

Developmental Science

Department Information

- **Department Head:**
Joel Hektner, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Coordinator:**
Heather Fuller, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**
Evelyn Morrow Lebedeff Hall
- **Department Phone:**
(701) 231-8268
- **Department Web Site:**
www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate_studies/ds/ (http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate_studies/ds/)
- **Application Deadline:**
February 1
- **Credential Offered:**
Ph.D.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**
TOEFL iBT 100 (subscores of at least 24 for speaking and 21 for writing); IELTS 7; Duolingo 125

Core Faculty

Sean Brotherson, Ph.D.

Oregon State University, 2000

Research Interests: Parenting and Fatherhood; Healthy Marriages; Family Stress; Rural Families; Grief and Bereavement; Family Life Education; Family Policy

James E. Deal, Ph.D.

University of Georgia, 1987

Research Interests: Personality Development in Children; Relationship Between Individual Development and Family Relationships

Heather Fuller, Ph.D.

University of Michigan, 2009

Research Interests: Social Relationships Across the Lifespan (E.G. Intergenerational Relationships); Psychological Well-Being in Old Age; Culture and Aging; Migration, Transnationalism and Acculturation; Biculturalism

Joel Hektner, Ph.D.

University of Chicago, 1996

Research Interests: Aggressive Children; Research Methods; Prevention Programs For High-Risk Aggressive Children; Peer Affiliation Patterns and Peer Influences on Children's Behaviors; Family and School Conditions That Facilitate Optimal Experiences (Flow) and Optimal Development; The Experience Sampling Method

Melissa Lunsman O'Connor, Ph.D.

University of South Florida, 2010

Research Interests: Cognitive and Functional Aging in Healthy and Clinical Populations; Older Drivers; Research Methods; Attitudes toward Dementia

Wen Wang, Ph.D.

Michigan State University, 2018

Research Interests: How culture and ethnicity shape parenting; Socialization of children's mastery motivation in at-risk families

Affiliated Faculty within HDFS

Carrie Johnson, Ph.D.

Iowa State University, 2012

Research Interests: Personal Finance for Low-Income and Under-served Populations; Financial Education Impact; Student Loan Debt; Program Delivery Methods and Evaluation; Behavioral Finance across the Lifespan

Christie McGeorge, Ph.D.

University of Minnesota, 2005

Research Interests: Heterosexism and Homophobia; Single Parenting; Women's History; Gender Socialization From a Feminist Perspective

Meagan Scott Hoffman, Ph.D.

Oklahoma State University, 2016

Research Interests: Understanding How Changing Trends in Society Influence Youth; Afterschool Training; Positive Youth Development; Professional Development Methods to Better Meet the Needs of 4-H Staff

Affiliated Faculty outside of HDFS

Ben Balas, Ph.D.,

Psychology

Sarah Boonstoppel, Ph.D.,

Political Science

Erin Conwell, Ph.D.,

Psychology

Donna Grandbois, Ph.D.,

Nursing

Britt Heidinger, Ph.D.,

Biological Sciences

Brent Hill, Ph.D.,

Education

Andrea Huseth-Zosel, Ph.D.,

Public Health

Linda Langley, Ph.D.,

Psychology

Carrie Ann Platt, Ph.D.,

Communication

Susan Ray-Degges, Ph.D.,

Apparel, Design and Hospitality Management

Molly Secor-Turner, Ph.D.,

Nursing

Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.,

Criminal Justice and Political Science

Rachelle Vetter, Ph.D.,

Center for 4-H Youth Development