

Peter Alan Smith, M.A.

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Businessman ♦ Educator ♦ Accessibility Expert ♦ Fundraiser

Sought after as knowledgeable educator and consultant for wide range of insurance-related issues including risk management, multiple lines, and business continuity planning.

Masters from Harvard University in International Relations, Thesis directed by Business School. Fluent Spanish, conversational Dutch & French. Tri-Citizenship United States, Canada, and Great Britain.

Work Experience:

John Hancock Financial Services, Boston, MA / Charleston, SC 1987 – Present

- Global financial services firm providing investment and insurance products.

Trust Administration, Senior Control Specialist 1992 – Present

Administer 40,000+ trust accounts, including: Life, Health, Hospitalization, Accident, Cancer Insurance, Cash Transfers and Policy Underwriting.

- Developed 75-page operations manual with Legal and Claims departments.
- Business Continuity Plan Committee
- Company-wide resource for Spanish-language customer service.
- Helped develop and implement home telecommuting
- Created direct mail programs for soliciting new business. Obtained 3-5% response rate, compared to usual 1-2 %.

Property & Casualty Client Relations Representative, 1987 – 1992

College of Charleston School of Business, Charleston, SC

Executive-in-Residence Professor 2009 – Present

- Teach risk management and insurance, coursework includes Reinsurance and Syndicates, business continuity planning, admitted carriers, Surplus Lines, captive Markets, life, health, property & casualty, disability, worker's compensation, Maritime and special event insurance.

Consultant, Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA 2004 – 2008

- Nation's largest mutual fund company

Subject Matter Consultant

- Provided expertise for blind and visually-impaired accessibility to internet web sites, including web pages used for financial asset management, audio-visual presentations, and purchasing.
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Education

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Masters Degree, Liberal Arts: International Relations, 2005

Master's Thesis directed by Harvard Business School

Deans List: GPA 3.9; Harvard's Woods Prize for academic excellence by a disabled student

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Bachelor of Arts, English: emphasis -Technical Writing & Shakespeare, National Honor Society

Selected Affiliations

South Carolina Commission for the Blind, 2010 – Present

Appointed to Board of Directors by South Carolina Governor, Mark Sanford

- Promoted to Chairman of the Board May 2012
- Monitor State budgeting process, elder and child blind services, and vocational rehabilitation. Maximize efficient service delivery, promote accessible technology, and assist with restructuring operations.

Selected Affiliations (continued)

Gavalas-Kolanko Foundation Board of Directors, 2012 – Present

- Appointed as advisor and spokesperson to raise funds for disabled college students in the Charleston area.

Executive Board of Directors, Vice-President Boston Senior Home Care, 2002 – 2008

- Non-profit offering care management and in-home services to over 3,000 elders, allowing them to avoid nursing homes.

Expert Advisor for Institute for Human Centered Design, Boston, MA 2012

- Review the accessibility of anything from physical environments to products, services and new technologies.

Massachusetts Biotech Council 2002

Business Development (Organized business mission to Puerto Rico)

- Toured pharmaceutical operations, high tech logistics, and transportation services. Networked with financial, government, universities and trade leaders, including Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO). Connected PRIDCO access to stateside pharmaceutical companies

VIBUG - Visually Impaired Blind User Group, coordinated through M.I.T, Cambridge, MA 1998 – 2012

- Telecommute to meetings to discuss blind computer and technology

Speaker

- Accomplished motivational speaker for numerous local and national television stations, newspapers, websites, business charity events, and other community outreach forums. Promotes the use of blind technology and virtual office integration to ensure full productivity in the workplace.
- Respected and fully-committed subject matter expert, advocate, consultant, and mentor for positive disability/accessibility awareness throughout the business, academic, nonprofit, government, and athletic communities.

Insurance Subject Matter Expert

- Moderator on business panels discussing key insurance and risk management issues

Organizations

Midnight Golfer®, Founder 2012

American Blind Golf National Championships, Finished 8th 2011

United States Blind Golfers Association

Harvard Club, South Carolina 2008 – 2012

Naval Club of London 2004 – 2012

Propeller Club of Charleston, South Carolina, 2008 – 2012

Boston Museum of Fine Arts Disabled Accessibility Program Consultant 2002 – 2005

British American Business Council of New England 1998 – 2008

Organization of Women in World Trade, Boston Chapter, Sponsorship Coordinator 2001 -- 2007

Carolina Flyers founder, blind Tandem cycling team 2012

Tandem Sprint Track Velodrome Cycling, United States 2 Silver medals 1 bronze medal 1995

Boston Marathon Nike / MAB Blind Running Team

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- JAWS speech synthesized screen reading software. Interview demonstration available. Interfacing with Microsoft Office on a Windows 7 platform.
 - Goldwave professional sound recording/editing software.