

Georgia Southern University Professors Appear on PBS

APRIL 3, 2013



Georgia Southern University's [Rural Health Research Institute](#) (RHRI) has been featured in a nationally broadcast television appearance on PBS. Jacob Warren, Ph.D., and Bryant Smalley, Ph.D., co-executive directors of the RHRI, appeared in a segment this week on the talk show "Tavis Smiley."

The professors were invited to Los Angeles to discuss childhood obesity and their new book *Always the Fat Kid: The Truth About the Enduring Effects of Childhood Obesity*, which was released last week and is available in bookstores nationwide. "We were very excited to get the invitation to discuss this issue with a national audience," said Smalley. "The time for action is now, and getting people engaged in a conversation about childhood obesity is the crucial first step in turning the tide."

The book has been described as a "clarion call" for parents and society regarding the long-term effects of childhood obesity and is garnering international attention through features on [TakePart.com](#) and an upcoming feature in *The London Times*. In addition to discussing how

childhood obesity leads to chronic and long-lasting health problems such as heart disease and diabetes (which have shortened children's life expectancies to the point they can no longer expect to have longer lives than their parents), Warren and Smalley also focus on the emerging evidence of how being an overweight child leads to "fat kid syndrome" – a collection of physical, psychological and social consequences of obesity that haunt overweight children for life. For instance, Warren and Smalley say overweight children are much more likely to be depressed adults, face legal workplace discrimination and are even less likely to end up getting married.

"In writing the book, we drew upon decades of medical, psychological and social research, as well as bringing in our own lived experiences as formerly overweight children," said Warren. "Our goal is to empower parents, community members, teachers and members of the healthcare workforce who are trying to make sense of this growing threat."

The episode with Warren and Smalley will air throughout the week on PBS and PBS Knowledge (air dates and times vary by market) and is available on the show's website at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/tavis-smiley/interviews/jeremy-piven-k-bryant-smalley/>.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 120 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

New License Plate Unveiled for Eagle Nation

MARCH 15, 2013



Georgia Southern and the Georgia Department of Revenue's Motor Vehicle Division have teamed up to launch a new official license plate for the University. The new plate is now available in tag offices throughout the state of Georgia.

[Click here to see the unveiling.](#)

The new Georgia Southern University license plate features the popular Georgia Southern Eagles logo prominently on the left. The same image serves as a watermark behind each plate's unique numbers. Along the bottom, the plate features the phrase "The Eagle Nation" in a blue stripe.

"We are excited to update the official Georgia Southern University license plate, and we are even more excited that a portion of the proceeds will go to student scholarships," said Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "The Georgia Southern license plate is a great way for our alumni and fans to show their pride, and we are looking forward to seeing them throughout the state of Georgia."

Last year, the University announced that it would use its portion of the proceeds to support the REACH Scholarship (Realizing Educational Achievements Can Happen), Georgia's new needs-based scholarship program. The REACH Scholarship is designed to provide access to higher education for all Georgians, regardless of their income. The scholarship rewards students for self-accountability, promotes parent involvement and provides motivation and support; all factors that are critical to student educational achievement.

REACH Scholars will be selected in middle school and will sign a contract to maintain a certain grade average, remain crime, drug, and behavior issue free and meet with a volunteer mentor until they graduate from high school. Parents or guardians will also sign a contract to support their student through their education.

Students who complete the REACH program's requirements will receive a renewable yearly tuition scholarship of \$2,500 to be used at any HOPE eligible institution. This amount will cover the average gap between other needs-based scholarships and awards, such as the Pell grant, and the full cost of attendance. Through the sale of the new license plate, Georgia Southern will match that amount for REACH students who choose to attend the University.

The new plate was designed by Georgia Southern graphic design alumna Victoria Sprankel and is the first new design since the original plate was introduced. During the design process, the University solicited feedback on numerous plate designs from students, faculty and staff and alumni. The feedback for the final plate design was overwhelmingly positive with many respondents commenting on its design. The previous Georgia Southern plate's colors and the size of the name of the University made it difficult to read from a distance.

"The new plate's design is eye-catching and it will enable it to stand out on vehicles traveling down the highway," said Keel. "Purchasing a new Georgia Southern plate is not just a way to express your school spirit. By getting a new plate, you will be supporting future generations of Georgia Southern students, and that is true school spirit."

For more information on the new plate and how to purchase a Georgia Southern license plate, visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/licenseplate.

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Tags: [Alumni](#)

Georgia Southern Launches Online Payment Plan to Help Make College More Affordable

MARCH 20, 2013



One of Georgia's largest universities has announced that it will provide its students and families with the option to pay for college through a unique payment plan – all with the goal of making college more affordable.

Georgia Southern University is teaming with Nelnet Business Solutions to provide students with the ability to pay tuition and fees over time. Beginning today, students and/or their parents will be able to enroll in the new program which offers easy online enrollment, flexible payment options and no interest.

"We are always looking for new ways to make college more affordable for both our in and out-of-state students," said Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "This new payment plan will offer students and/or their parents an additional option to spread their payments out to help make college more affordable. Our goal is to not only recruit outstanding students, but to encourage them to complete their degrees. One of the ways we can help is by offering them an opportunity to pay their tuition and fees over a period of time – something we feel like many of our parents and students, particularly those working full-time, will appreciate."

So how does it work? Students enroll in the program at a cost of \$50 per semester. They then pay 60 percent of their bill upfront and then will have two additional months to pay the remaining 40 percent. The payment plan will cover the cost of tuition, student fees, meal plans and on-campus housing for each semester/term.

In addition to being able to enroll online, the plan also offers flexible payment options including automatic bank payments and credit and debit card payments including American Express, Discover and MasterCard. When students or families enroll, they may finance up to \$5,500 per semester using Nelnet; if their bill is larger than that, they simply pay the difference directly to the University as they normally would have.

University officials note that the payment plan is an interest-free alternative to paying each semester's tuition. In addition to more manageable payments, students or their parents have 24-hour access to their account, receive convenient online statements and can also set up recurring payments.

To join the plan, students must be registered to attend classes at Georgia Southern for the term in which they want to enroll in the payment plan and do so by the designated deadline. Because a checking account or a credit card is required to use the plan, students should work with one of the many local banks or credit unions to set up an account. As an alternative to a checking account, they may also choose to pay from a savings account.

“When we first started talking about this program, we immediately received very positive feedback from both parents and students,” said Keel. “If we can make it easier to pay for college by stretching out the payments, it is a win-win.”

Students interested in taking summer classes at Georgia Southern may use the new payment plan, but must be registered for classes prior to May 20 and have followed all Nelnet application and payment requirements. The University is encouraging students to register as soon as possible for summer to ensure courses will be available.

For more information about the new plan, visit: georgiasouthern.edu/paymentplan.

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Georgia Southern to Offer more than 300 Classes Online This Summer

FEBRUARY 21, 2013



Georgia Southern University is expanding its online education and giving Georgia and out-of-state college students more flexibility and options to help them earn their college degrees on time. This summer, the University will offer more than 300 fully online classes to undergraduate and graduate students, a record number of courses for the growing University.

Georgia Southern has scheduled 381 online classes for the summer semester. Registration is underway for the 162 graduate and 219 undergraduate courses available this May, June and July. The classes span the curriculum from business, education and general studies to nursing, social sciences and information technology. The University offers courses during three separate accelerated summer terms including:

Term A: May 20 – June 19

Term B: June 24 – July 25

Long Term: May 20 – July 17

“We want to give Georgia Southern students, high school students and even students from other colleges and universities a variety of options to take one or more classes that they need this summer fully online,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. “Whether students are planning to go home for the summer or working a full-time job, they can get ahead or take a class that they may not have been able to get during the regular school year. Even better, two of our summer terms are only a month long.”

Although most students will take a break from classes this summer and go home to find jobs, they can still work toward graduating on time or possibly even quicker. Fully online courses allow students to complete courses from the comfort of their homes – whether in Statesboro, Athens, Atlanta or even California.

In addition to the nearly 400 online classes, the University is offering a total of 1,600 summer classes that can be seen by visiting www.georgiasouthern.edu/summer.

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academic achievement. In 2011, the University was named one of the Top 10 most popular universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report and is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education.

Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Southern Pride to Perform at Opening Night for the Atlanta Braves

MARCH 26, 2013



Georgia Southern University's Southern Pride Marching Band has been invited to be part of opening night with the Atlanta Braves. The band will march onto Turner Field and perform on Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m. as the Braves face the Philadelphia Phillies to begin the 2013 season.

"We are very fortunate to have a Georgia Southern alumnus who works for the Atlanta Braves and suggested to someone in the ticket office that Southern Pride would be great pre-game entertainment," said Colin McKenzie, director of Southern Pride. "Everyone is so excited about this opportunity to be on the field and play in front of a crowd of nearly 50,000 people. This is great exposure for our band and a great opportunity for us to represent Georgia Southern. We plan on giving the Braves and the fans a memorable pre-game concert."

The band will perform songs from various Southern Pride shows from this past season including some Motown selections as well as the Georgia Southern fight song. Then after playing, members of

Southern Pride will line up and form a tunnel that the Braves will run through and onto the field as the 2013 team is introduced.

This is just the latest high-profile performance for Southern Pride. Two weeks ago, four drummers joined Georgia Southern alumnae and singer Elizabeth Cook for her appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman. "Our students have so much talent and spend so much time practicing and performing that it is really encouraging to see them get the recognition, attention and praise they deserve." said McKenzie.

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Georgia Southern Named a Best Business School for Veterans

MARCH 24, 2013



Georgia Southern University's College of Business Administration (COBA) has been honored by Military Times as being one of the best business schools for veterans in the United States. In the first-ever survey, COBA received the "Best for Vets: Business Schools" seal.

"The MBA program at Georgia Southern University is attracting outstanding veterans from throughout the country," said Bill Wells, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business Administration. "Veterans considering an MBA have more options than ever and we are proud to be one of a select few MBA programs in Georgia to be recognized in

this year's rankings."

COBA ranked 45th out of the roughly 100 business schools at colleges and universities that responded to the detailed, 60 question survey. Georgia Southern was singled out for its online and part-time MBA program and for having staff dedicated to veterans issues in the business school.

"The MBA program at Georgia Southern University is not only nationally respected, but offers students maximum flexibility," explained Wells. "Today, you can choose to take your courses full-time or part-time, on campus, online or through a combination of both. It's perfect for veterans looking to take the next step in their career or for active members of the military exploring graduate education. Our students who have military backgrounds enter the MBA program focused and dedicated. Their leadership experiences have prepared them well for life after the military, and we hope the MBA education they receive from Georgia Southern will make them the stand-out candidate for any job."

The Best for Vets survey is in this month's edition of Military Times on newsstands and online. To find the story and all the rankings for the "Best for Vets: Business Schools" list, [CLICK HERE](#).

There is a long, rich and proud tradition of Georgia Southern welcoming active-duty service members, veterans and their families. Military Advanced Education and G.I. Jobs named the University a military friendly school in 2013.

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Tags: [College of Business Administration](#)