

W. Keith Campbell



I was born in Southern California in 1966 and spent most of my younger years in Laguna Beach, CA. After four years in prep school at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, I attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate. I was not a star student, and thought about several possible majors (business, economics, and philosophy) before settling on psychology. After graduation, I went to graduate school for a master's degree in psychology on the clinical track at San Diego State University where I worked with Georg Matt. I learned a great deal about scientific psychology from Georg and decided to go into a PhD program in social psychology. I had never taken a social course, but knew social was the field where they studied the self and that seemed interesting.

After my time at SDSU (and a year off to work as a bellman at the Sun Valley Lodge so I could snowboard and fly fish) I was accepted to the doctoral program in social personality psychology at UW Madison. I should note that I was accepted as a "special student" given my dismal undergraduate GPA. My new advisor, Constantine Sedikides, took a chance on me for which I will be forever grateful.

After two years at Madison, my advisor moved to UNC Chapel Hill. I thought: Great, I can get out of the cold and surf again. So, I followed

him. Chapel Hill was a terrific place to finish my degree and also where I met my wife, Stacy McIlraith, a fellow graduate student.

The next stop was a postdoc with Roy Baumeister at Case Western Reserve University, my third academic mentor. My postdoc was phenomenal. I would hang out with Roy one night a week, listen to acid jazz and talk big ideas in his mask covered office. And I was able to pursue research ideas with some amazing colleagues, like fellow postdocs Julie Exline, Jean Twenge and Kathleen Vohs.

From Case it was onto UGA where I took the place of Abe Tesser in the social program. This was like Spud Webb taking the place of Shaquille O'Neal. But UGA has been a great place to build my career and collaborate with terrific colleagues and students.

Several years later I was an Associate Professor and hit a bout of intellectual boredom after finishing a book, *The Narcissism Epidemic*. Pat Miller, whom I respected a great deal, stepped down as Department Head. I tossed my hat in the ring and was given the position. As I writethis four years into my headship, I assume I have overseen the greatest collapse of the department since the great depression. Let posterity know that I tried to keep things moving; and, despite the grim economic conditions, I couldn't imagine being part of a more collegial and intellectually engaged faculty.

Ed. Note: In recent years, both preceding and during Dr. Campbell's headship, UGA has experienced the most severe and sustained budget reductions in the department's history. Evidence suggests that these budgets have harmed the department more than the austerity associated with Depression of the 1930s.