



News from the Foundation

GIVING BACK IS MOVING FORWARD

EDISON POPS CONCERT SERIES BOTH A CELEBRATION AND SYMBOL FOR OPPORTUNITY

By Dr. Tom Rath, Dean of Academic Affairs, Charlotte Campus

For those of you who missed them, the Edison POPS at Sunset Concerts held on the Lee and Charlotte Campuses were a spectacular success. The Charlotte Campus 'Let The Good Times Roll' with the BoogieMen while the Lee Campus danced the night away with the Commodores!

I've volunteered at the POPS Concerts since I first came to Edison State College 11 years ago. Odds are I've given you a ride on my golf cart over the years. If not I, then you likely met one of our many gracious student volunteers. Seeing those student volunteers, many of which are first generation college students and HOPE (Help

One Person Excel) Scholars, sparked a little self-reflection.

The main purpose of these concerts is to raise funds to benefit students and programs at Edison State College. This year's events raised more than \$60,000 for the Adult Retraining Scholarship Program, which is designed to help Southwest Florida residents cope with the difficult economic times by furthering their education. Over the years many great programs have benefited, one of which being Project HOPE. Started in 1993, the program provides scholarships



The Commodores rocked the crowd at the Edison POPS Concert on the Lee Campus

to high school students that would be first generation collegians but are at risk

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NEW SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BENEFIT EDISON NURSING STUDENTS

A life changing experience, literally, is what prompted Anne Simpson, of Punta Gorda, to direct a gift to the Edison State Foundation to establish the **Osco Simpson Nursing Scholarship Fund**. Two years ago, Anne was in the hospital for emergency surgery when a complication arose. "The nurse's quick thinking saved her life", recalls her son. It was during this hospital stay the Simpson family learned their nurse was a graduate of Edison State's Nursing Program. "She praised her professors and the time she spent in the nursing program", said Mrs. Simpson. After Anne's husband, Osco, passed away from a long illness, she realized the impact nurses had on their lives and was compelled to create a scholarship to assist future nurses who will be able to positively affect others lives the way they had her own.

Elaine Olson truly understands the value of a highly skilled and trained nurse. Her beloved husband, Ebert Olson, was



Elaine and Ebert Olson

ill for many years. During this time he received excellent around the clock care from some of Collier county's finest nurses. "The nurses that cared for my husband loved their career and had a true compassion for their patients", recalls Elaine Olson. In his honor, the Olson family has made a generous donation to the Edison State College Foundation to established the **Olson Family Nursing Scholarship Fund**. Their wish is to provide Edison State's outstanding students the opportunity

to become outstanding nurses in the Collier community. "When a loved one is sick, it's comforting to have a caring medical professional by your side".

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