The College of Boca Raton was able to begin its first major expansion in more than a decade, thanks to the generosity of Charles and Dorothy Schmidt.

The $1 million-plus donation from the Schmidts will be used for a complex that will provide expanded library services, a computerized classroom, new administrative facilities, and a new entrance to the campus.

It is the largest donation the privately-run college has ever received. Ground was broken October 1 for the 18,000 square-foot facility, to be named the Charles E. and Dorothy F. Schmidt College Centre.

"Needless to say," Dr. Ross commented, "the gift is magnanimous on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt. It will be the focal point on campus."

In addition, Dr. Ross said that the new center will help the College expand its curriculum in the technology field as it goes into its four year expansion program.

In view of the College's expansion, Schmidt, the former controlling shareholder in Gulfstream Banks, N.A., said that he and his wife made their donation "because this was an appropriate time."

"We owe a great deal of thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Schmidt for this gift," said Dr. Ross. "It is symbolic of their continuing generosity and support for this community. This facility will serve as a landmark to the emergence of Boca Raton as one of the nation's most progressive regions for business and education."

Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Schmidt College Centre at the College of Boca Raton are (from left): College President Dr. Donald Ross; Philanthropists Dorothy F. and Charles E. Schmidt and their grandson, David; and Boca Raton Mayor William A. Konrad.
The Second Annual College Ball, held on November 20, was an overwhelming success.

A capacity crowd of over 400 people was treated to one of the outstanding social events of the year and through their generosity, over $110,000 was raised. The theme for the evening was a Japanese Fantasy.

Proceeds from the College Ball each year are used for the Scholarship Fund.

President Donald Ross commended Chairman Christine Lynn and the members of the various Ball Committees for their "hard work and dedication to this very vital project."

SCHMIDT RECEIVES BOCA RATON AWARD

Highlighting the Ball was the presentation, by President Ross and Boca Raton Mayor Konrad, of the Second Annual Boca Raton Award to businessman Charles Schmidt.

Schmidt was cited for his outstanding contribution to the business, cultural and economic development of Boca Raton. Schmidt and his wife, Dorothy, have been generous benefactors to the College of Boca Raton, Boca Raton Community Hospital, Florida Atlantic University, and numerous other charities.

M.I.T. TEAM VISITS CAMPUS

A team of blue ribbon academicians from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was scheduled to visit the College of Boca Raton in late January to explore ways to answer the educational needs of South Florida's high technology industry.

According to College President Donald Ross, "We arranged this visit specifically to assess the extent of the needs that area high technology employers have for post-graduate education and explore ways in which M.I.T. and the College of Boca Raton might be involved in meeting those needs."

Among the team visiting the campus was Arthur Z. Gray, former President, Union Pacific Foundation; Dr. J. Francis Reintjes, Professor of Electrical Engineering Emeritus at M.I.T.; Dr. Margaret L. A. MacVicar, Director of M.I.T.'s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program; Dr. Andrew W. Revay, Jr., Dean of the School of Engineering at Florida Institute of Technology; and Vincent A. Fulmer, Secretary of the Institute at M.I.T.
The year of 1982 will be remembered as the most successful fund raising year in the College’s history. At year’s end the generosity of Boca Raton residents had made possible the College’s first new building, an expanded Electronics Technology Program, a new and innovative Gerontology Program, and several other major gifts.

THE CHARLES & DOROTHY SCHMIDT BUILDING

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a report on groundbreaking for the College’s new Administration Building which is made possible by the generous gift of Boca Raton residents Charles and Dorothy Schmidt. This will be the first new building on the campus in over ten years.

THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Clement C. Winke, Publisher of the Boca Raton News, presented a check for $10,000 to the College on behalf of the Knight Foundation. This support enables the College to continue its commitment to provide quality private education.

THE ASSAF INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Major gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Ron Assaf and the Sensormatic Corporation earlier in 1982 made possible a dramatic expansion of the College’s Electronics programs, including the introduction of new four year degree programs. Due in large measure to the Assaf’s generosity, the College for the first time is offering Bachelor Degree Programs in 15 areas, from Electronics Engineering Technology and Micro-Computer Information Systems to Hotel/Restaurant Management and Aviation.

THE VIRGINIA SYLVESTER CHAIR IN GERONTOLOGY

A $500,000 gift from the Harcourt M. Sylvester Charitable Foundation has enabled the College to provide opportunities for young people to learn this important new field that deals with aging and the problems of the aged. With Florida having become the retirement center of the United States, the introduction of this program has been particularly timely. Dr. David J. Demko, a distinguished scholar in gerontology, was the recipient of the Chair and has already introduced several courses on human aging.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Several Boca Raton residents used the occasion of the Second Annual College Ball to make major gifts to the College Scholarship Fund. Leading this group were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lynn, and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wagner.

In reviewing the year’s progress, President Donald Ross said, “The generous support provided by these fine people has made possible substantial growth for the College and has allowed us to break new trails in meeting today’s academic needs.”

“We are deeply grateful for the confidence in us which these very generous gifts have demonstrated.”
With the announcement of a new branch campus for Downtown Boca Raton, the College of Boca Raton has taken the lead in the redevelopment of the downtown area.

The joint announcement of the new Downtown Campus was made by College President Donald Ross, Mayor William Konrad, and Downtown Redevelopment Agency Chairman Avery Fonda. It marked the first tangible step toward revitalization of the downtown Boca Raton area.

In making the announcement, President Ross said the downtown branch will be "closely allied with firms in the area and the needs and desires of the employees."

Classes at the new branch will be offered at times convenient to downtown workers: early morning, at the lunch hour, and after work.

"The College of Boca Raton's commitment to the community, a commitment shared by area high technological and business firms, is enhanced by the new downtown branch," said Mayor Konrad.

Ross expressed appreciation to Gulfstream Bank for donating the facility in which the branch will be housed downtown.

The best evidence of the College's important role in the Boca Raton community can be found in the active role played by President Donald Ross in a number of community endeavors.

With Ross' leadership as Chairman of the local United Way, the 1983 campaign goal was exceeded.

In addition, Ross was recently elected to a second term on the Board of Directors of the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, and has recently been appointed by Boca Raton Mayor William Konrad to the city's new Beautification Committee.

Topping off the list was President Ross' recent appointment as Chairman of a Special 40-Member Task Force studying the future of the Republican Party of Florida. Ross' appointment was announced by State Republican Chairman Henry Sayler at a news conference in Tallahassee.