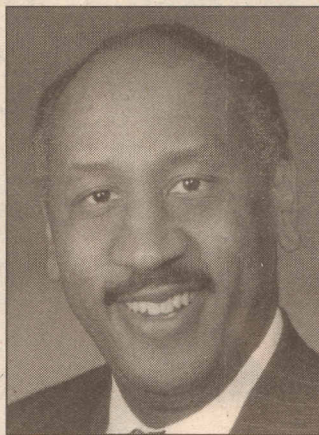


# Local businessman receives high honor from Morehouse College

Atlanta - In recognition as an alumnus with innovative and creative entrepreneurial achievement whose business is excelling in its industry and is an outstanding example of sustainability, growth and noteworthy accomplishments, the Morehouse College



Edgar L. Smith, Jr. | Photo provided

Entrepreneurship Center in Atlanta, Georgia, Edgar L. Smith, Jr. named the first recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus during the inaugural ICE awards ceremony. The ceremony, as part of the

Morehouse College Entrepreneurship Center Conference entitled Strategies for Small Business Success where they also celebrated small business collaborations and mentor protégé relationships at Morehouse College. The conference also introduced and showcased the center's services as a premier federal development assistance provider for small enterprises. Smith earned his Bachelors of Arts degree, majoring in Marketing, in 1983 from Morehouse College. Prior to his life as an entrepreneur, he gained 20 plus years of solid sales and marketing experience as he progressed through various sales positions of increasing responsibility with six Fortune 500 companies (R.R. Donnelley, Monsanto, James River, Georgia-Pacific, Smurfit-Stone and Coca-Cola) who all were leaders within their respective industries. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors over the years for his success in industry, the community and his accomplishments as an entrepreneur, including this current distinction. Edgar Smith is the Chairman and CEO of the World Pac Companies - The World Packaging Company, LLC (World Pac) an innovative packaging & global solutions company and World Pac Paper, LLC a Cincinnati based national distributor of high-quality printing and packaging papers.

World Pac Paper, a national distributor of high quality printing and packaging papers, has surfaced as an industry leader. It is one of the fastest growing independent paper distributors in North America, with revenue growth over the past three years of 805 percent. They represent the availability of paper/specialty products from over 45 plus global paper manufacturers.

No stranger to recognition, World Pac Paper was recently named by the Cincinnati Business Courier as a 2007 Fast 55 company (ranked #3 on the list of the fastest growing 55 privately held companies in the 15 county Tri-State Region). In October, 2007 it was selected M/WBE Supplier of the Year by Procter & Gamble. World Pac Paper was awarded the

2007 Emerging Business of the Year by Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, the nation's fifth largest Chamber with more than 6,000 member businesses, in May 2007. World Pac Paper was named among Ohio's Top 100 Women and Minority Owned Businesses in the state by DiversityBusiness.com in April 2007 and it was also recently listed (#13) on the Cincinnati Business Courier's list of the Top 25 Largest Tri-State Minority-Owned

Businesses. For two consecutive years, the Cincinnati Business Incubator (CBI) has recognized World Pac Paper with the Emerge Award for Outstanding Economic Development (June 2006 & June 2007).

Edgar L. Smith, Jr., CEO of World Pac Paper, LLC said "There are few things more gratifying than being positively acknowledged or honored by one's beloved alma mater. Receiving the inaugural Outstanding Alumnus is a tremendous honor. Being an entrepreneur requires a toughness, tenacity, determination and innovative action to achieve success, despite all of the odds. Morehouse College provided a legacy of excellence, integrity, spirituality, a road map to personal & professional achievement along with an opportunity to inspire and be inspired. Morehouse College has long been recognized as one of the world's foremost centers of higher education and training." Edgar Smith adds, "Minority entrepreneurs are one of the fastest growing segments within business. They are starting companies at greater rates. However, there still exists a gap for minorities. Not everyone in our society has access to the same resources that are most conducive to helping entrepreneurs start and grow successful enterprises. Networks, training and access to capital and markets are critical in the formation and growth of businesses owned by, or ventures founded by, minorities."

Edgar Smith is very active in the community. He serves in leadership capacities on the Board of Directors of numerous prominent Cincinnati civic and community non-profit organizations including, to name a few, the Boy Scouts of America - Dan Beard Council and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce and serving as the Chapter Chairman of the American Red Cross-Cincinnati Area Chapter. He is also a guest lecturer at the University of Cincinnati for the College of Business Administration, where he also mentors business students.