

THE PACE GROUP Announces New Division President



The PACE Group, a Mississippi-based executive search firm, has announced that George E. Smith will become the President for the company’s new Collegiate Athletic Practice out of their Chicago office.

Smith comes to the PACE Group after 15 years with the University of Mississippi where he was Executive Associate Athletic Director and Executive Director of the Ole Miss Loyalty Foundation. During George’s time at Ole Miss he initiated and completed numerous stadium expansions, facilities campaigns, and membership increases that combined for over a \$150 million.

Smith oversaw the athletics department marketing activities, athletics ticket office, and priority seating programs. He was also intimately involved in the head football and basketball coaching searches, as a senior level administrator.

“George Smith brings a great deal of knowledge and experience in collegiate athletics to our team, “ said Daniel Logan, Chief Operating Officer of the PACE Group. “We could not be more excited to have such a professional executive to help us move the PACE Group into a new area of our business.”

Smith has held several coaching and coordinator positions in college football including stints at Ole Miss, Arkansas State, Louisiana Tech, and Northwest Mississippi Community College. He has participated in multiple post-season bowl games with numerous players who have successfully pursued professional careers.

What they are saying about George Smith and PACE...

“After 20 years of interaction, I can say unequivocally that George Smith is the consummate professional who has an immense network throughout the NCAA. He is the perfect fit for PACE and this is ideal timing for the launching of a much needed high level Collegiate Sports Practice. Pace could not have done better”
– **Robbie Robertson (CEO) The Colonnade Group**

“I have known George for over 25 years, and I can say without hesitation, that Pace has made a wise choice in selecting someone of George’s caliber to lead their new sports practice. He has always been a forward thinker, with strong leadership qualities. I look forward to watching George make an impact on PACE the way he did for my alma mater.” – **Archie Manning**

George was very instrumental in my coming to Ole Miss from Cincinnati and has been very supportive of me and our program. Given George’s skill set and network, he will be exceptional in this new role. This is a great fit for PACE.” – **Ole Miss Head Basketball Coach Andy Kennedy**

George has been a great asset to me in my transition at Ole Miss. He was always someone that I could count on to deal with issues in a proactive, positive manner. I value his friendship and his example. As we say on the recruiting trail, PACE got a good one.” – **Ole Miss Head Football Coach Houston Nutt**

I look forward to working with George in coaching searches in the near future. We have had many conversations over the years regarding coaching candidates and He is as knowledgeable as anyone we deal with. PACE did well.” – **Agent Jimmy Sexton**

Smith is married and the father of two children, both Ole Miss graduates.

The PACE Group is a retained executive search firm specializing in corporate, non-profit, collegiate and health care searches. The firm was founded in 1993 and has completed searches in 42 states and over 400 communities. The PACE Group has locations in Tupelo, Mississippi and Chicago, Illinois.



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