

To Whom It May Concern:

I have the privilege of nominating my wife, Dr. Heather Priess Groben, for the Business Record's Forty Under 40 award. She is now an Assistant Professor at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, but throughout her entire career she has focused on touching the lives of young students. She has trained in the top academic institutions in her field and has excelled. Heather is a first generation college study, meaning that she is the first in her family to graduate from college. She then went on to get two Masters degrees and a Ph.D.

Heather and I met at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She was a dedicated student who was liked by her professors. She received excellent grades and was a Graduate with Distinction in Psychology and *Magna Cum Laude*. After graduation, she attended the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin – Madison in Wisconsin and was honored with a prestigious Graduate Student Fellowship to fund her training because of her academic excellence. La Follette is consistently one of the top schools for Public Affairs in the nation.

After graduating with a Masters in Public Affairs, Heather accepted a position as the Sexual Assault Response Team Coordinator for Story County, Iowa. She was based at Iowa State University. Here she worked with multiple organizations including law enforcement, health care, and advocates to provide help for women and men who had experienced sexual assault. I believe that being on a college campus reinvigorated her long-held dream of being a professor.

Heather later returned to the University of Wisconsin – Madison for additional graduate training after being admitted to the developmental psychology program, which is ranked in the top five programs in the nation. She thrived there and still collaborates with the professors and graduate students on research. Again, due to her academic excellence, she was offered a post-doctorate fellowship in the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan, whose developmental psychology program is often considered the best in the nation.

During all her training, I was completing my training as well. Despite us being far geographically, she was always dedicated to our relationship. We were married while she was at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She became pregnant with our son, Brody while at the University of Michigan. Late in her pregnancy we moved to New Jersey so I could complete my training. While pregnant, she interviewed and was offered a job at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. It has long been both of our dreams to end up in Des Moines and she was the first to secure a position.

Heather gave birth to our son, Brody, in October 2012. She then did one of the most amazing things. In January, we moved her and my two month old to a small apartment in Indianola. I drove back to New Jersey and Heather simultaneously started a new job as a professor and cared for a very young infant. I still do not know

how she did it. That spring I was offered a position with The Iowa Clinic in Des Moines and that summer we were all reunited in Des Moines.

Heather continues to teach at Simpson College. She is loved by her students and her classes always fill early. She participates on many committees and councils at the college. Outside of Simpson, she is also very involved with Chamber of Commerce (downtown and east & south), was a participant in the Des Moines Downtown Leadership Education and Advancement Pipeline (LEAP), and has completed leadership training by the Greater Des Moines Partnership. Heather and I are primary shareholders for Madhouse Brewing Company. She is also very philanthropic, supporting many organizations both locally and internationally.

Heather grew up with humble roots. From here, she has achieved continued greatness. She trained at the best schools in the nation. Despite all this, she remains very humble and true to herself. She is one of the most modest people that you will meet but behind those eyes is one of the most intelligent people that you will meet. She is a wonderful mother to our son and a devoted wife.

Please consider her for the Business Record's Forty Under 40, and thank you for taking the time to get to know this wonderful woman.

Sincerely,

Luke Groben.

“Please don’t take this the wrong way, but why are you here?”

This question was posed to me earlier this year by a fellow developmental psychologist. She was familiar with my academic background and wanted to know why, despite being trained in the best developmental psychology programs in the world, despite having conducted research that was published in the top scientific journals in our field, and despite having been awarded a prestigious grant from the National Institutes of Health while still a graduate student, I had foregone the expected academic career at a leading research institute to accept a faculty position at a small liberal arts college and move to Des Moines, Iowa (“of all places!”).

Her question was easy to answer. I wanted to work at a college like the one I had attended myself, where high-quality undergraduate education was top priority. I wanted to serve students “like me” – students who grew up in small towns and rural areas in the Midwest, who were often the first in their family to attend college but who were bright, engaged, and eager to learn. I wanted to live in a thriving urban area that was brimming with optimism about its future, and I wanted to do my part to make the community even better through my work and community involvement. I wanted to be closer to family and resume involvement in family businesses. That is why I chose to accept a position as professor at Simpson College and to move across the country to Des Moines, Iowa (of all places!).

In the following pages, I outline my extensive experience in research, teaching, professional leadership, involvement in the business community, and community service. I began my career as coordinator of the Story County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), based at Iowa State University, after completing my undergraduate and master’s in public affairs degrees. In this position, I coordinated the efforts of ten extraordinary agencies in their survivor-centered response to sexual assault, wrote and managed large federal grants, organized several statewide conferences, gave hundreds of presentations, and represented our team on various committees and task forces. In 2005, I returned to graduate school to pursue my Ph.D. in developmental psychology, and in the pages that follow, I focus my attention on my academic career and most recent professional and community involvement.

As you review my materials, I thank you for your consideration, and I wish you the best as you select the Business Record Forty Under 40 class for 2016.

Sincerely yours,

Heather Priess Groben, Ph.D.

Research and Teaching: STEM in the Classroom and the Laboratory

As a developmental psychologist, I focus generally on the way that people grow and change across their lifespan. My research specialty examines how to keep young people motivated in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. In addition, I conduct research on how nature and nurture contribute jointly to depression. I am also a STEM educator, teaching college courses in psychology, behavioral genetics, and statistics.

Research: STEM Motivation Among Adolescents and Early Adults

- Followed 300+ adolescents across high school and into college to identify predictors of sustained engagement in STEM, with emphasis on mathematics
- Predictors I identified included growth mindset and beliefs in one's academic abilities
- Published scientific journal articles and book chapters on research
- Presented research findings at leading scientific conferences in U.S. and internationally
- As postdoctoral research fellow, trained with leading scholars in STEM motivation from U.S., Germany, U.K., Sweden, and Finland

Research: Advancing the Nature-Nurture Debate: Behavioral Genetics in Adolescent Depression

- Research inspired by my childhood interest in the nature-nurture debate that arose from having a parent and several siblings who were adopted
- Conducted cutting edge research to examine how specific genetic variants combine with stress to produce depression in at-risk adolescents
- Research supported by a prestigious grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Published scientific journal articles on research

Teaching STEM Disciplines

- Teach courses in developmental psychology, adolescent development, statistics, research methodology, and behavioral genetics as a professor at Simpson College
- Supervise undergraduate student research projects, which provide essential preparation for graduate school admissions
- Challenge students to build critical intellectual skills, such as critical thinking, writing, public speaking, and quantitative reasoning, which help students be successful in academia, medicine, business, and other fields
- Seek out and encourage fellow first-generation college students

Education and Postdoctoral Training

- St. Olaf College, Northfield MN: B.A. in Psychology, 2000
- University of Wisconsin—Madison: M.P.A. in Public Affairs, 2002
- University of Wisconsin—Madison: M.S. in Developmental Psychology, 2006
- University of Wisconsin—Madison: Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, 2011
- University of Michigan: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2011-12

Professional Involvement: On Campus and in the Community

As I noted in my cover letter, I welcomed the opportunity to move to a community as vibrant as Des Moines and a college that felt like home to me. Since returning to Iowa, I have become involved in my campus and my larger community by serving on numerous committees and boards. Most recently, my husband and I purchased shares to become the primary shareholders in a family-run business, Madhouse Brewing Company. I quickly realized how much I needed to learn about business and have taken advantage of the many wonderful opportunities available in Des Moines to enhance my knowledge in this area. Below, I outline some of my recent professional involvement.

Leadership in Higher Education at Simpson College

- Served as secretary, and later chair, of Faculty Development Committee (one of the major college committees)
- Co-chair of Faculty Advising Group
- Service on three open position search committees
- Member of President's Council and President's Inauguration Committee
- Member of Institutional Review Board (reviews all proposed institutional research to ensure it meets ethical standards)

Professional Service, Affiliations, and Development

- Voluntary scientific reviewer of articles submitted for publication in U.S. and international scientific journals, including Journal of Clinical Genetics; Women and Health; Gender Roles; Sex Roles; Mind, Brain, and Education; European Journal of Psychology of Education; Journal of Affective Disorders
- Member of professional societies, including American Psychological Association, Society for Research in Child Development, and Society for Research on Adolescence
- Completed Society for Research in Child Development Teaching Institute
- Participated in Iowa State University Shared Leadership for Institutional Change program, led by Dr. Dianne Bystrom of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center

Business Involvement

- Primary shareholder, with husband, in Madhouse Brewing Company; involvement ranges from aiding in long-term business planning to occasionally stepping behind the bar to serve our thirsty customers
- Been involved intermittently in Jasper Winery, owned by my husband's parents, since it was first conceptualized (and rang up first ever sale over ten years ago!)
- Member of Des Moines Downtown Chamber and Des Moines East and South Chamber of Commerce
- Series participant in Des Moines Downtown Chamber Leadership Education & Advancement Pipeline (LEAP)
- Completed leadership training offered by Greater Des Moines Partnership, including general leadership training and Public Service Academy

Giving Back: Serving Local and Global Communities

My mother has always said that her primary goal in life is for her children to be happy, but I do not actually think that is true. I believe that my parents' primary goal for their children has always been to serve others, and in particular, the people in our world in most dire need. My parents do not call their activities "volunteer work" or "civic engagement," nor did they worry about their own meager finances before adopting four children in great need after having two children already. Instead, they simply quoted, "To whom much is given, much is expected." It was not until I was an adult that I realized just how little they had (monetarily) compared to how much they gave to others. Today, I am fortunate to enjoy many more resources than my parents had. I have indeed been given much, which motivates me to give back to our community, including through service projects with my students and various forms of community involvement with my husband, Luke.

Service Projects with Simpson College Students

One of the best parts of working at Simpson College is engaging with others who are dedicated to living a life of service. Some of the service projects with which I have been involved at Simpson College include the following:

- Organized a book drive on campus to contribute to the United Way Women's Leadership Connection "Stuff the Bus" campaign, collecting over 200 books
- Took my students on an outing so we could help community members with special needs from the local Mosaic chapter go bowling
- Oversaw an adopt-a-family project with a class of incoming students to support people served by Warren County General Assistance

Meeting the Needs of Our Local and Global Community

My husband and I are passionate about supporting non-profit organizations in our community by volunteering our time to package meals for the hungry or rake leaves for our son's school, donating supplies for events, maintaining memberships, attending fundraising events, or making financial donations to local organizations. We also recognize the more urgent needs of people living in the most dire circumstances on our planet, leading us to support financially several humanitarian relief agencies and stay informed through these agencies about innovative solutions to alleviate human suffering brought about by war, disease, starvation, and lack of access to water. The following are some of the organizations we have supported locally and globally in the past few years:

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| • Science Center of Iowa | • Chrysalis Foundation |
| • Des Moines Performing Arts | • The World Food Prize and Iowa Hunger Summit |
| • Blank Park Zoo | • Meals for the Heartland |
| • Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden | • International Rescue Committee |
| • Montessori Children's House | • Mercy Corps |
| • Simpson College | • UNICEF |
| • Des Moines University | • UNHCR (UN Refugee Organization) |
| • United Way of Central Iowa | • Doctors Without Borders |
| • Iowa Public Radio | |

Heather Priess Groben, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

701 North C Street, Indianola IA 50125 • heather.groben@simpson.edu

POSITIONS

Assistant Professor In Psychology	Simpson College	2012-Present
Post-doctoral Research Fellow	University of Michigan	2011-2012

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of Wisconsin—Madison Developmental Psychology, 2011 Supporting Areas: Statistics, Genetics	2006-2011
M.S.	University of Wisconsin—Madison Developmental Psychology, 2006	2005-2006
M.P.A.	University of Wisconsin—Madison Public Affairs, 2002	2000-2002
B.A.	St. Olaf College, Northfield MN Psychology, 2000	1996-2000

EXTERNAL FUNDING

2009-2011	NRSA Individual Predoctoral Fellowship F31 MH084476 “ <i>Development of Adolescent Depression: Genes, Temperament and Gender Differences</i> ” Funded by National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Sponsor: Janet Shibley Hyde; Co-Sponsor: H. Hill Goldsmith
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PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Publications

- Priess, H. A.**, Lindberg, S. M., & Hyde, J. S. (2009). Adolescent gender-role identity and mental health: Gender intensification revisited. *Child Development*, 80, 1531-1544.
- Priess, H. A.** & Hyde, J. S. (2009). Gender and academic abilities and preferences. In J. Chrisler & D. McCreary (Eds.), *Handbook of Gender Research in Psychology* (pp. 297-316). New York: Springer.
- Katz-Wise, S. L., **Priess, H. A.**, & Hyde, J. S. (2010). Gender-role attitudes and behavior across the transition to parenthood. *Developmental Psychology*, 46, 18-28.

- Mezulis, A. H., **Priess, H. A.**, & Hyde, J. S. (2010). Rumination mediates the relationship between infant temperament and adolescent depressive symptoms. *Depression Research and Treatment*, 2010, 1-9.
- Priess, H. A.** & Lindberg, S. M. (2011). Gender intensification. In R. J. R. Levesque (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Adolescence*. New York: Springer.
- Priess, H. A.** & Hyde, J. S. (2011). Gender roles. In B. B. Brown & M. Prinstein (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Adolescence*. Academic Press.
- Priess-Groben, H. A.**, & Hyde, J. S. (2013). 5-HTTLPR X stress in adolescent depression: Moderation by MAOA and gender. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 41, 281-294.
- Mezulis, A., Salk, R., Hyde, J. S., **Priess-Groben, H. A.**, & Simonson, J. (2014). Affective, biological, and cognitive risk factors associated with trajectories of depressive symptoms in adolescence. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 42, 539-550.
- Priess-Groben, H. A.**, & Hyde, J. S. (2016). The role of implicit theories in mathematics motivation and behavior across high school and college. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Policy Paper Publications

- Priess, H. A.** & Walley, A. (2001). The Menominee experience: Youth violence and the awakening of strengths. In *Community Case Studies: Skornicka Seminar for Communities, Teaming up on Gangs*, Madison: University of Wisconsin—Madison, La Follette School of Public Affairs.
- Jerin, L., Phan, T. M., & **Priess, H. A.** (2001). *An analysis of the operation and funding model of Wisconsin's historic sites*. Madison: University of Wisconsin—Madison, La Follette School of Public Affairs.

Paper and Poster Presentations

- Priess, H. A.** (2000, April 10). Attributional style of first-generation college students. Paper presented at St. Olaf College Psi Chi Paper Session, Northfield MN.
- Priess, H. A.** (2000, May 5). Attributional style of first-generation college students. Poster presented at New Science for a New Century Science Symposium, St. Olaf College, Northfield MN.
- Priess, H. A.** & Moore, C. F. (2007, March 31). Extending the sacred value protection model: Children as intuitive theologians. Poster presented at Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting, Boston MA.
- Clark, R., Hipke, K., Hewitt, E., Ray-Subramanian, C., & **Priess, H. A.** (2007, October 27). Emotion dysregulation and sensory reactivity: Early childhood diagnoses and parenting. Paper presented at American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 54th Annual Meeting.
- Priess, H. A.** & Hyde, J. S. (2008, March 7). Gender intensification and the emergence of a gender difference in adolescent depression. Poster presented at Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, Chicago IL.
- Priess, H. A.**, Lindberg, S. M., & Hyde, J. S. (2008, March 8). The nature of sex differences in adolescent mental health: Reconceptualizing gender intensification. Paper presented at Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, Chicago IL.
- Priess, H. A.**, Lindberg, S. M., & Hyde, J. S. (2009, April 4). Linking gender intensification and adolescent depression: Interactions of gender-role identity and negative life events. Poster presented at Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting, Denver CO.
- Katz-Wise, S. L., **Priess, H. A.**, & Hyde, J. S. (2009, April 4). Egalitarian to traditional: Changes

in attitudes and behavior in first-time and experienced parents following the birth of a child. Poster presented at Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting, Denver CO.

Priess, H. A., Mezulis, A. H., & Hyde, J. S. (2011, April 2). Rumination mediates the relationship between infant temperament and adolescent depressive symptoms. Paper presented at Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting, Montreal QC, Canada.

Mezulis, A., Hyde, J. S., **Priess, H. A.,** & Simonson, J. (2012, March). Temperament, rumination, and depression trajectories in adolescence. Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting.

Tsai, Y. -M., Peck, S., **Priess, H. A.,** & Eccles, J. S. (2012, May). Predicting high school math participation from expectancy-value profiles. Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention.

Tsai, Y. -M., **Priess, H. A.,** & Eccles, J. S. (2012, July). For whom does math stand out in academic anxiety? Examining gender, gender beliefs, and math anxiety. International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development 2012 Biennial Meeting.

Wang, M. T., Upadaya, K., **Priess, H. A.,** & Kenny, S. (2012, July). Congruence of parent and teacher expectations and children's math competence and performance. Paper presented at International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development 2012 Biennial Meeting.

Priess-Groben, H.A., & Hyde, J.S. (2014, March 20). "Some people just aren't good at math" – The role of implicit theory in mathematics persistence. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, Austin TX.

Priess-Groben, H.A., & Hyde, J.S. (2015, March 21). Implicit theories and mathematics persistence: Mediation across time. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Philadelphia PA.

Priess-Groben, H.A., & Hyde, J.S. (2016, April 2). Sticking with it: Implicit theory and self-concept of ability predict mathematics persistence across mid to late adolescence. Research has been accepted for presentation at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, Baltimore MD this spring.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

2007 – 2011 **Research Assistant**, Wisconsin Study of Families and Work, University of Wisconsin—Madison Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry
PI: Janet Shibley Hyde, Ph.D.

2007 – 2008 **Data Analyst and Project Assistant**, Parent-Infant and Child Clinic, University of Wisconsin—Madison Department of Psychiatry
PI: Roseanne Clark, Ph.D.

2011 – 2012 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Gender and Achievement Research Program, University of Michigan Department of Psychology
PI: Jacquelynne Eccles, Ph.D.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2005-2011 **Guest Lecturer, University of Wisconsin—Madison (UW)**
Courses include Child Psychology, Social Cognitive Development, Psychology of Women, Psychology of Religion

- 2005-2007** **Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin—Madison (UW)**
Taught discussion sections, graded problem sets, mentored student research, and held office hours for courses including Basic Statistics, Research Methods, Introductory Psychology, and Child Psychology
- Spring 2013-Present** **Assistant Professor, Simpson College**
Instructor of record for Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Statistical Methods, Adolescent Development, Advanced Research I, May Term: Born or Made, Simpson Colloquium: Nature vs Nurture

TEACHING TRAINING

- University of Wisconsin Letters and Science Teaching Assistant Training
- University of Wisconsin Writing Across the Curriculum (undergraduate writing) Training
- University of Wisconsin Equity and Diversity Training for Teaching Assistants
- University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT) “Innovative Pedagogies” Seminar Series, “Research and Best Practices” Seminar Series, and “Multicultural Teaching” Seminar Series (each multiple workshops)
- University of Michigan Preparing Future Faculty Conference
- Intercampus Mentorship Program between University of Michigan and Oberlin College
- Simpson College Faculty Development training, including Great Ideas for Teaching (G.I.F.T.) sessions, Faculty Development Day training, Iowa Private Colleges Week training
- Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Teaching Institute (multiple years)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2002-2005** **Coordinator, Story County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)**
Iowa State University, Ames IA
- Supervised ten agencies in their multidisciplinary response to sexual assaults
 - Wrote and managed three Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants, totally over \$100,000
 - Conducted presentations to groups of 5-300 in classrooms, conferences, and training sessions
 - Organized multiple statewide conferences to train police officers, medical professionals, prosecutors, mental health professionals, and victim advocates on survivor-centered and multidisciplinary response to sexual assault
 - Represented SART team on numerous committees, including ISU University Committee on Women and its Family Policy Subcommittee, ISU Women’s Leadership Consortium, ISU Sexual Assault Task Force, Story County Child Abuse Team, and Story County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

- Ad-hoc reviewer: Journal of Clinical Genetics; Women and Health; Gender Roles; Sex Roles; Mind, Brain, and Education; European Journal of Psychology of Education; Journal of Affective Disorders

- Member of professional societies, including the American Psychological Association, Society for Research in Child Development, and Society for Research on Adolescence
- Simpson College: Served on Department of Psychology Search Committee, 2013; Institutional Review Board, 2013-present; Faculty Development Committee, 2013-2015 (secretary 2013-14; chair 2014-15); President's Inauguration Committee, 2013-2014; Economics Search Committee, 2014-2015; Student Support Services Search Committee, 2014-15; Participation on various panels for students and faculty

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL HONORS

- St. Olaf Fellowship, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000
- Rowberg Scholarship for Public Service, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000
- Research Award, St. Olaf College Psychology Endowment Fund, 1999
- Graduate with Distinction in Psychology and *Magna Cum Laude*, St. Olaf College, 2000
- Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Wisconsin—Madison, La Follette School of Public Affairs, 2000-01 (prestigious \$15,000 fellowship awarded to top graduate school applicants to the University of Wisconsin)
- Shared Leadership for Institutional Change (SLIC) Program Participant: selected for one-year program to train university faculty and staff in higher education leadership, Iowa State University, 2003
- Hertz Foundation Fellowship Research Travel Awards, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011
- Hertz Foundation Fellowship Collaborative Research Award, 2008
- Menzies Research Award, 2010
- Vilas Conference Presentation Award, 2011
- Research featured by American Psychological Association as “compelling example of artful results writing,” 2015