

NEWS BRIEFS

Berger MacKinnon honored for service



In recognition of her service efforts, Dottie Berger MacKinnon was recently named the Parke Wright III Award winner for the Tampa Bay community.

MacKinnon

The award is annually presented to a member of Leadership Tampa Alumni who has made a significant difference in the community, exemplifying attributes such as initiative, selflessness, commitment, dependability and motivation.

Berger MacKinnon received the award at the alumni group's annual meeting Jan. 19 at the Renaissance Tampa Hotel at International Plaza

Her community activities include involvement with the Joshua House, Tampa General Hospital Authority, Florida Health Sciences Center, Environmental Protection Commission and the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners.

In November, Berger MacKinnon started the Kids Charity of Tampa Bay outreach, raising \$30,000 with her first fundraising event in December.

She has received several other community awards, including the R. David Thomas Child Advocate of the Year Award, Judeo-Christian Health Clinic Humanitarian of the Year Award and the Guardian Ad Litem Guild Champion for Children Award.

UT gears up for construction

The University of Tampa recently began site preparation on a 448-bed residence and dining hall, expected to be complete in fall 2007.

The new hall will sit northeast of the

school's track, across from the David A. Straz Jr. Hall, providing greater capacity for residential students. About 65 percent of UT students live in campus housing.

Floors two through seven of the new building will be residential, with suite-style accommodations that include common living rooms, two double bedrooms, a bathroom with shower and twin lavatories. The second floor will also include a large community room, laundry, vending and study area, and the hall director's apartment.

On the bottom floor, retailers such as Dairy Queen, Orange Julius and Sedona Grill will set up shop alongside a convenience store.

Cost of constructing the residence hall is estimated at \$38.7 million, eased by a \$5 million anonymous donation to the university.

In January, the UT Board of Trustees approved issuing a \$45 million bond to support the remaining costs, as well as a 700-space expansion of the school's west parking garage that will cost \$5.8 million.