

This Child Genius Shot to Fame When He Went to College Aged 10; Here's What Has Happened to Him Since.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myxdxfb946w>

Transcript: <http://dontveter.com/ec/genius.pdf>

This child genius shot to fame when he went to college at age 10.

Here's what happened to him since.

The son of a microbiologist father and art center director mother, Greg Smith became something of a media sensation when he was accepted into college before he'd even reached his teens.

Here's a look at how the young brain box has fared in the 16 years since.

Born in 1989, Smith set off on a path to child genius fame at a blistering pace.

Indeed, at the age of just seven months he'd already learned to walk.

At 14 months meanwhile, he'd begun learning books by heart and reciting them from memory.

And when Smith was just five years old he took an IQ test in which he tested off the bell curve.

Undoubtedly then, he was unusually gifted and while his classmates read the Cat in the Hat, Smith was studying Jules Verne's, Journey to the Center of the Earth.

Furthermore, the youngster had immersed himself in Wordsworth, Mozart and Plato before he'd even set foot into kindergarten.

Smith continued his lightning speed development by jumping six school grades in the space of just 12 months.

Incredibly, the youngster went on to finish his high school studies before he'd even celebrated his 11th birthday.

The boy's parents had initially been resistant to allowing their son to fly through his education so quickly, but they eventually relented, and in fact, moved twice to find the best schools for Greg's unique educational needs.

Meanwhile, Janet gave up her job to become his full-time advocate.

What's more, Smith inevitably attracted the attention of the national media and went on to appear in the likes of 60 Minutes, Today and the Late Show with David Letterman.

There was so much interest in his story, in fact, that when his email address was shown in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, his school servers crashed under the weight of demand.

Once the media circus had died down though, Smith was accepted into Randolph-Macon college in Ashland, Virginia at the tender age of 10.

Advanced physics, French three, calculus one and an honors course named Warfare in Antiquity were just some of the academic subjects Greg studied along [with regular] college freshman, years his senior.

And although anyone's first day at college is scary enough, Smith had to face it while in the media spotlight.

Indeed, as well as having to pose for the camera alongside college president Roger H Martin, the child prodigy also had to speak at a news conference in which he claimed he dreamed of such a day since he was age four.

Greg's parents have said that they chose Randolph-Macon because of its peaceful atmosphere and student-centered tuition.

Furthermore, the college helped fund Smith's education with a four-year scholarship worth some seventy thousand dollars.

Though no doubt, it also benefited from the child genius student's national exposure.

Of course, unlike the rest of his classmates who lived on campus, Smith returned home to his parents every night.

That didn't, however, stop him from forming friendships there.

In 2016, Greg explained on Oprah's show, "Where are They Now?".

I had lots of friends in college and hung out with a lot of people there in my program.

In fact, Smith appeared to have the best of both worlds, later adding I had lots of friends my own age too, and I think that was really important.

I mean, sure, we were in different grades but we still liked a lot of the same things.

We liked sports, we liked going out, just having a good time.

But Smith also rubbed shoulders with some of the best known people in the world.

As well as meeting with presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Bill Clinton.

He was mentored by Bishop Desmond Tutu and Northern Irish peace campaigner, Betty Williams, both of whom have received the Nobel Peace Prize.

And as you'd expect, Smith certainly had some lofty ambitions while attending college.

Motivated by his mother's successful breast cancer battle, he planned to tackle diseases with a degree in biomedical research.

Meanwhile, he also hoped to build space stations with a degree in aeronautical engineering.

Plus, if all that wasn't nearly enough, Smith also had his eye on Bill Clinton's job at the time.

I know that the president has a lot of power and can make a lot of decisions he said to the Richmond, Virginia magazine, Style Weekly.

I would like to have that [kind of] influence to work hard for peace and non-violence and to give voice to the children.

By the age of 13, moreover, Smith was offering words of wisdom as a motivational speaker and was a two-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

He went on to receive three further Nobel nominations for his charitable efforts towards children's rights and safety but he has so far never won the honor.

And Smith's educational achievements didn't end with his bachelor of science in mathematics from Randolph-Macon, he also went on to earn a master's in mathematics at the University of Virginia.

At age 16, he was the youngest ever student to do so.

However, though, he continued to run his non-profit International Youth Advocates [Organization].

Smith kept a low profile once reaching his teens.

In 2007, his mother Janet told the *Virginian Pilot*, that security concerns had convinced her that this was wise.

Because of this, then, no pictures of Greg were released in the three years prior to this interview.

After graduating from the University of Virginia, Smith continued to add to his resume.

Not only did he study computational biology at Carnegie-Mellon but he then also earned his PhD at the same college.

So what did Smith do with this incredible list of qualifications?

After completing his education, well, he's currently studying stochastic gene expression as a postdoctoral researcher at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai [Medical Center] working to develop better drugs.

What's more, Smith has had several scholarly articles with titles that would probably stump the average Joe published in scientific journals.

“Modeling effects of RNA on Capsid Assembly Pathways Via Coarse-Grained Stochastic Simulation” and “A Mechanistic Beta-Binomial Probability Model for mRNA Sequencing Data” are just two of the papers to which Greg has put his name to.

As to whether he will ever fulfill his childhood goal of finding a cure for cancer, Smith remains cautiously optimistic.

He told Oprah Winfrey, “I think it's certainly possible in my lifetime that we'll be able to develop really effective targeted treatments for people's individual versions of cancer that they have and that's incredible.”

What's more, given his genius and his not inconsiderable accomplishments so far, perhaps no one would be surprised if Smith played a part in developing them.

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