

Tom Shannon to be inducted into Horatio Alger Association

April 3, 2009

Thomas Joseph Shannon Jr. will be presented Friday with the 2009 Horatio Alger Award and inducted as a lifetime member of the Horatio Alger Association at a ceremony in Washington. The awards honor dedicated community leaders who overcome adversity to achieve success.

Shannon is founder of real estate development firm Village Development Co. in Tampa and T-Bird Restaurant Group Inc. in La Jolla, Calif.

T-Bird operates 63 Outback Steakhouse restaurants nationally. The company is the chain's largest franchisee in the United States with sales of more than \$200 million and more than 5,000 employees.

A graduate of the University of Florida Shannon earned football and baseball scholarships there and was later inducted into the Hall of Fame for both sports.

Through the Tom and Kathy Shannon Family Foundation, he and his wife have donated more than \$1 million to the university's Hough Graduate School of Business and support other local charities.

Ten other individuals will also be honored at the event, including actor and director Denzel Washington; Indra K. Nooyi, chairman and chief executive officer of PepsiCo Inc.; and Stephen A. Wynn, chairman and chief executive officer of Wynn Resorts.

Founded in 1947, the Horatio Alger Association is a nonprofit educational organization based in Alexandria, Va. Also in the Tampa Bay area, George W. Jenkins, founder of Publix Super Markets Inc.; Augustine R. Marusi, retired chairman of Borden Inc.; Chris Sullivan, founder of OSI Restaurant Partners Inc.; James W. Walter Sr., manager of Walter Property Investments LLC; and Michael W. Wright, retired chairman of Supervalu Inc., are members of the Horatio Alger Association.