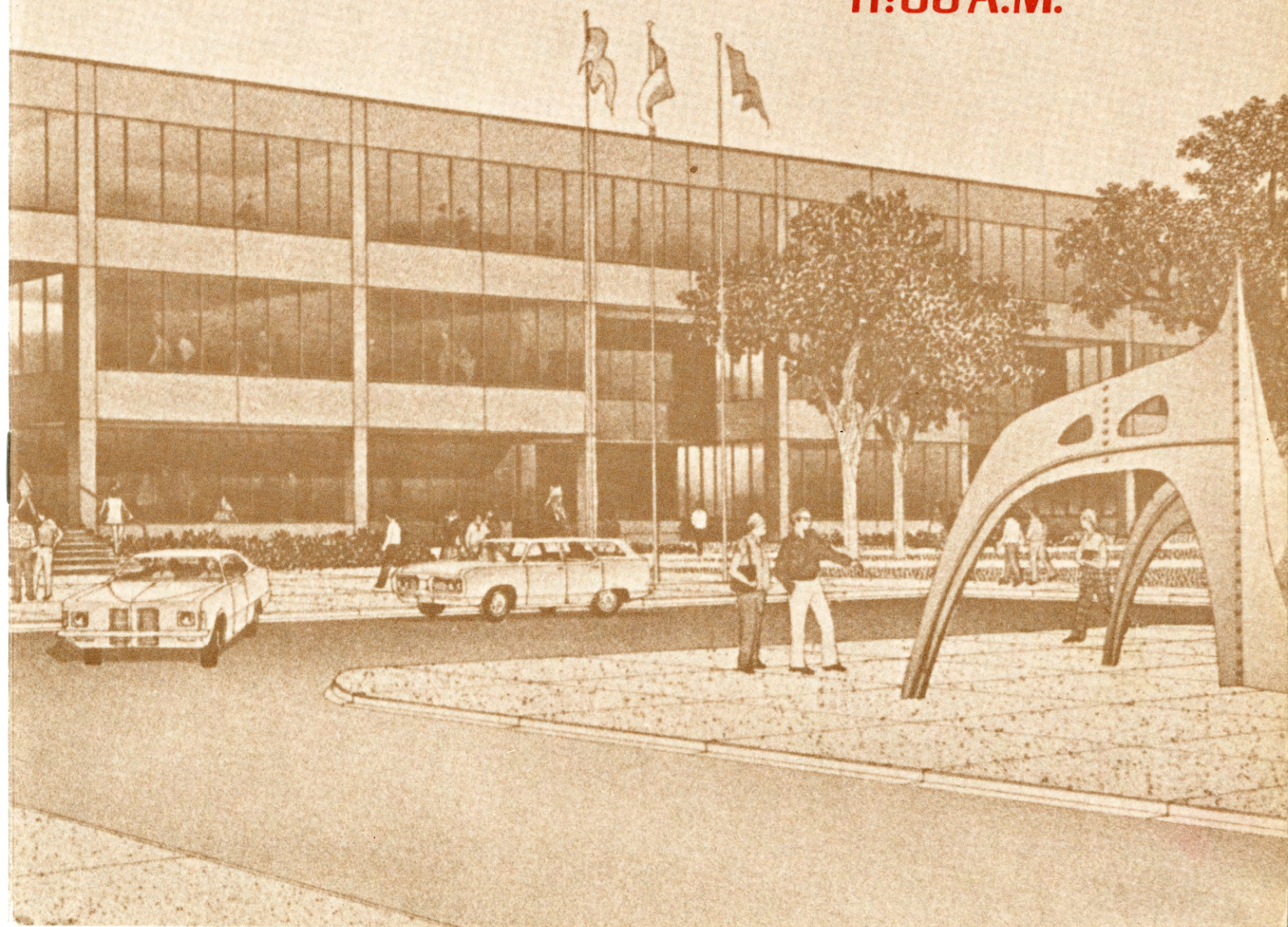


Groundbreaking University of Houston at Clear Lake City

Wednesday, May 1, 1974
11:30 A.M.



President's Comments

May 1, 1974, will become more and more significant in the history of higher education in Texas, as the University of Houston at Clear Lake City assumes its role in the development of the University of Houston as a system of interrelated campuses serving the nation's fastest growing urban area.

UH/CLC, as this newest campus is known, holds much promise in terms of its commitment to the specific and unique needs of the community colleges and of the general public in this area; its innovative, carefully-devised curricula; and its interdisciplinary approach to higher education, aimed at the last quarter of this century and beyond.

We are indebted to many on this happy and historic occasion: to the leaders of our state government who did much to bring about UH/CLC, and now honor us by their presence; to Humble Oil & Refining Company (EXXON/USA) and the Friendswood Development Company; to the advisory group from the community colleges; and of course to Chancellor Alfred R. Neumann and his colleagues, who are rapidly preparing for their first class September 1974.

I know that you join me in wishing all good fortune to UH/CLC. On behalf of the University of Houston, I congratulate all associated with this most meaningful new venture, and predict all success for a component of which we are already very proud.



Philip G. Hoffman
President



Alfred R. Neumann
Chancellor

Chancellor's Comments

The beginning of a new educational institution is a moment of rejoicing. The Clear Lake City Campus of the University of Houston was carefully conceived in terms of area needs. The student is the focal point of interaction between the soaring dreams of mankind as symbolized by the neighboring Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center and the conservation of existing values as symbolized by the Armand Bayou Project. Our interaction with eight community and junior colleges and our efforts to make available educational opportunities where access has been more difficult in the past should be fruitful for the region and the state. The facilities for which we break ground today are intended to serve an educational community in the years to come in a manner adaptable to new instructional concepts while preserving the heritage that has been handed down to us.

Background

The breaking of ground for the UH/CLC campus represents the culmination of over six years of current history in Texas higher education. In 1968, the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, approved a master plan for the University of Houston. The plan calls for two campuses to serve the growing Houston urban complex. One campus to the north of Houston will be located at the Woodlands on 400 beautiful acres, a gift of Mr. George Mitchell. Upon legislative approval, this campus will serve the new Woodlands community of 150,000 people and the surrounding rapidly growing area to the north.

The master plan also defined a campus to be developed to serve the area residents south of the city. The University's Clear Lake City Campus will offer upper level and graduate curricula to commuting students—many of whom come to us from the eight community colleges in this immediate area. The path to reality was firmly established when Rep. Bill T. Swanson introduced House Bill 199 in the 62nd Texas Legislature, calling for the creation of the University of Houston at Clear Lake City. Senator Chet Brooks carried the bill through the Senate, and H.B. 199 became law in 1971.

The enabling legislation also created an advisory council composed of the presidents, or their designated representatives, of the public community colleges in the surrounding eight counties. The advisory council first met in late 1972, following the appointment of the Chancellor of UH/CLC, and has contributed materially to the academic planning that has taken place in the past year and a half.

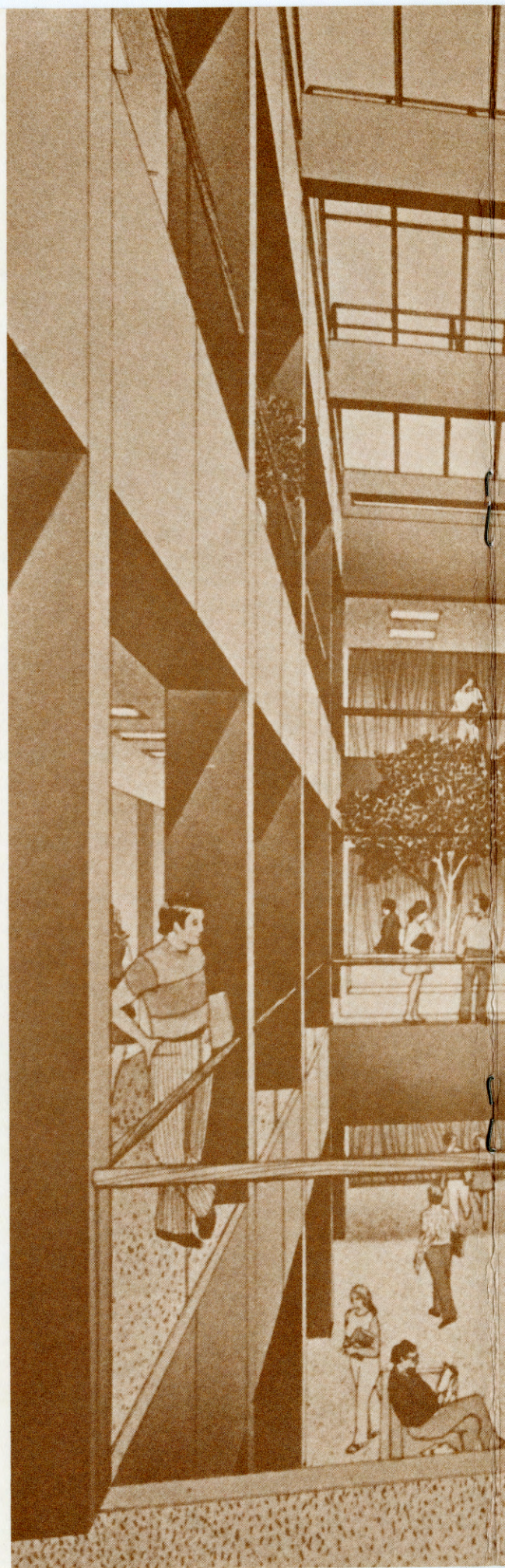
Construction of the UH/CLC campus is being financed with the proceeds of tuition bonds authorized by Senate Bill 2, introduced in the 63rd Texas Legislature by Senator A. R. "Babe" Schwartz. The bill was carried through the House by the late Rep. Hawkins Menefee and was signed into law by Governor Dolph Briscoe in 1973.

The ground that is being broken today is part of a 487-acre tract donated to the University of Houston by Friendswood Development Corporation. Located between the Armand Bayou Preservation Project and the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, UH/CLC will have symbolic windows to both the past and the future. Its own future will be shaped by a surrounding population of approximately 550,000, and UH/CLC looks forward to rapid growth and to the provision of truly unique educational services to its public.

Groundbreaking Program

Presiding	Philip G. Hoffman President University of Houston
Invocation	Reverend M. Dean Woodruff Webster Presbyterian Church
Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests	President Hoffman
Introduction of The Honorable Mark W. White, Jr. Secretary of State State of Texas	President Hoffman
Remarks	Secretary White
Introduction of The Honorable W. P. Hobby Lieutenant-Governor of Texas	Senator A. R. Schwartz Galveston, Texas
Address	Lt. Gov. Hobby
Introduction of The Honorable Dolph Briscoe Governor of Texas	Lt. Gov. Hobby
Address	Governor Briscoe
Introduction of Alfred R. Neumann Chancellor University of Houston at Clear Lake City	President Hoffman
Remarks	Chancellor Neumann
Introduction of A. J. Farfel Chairman, Board of Regents University of Houston	President Hoffman
Remarks	Chairman Farfel
Groundbreaking	
Closing Remarks	President Hoffman
Benediction	Reverend Don Alfred Neumann St. Paul's Catholic Church Nassau Bay

Entertainment by the Cougar Brass under the direction of
William Moffit, director of the University of Houston Marching Band.





Educational Concept

The University of Houston at Clear Lake City is an upper-level and graduate institution with the fundamental charge of extending the educational opportunities of students who have completed two or more years of college; of providing non-traditional curricula in response to the needs of contemporary society; and of meeting the continuing and often specialized educational needs of the unique population of the Bay Area—Upper Gulf Coast region of Texas. UH/CLC has dedicated itself to the concept of integrated studies and has predicated on this dedication its entire organizational structure. Its three Schools—Sciences and Technologies; Professional Studies; Human Sciences and Humanities—contain clusters of closely-related programs, and the organizational placement of programs is based on similarities of students' educational and career objectives rather than on arbitrary or traditional patterns of departmentalization.

While recognizing the traditional trichotomy of instruction, research, and service, UH/CLC prefers to view its educational method as the amalgamation and collaboration of resources in whatever patterns are appropriate to assisting each student as an individual in his progress towards a life goal. Paramount emphasis is placed on excellent teaching, with the understanding that teaching is not merely an imparting of held knowledge but is a helping to learn; that productive stimuli ensue from humane as well as expert methodologies; that the role of research is to be an integral part of the teaching process; and that the byproducts of excellent teaching are in fact the substance of public service.

As a reflection of the integration of the disciplines and of emphasis on free intellectual exchange, UH/CLC appoints its faculty on an at-large basis. Their individual competencies and talents are available as resources to be tapped by whatever programs may benefit therefrom, and their obligation as human beings is to advise and to converse with students in whatever forum presents itself.

The University of Houston at Clear Lake City will award bachelor's and master's degrees of considerable diversity, representing the culmination of many curricular pathways. The degrees it confers on its graduates will testify that the student has been a contributing participant in a project of shared intellectual development; that the University itself has been enriched by his individual presence; that he becomes not merely an alumnus of an institution but a permanent extension of its intellectual community.

Facilities

Today's ceremonies mark the beginning of construction of the permanent UH/CLC campus. The architectural concept is non-traditional: the first two phases of construction will result in a single three-story "megastructure" of steel and glass, measuring 360 by 520 feet and housing offices, classrooms, laboratories, library, theatre, and student service facilities under one roof. The building will feature two large interior courtyards, three stories high; the exterior will be of anodized aluminum, bronze glass, and textured concrete.

UH/CLC views its architectural embodiment as a symbol of community. Those who work and study therein will have diverse objectives but will approach those objectives with a singleness of spirit and of intellectual enthusiasm. The megastructure will rise from a natural environment of woods and plains, the character of which will be preserved in essence but will be enhanced by the addition of ponds and nature walks. Personnel and students may thus avail themselves of provocative contrasts: exceptional modernity of facilities and careful preservation of the surrounding ecology.

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