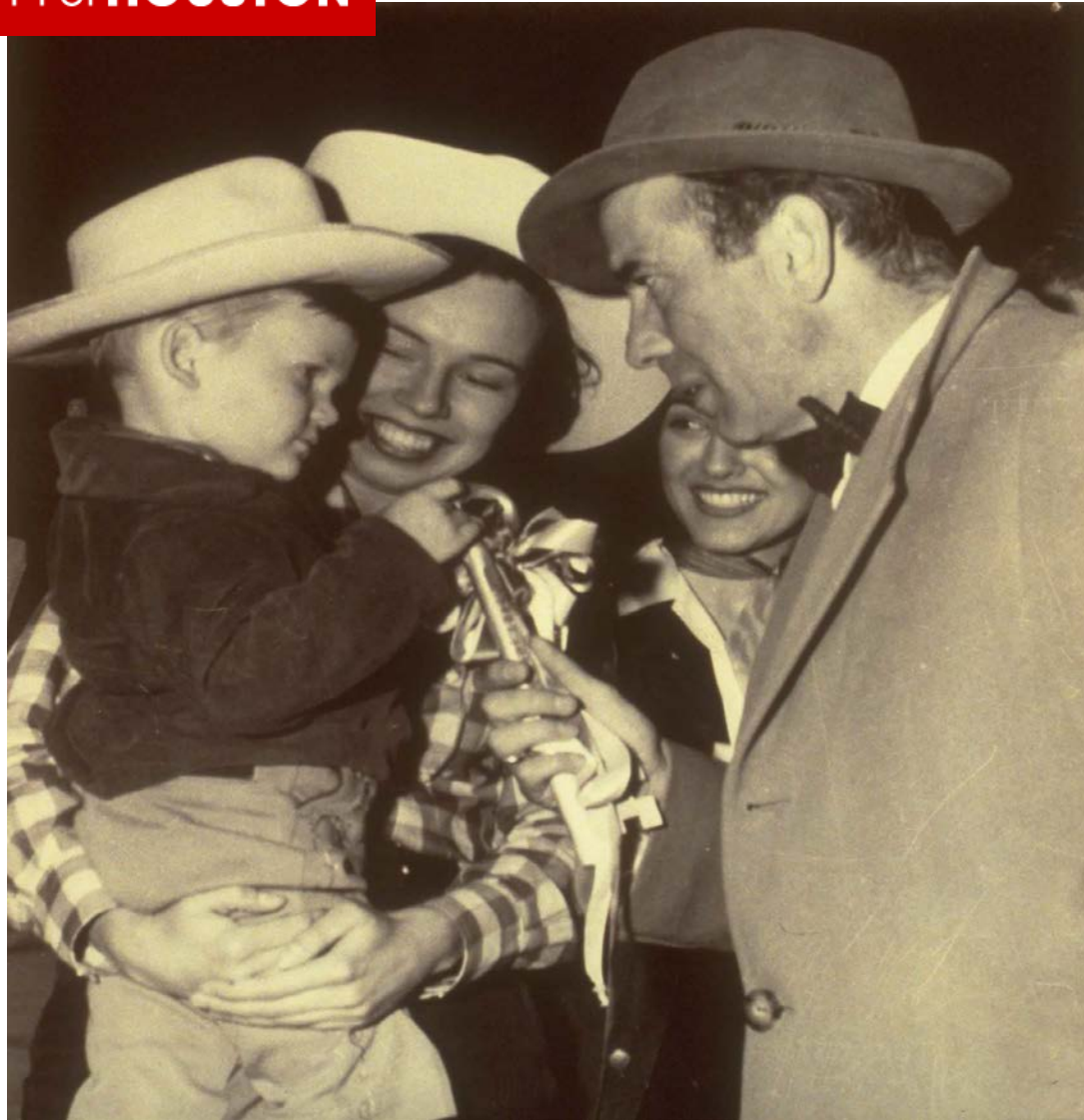
-- 1953... peaks at 150,000 visitors.

-- 1958... restrictions imposed.

-- 1959... last one.

-- 1992... reborn.





Shasta...

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

Mascot Arrives By Airplane Today

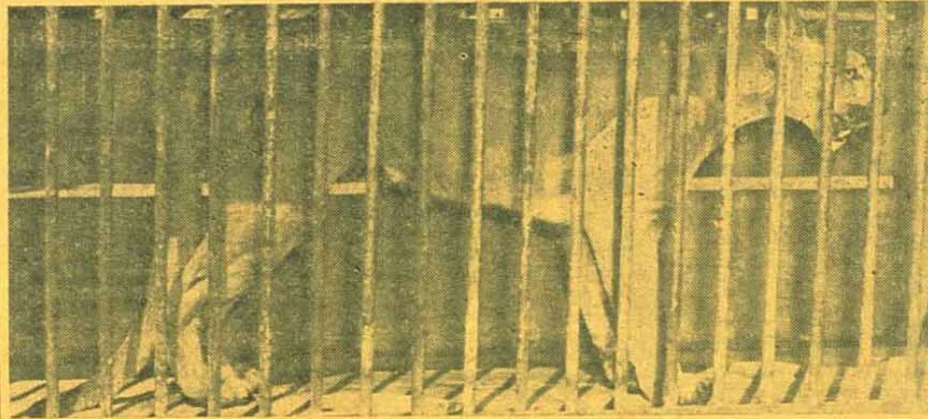
The Cougar fund, sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity, for the purpose of raising enough money to buy a cage for the mascot, was strengthened this week when four clubs made donations.

"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

(Continued on Page 8)

THE COUGAR

- Contest to name mascot...
 - Winning name, “Shasta,” submitted by Joe Randol. (losing name... “Spiritina”!)
 - “She ‘hasta’ have a cage...
She ‘hasta’ have a handler...
She ‘hasta’ have a winning team...”
 - Last mascot, Shasta V, dies 1989.
- Mr. Randol dances with Sasha →
at 2000 Golden Cougars reunion.



Cougar Sign...

- 1953, Shasta loses toe traveling to game in Austin.
- UT fans mock UH team by imitating injury.
- UH adopts sign as symbol of pride.



And now... Shasta VI...

- First male Cougar mascot.**
- Lives at Houston Zoo, not on campus.**
- Webcam in operation.**
- Plans to broadcast at home games.**



**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...

**Start making plans for
UH's Centennial!**