Highlights:

- **BU mascot is the Boston Terrier; mascot does not have an official name.**

- **Live (and later costumed) terriers, as embodiments of the BU mascot, have existed since the 1920s.**

- **BU’s live/costumed mascots have had at least 7 names, since 1925.**

- **“Rhett,” as a mascot name, has been in use since 1983**
Timeline

- Nov. 1922: Boston Terrier wins student vote to become BU mascot.
- Oct. 11, 1927: *BU News* identifies mascot as **Kappa**.
- 1933: **Danny** purchased by student subscription. [*Drowns in Charles River in 1935*]
- Nov. 1935: **Danny II** christened as new mascot by Terrier football.
- Oct. 1949: New pup given to Dean Percy to replace former mascot, who ran away. Named **Gulliver** after student contest (in Nov).
Timeline

- 1956: new live mascot named **Fumbles** (later renamed **Touchdown**)
- Nov. 1983: **Rhett** (costumed mascot) introduced at home football game.
- 2008: **Rhett** (unofficial live mascot) makes 1st appearance. [*Dies in Apr. 2019*]
• The idea of a terrier, which was inspired by ‘Tim’ Ward formerly editor of *The Beanpot*, was suggested by way of feeling out sentiment as to the adoption of some such symbol...[T]he fact that a **terrier has been associated always with Boston** might make it especially appropriate.”

• ”The plan is for some such symbol to be selected, perhaps by **popular vote early in the fall**, which will stand in the public mind for all B.U. teams"
• “The Boston terrier may be small, but he is marked by impressive traits—the courage and determination of the bulldog, and the speed, zip, aggressiveness and enterprise that distinguish the terrier breed, and, above all, loyalty.”

• “He is the only animal which is distinctive of Boston and of Boston alone. His official name is BOSTON TERRIER. No other college can steal our thunder in that choice. There are other bears, other tigers and other bulldogs, but there would be only one Boston terrier, since Boston College has officially adopted the name ‘Eagles’ to typify the topographical location of its eyrie.”
Just Another Terrier Victory!

Even “Kappa,” the B. U. Terrier mascot, knows how to cover the pigskin. During the halves of the game Saturday the cheer leaders tossed the football from one to another with the pup in pursuit. At times it was hard to distinguish the dog from the ball as they rolled all over the field. The going was hard at first for the pup, but he soon found a way to capture his objective.

He pulled the raw-hide loose and with it between his teeth, carried the ball to the sidelines. Even after he was tied to a post and the ball placed under a sweater the Terrier was determined to have that ball. He pulled and he tugged while the B. U. cheering section stood in silence out of respect for the Colby song. At last the pup broke away, dug underneath the sweater, got the football by the lacing, and began to swing it about in the air triumphantly.

BU News, October 11, 1927 Boston Terrier mascot “Kappa”
SEEN FROM THE STANDS

Here is the presentation of Danny II to President Daniel L. Marsh last Saturday by State Representative George Demeter, Law '24, and Andrew J. Gray, news editor of the News.

BU News, November 29, 1935 Boston Terrier mascot “Danny II” at Nickerson Field in Weston, MA
BU News, November 15, 1949 “Gulliver” announced

Boston University / On May 10, 1957, football captains Jack Regan (left) and Larry Venecoor posed in Marsh Plaza with mascot “Fumbles,” whose name was later (wisely) changed to “Touchdown.”
“Rhett,” the Terriers new mascot was unveiled two weeks ago in the football team’s final home game. “Rhett” was created by Daryl Wright (above). “Rhett’s” name was created by taking the first few letters of the word “Terrier” and spelling it backwards. “It’s also appropriate because Rhett Butler (from Gone With the Wind) was a scoundrel and a gentleman, and so is our mascot,” said Wright.
“Rhett is a gentleman for each woman he meets, a sparring partner for each man and a caring mischievous playmate for each child.”

“Rhett” is a one syllable call name that comes from the first three letters of Terrier, spelled backwards. The allusion to Rhett Butler from Gone with the Wind, is not entirely incidental. Rhett is a gentleman and a scoundrel.
Senior Banquet

PRESIDENT SILVER RECOGNIZED ROBERT SHEPP FOR CREATING SHEPP FOR BOSTON UNIVERSITY ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1969. THE LICENSE FOR SHEPP'S COPYRIGHT WAS SIGNED OVER TO THE UNIVERSITY.

Each of the 1,400 graduating seniors received a silver shepp balloon and a t-shirt as mementos of the breakfast banquet.
Original 1983 “Rhet” costume
New costume 1996
New costume c.2004
(ears more rounded)
Costume redesign c.2008
(ears more pointed, different nose)
The Long Battle Over ‘Gone With the Wind’

The 1939 blockbuster once symbolized the ultimate in mass entertainment. But African-Americans have protested against it from the start, even if white America didn’t want to hear it.

The film tried to sanitize some of the novel’s racist elements. References to the Ku Klux Klan, which the novel calls “a tragic necessity,” were omitted. Reluctantly, Selznick also cut from the script a common but notorious racial slur (“the hate word,” as one African-American journalist who weighed in put it).

The film also finessed a scene from the book where Scarlett, while riding alone through a shantytown, is nearly raped by a black man, which prompts a retaliatory raid by the Klan. Instead, the attacker is a poor white man, and the nature of the posse that rides out to avenge her honor is not specified.
Rhett and Scarlett: Rough Sex Or Rape? Feminists Give a Damn

THE O.J. Simpson trial is one reflection of how domestic violence haunts American society. Is "Gone With the Wind" another? Specifically, did Rhett Butler rape Scarlett, or, less offensively, ravish Scarlett O'Hara?

The debate began a few years back in academic journals and the lecture hall between two feminist philosophers — one of them Christina Hoff Sommers, who has since outraged many feminists with her book "Who Stole Feminism? How Women Betrayed Women," published last year. The argument in her book — that feminism is dominated by those who seek to persuade the public that American women "are not the free creatures we think we are" — is foreshadowed in the dispute over Margaret Mitchell's Civil War saga.

In case you missed it, the debate has resurfaced again. Here are excerpts.

From a speech given last fall to the American Enterprise Institute by Ms. Sommers, an associate professor of philosophy at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., and reprinted in the current issue of The American Enterprise:

"Until 1899, I was an academic feminist in good standing. My essays were included in female anthologies. I was invited to feminist conferences. My courses were cross-listed with Women's Studies. I ran afoul of the feminist establishment when I published an essay in the "New York Times" about her swiftly in his arms, I stopped suddenly on the landing and, turning, called "Whoa!" He swung her off her feet into his arms and staggered up the stairs. Her head was crushed against his chest... He hurt her and she cried out... Up the stairs, he went in the utter darkness, up, and she was wild with fear... She stopped suddenly on the landing and, turning, called "Whoa!"

"[Rhett Butler] was bullying and breaking [Scarlett]; "He had humbled her, hurt her, used her brutally through a wild and mad night." (novel)
Rhett at BU (Beyond the Costume)
* Rhett’s East/West (dining);
* Rhett’s West closed in Nov 2019.
*Rhett Bench (installed Fall 2019)

*Rhett Talks, Tedx-style
(ongoing)