



RICK SMITH

As Chairman of Merryck & Co Americas, Rick Smith likes to say that he started working at Newsweek magazine “shortly after the earth cooled.” Actually, he wrote his first cover story in 1970 after a brief writing tryout. Fourteen years later, he became Editor-in-Chief and eight years after that, the Washington Post Company, Newsweek’s parent, concluded that Smith had too much time on his hands and asked him to be CEO, as well. Before stepping back to become Non-Executive Chairman at the end of 2007, he had launched seven foreign-language editions, migrated the magazine to the web, led Newsweek to the most profitable years in its history and earned the magazine industry’s highest honor, the Henry Johnson Fisher Award for Lifetime Achievement. In announcing Smith’s decision to step down as Editor-in-Chief and CEO, Washington Post Chairman Don Graham said: “Rick has been the most successful innovator in the news magazine business since Henry Luce. I admire his journalistic and business judgment more than I can say.”

In addition to his role as Chairman of Merryck & Co Americas, Smith serves as President of The Pinkerton Foundation, an independent grantmaking foundation established in 1966 by Robert Allan Pinkerton with the broad directive to reduce the incidence of crime and to prevent juvenile delinquency. He is also a board member of Temple-Inland Co., the Forestar Group and a tech startup, TalkMarket.com. He is Vice Chairman of the Seoul International Business Advisory Council and on the Boards of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, the Harvard AIDS Initiative, Smithsonian’s Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and Albion College.

Smith is married to Dr. Soon-Young Yoon, a medical anthropologist who works with the World Health Organization and other international agencies. Yoon grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan near Smith’s hometown of Detroit. They met in Korea and have been waving at each other in airport transit lounges ever since. Smith has three children and a grandchild.