Developmental Science

Department Information

- **Department Head:** Joel Hektner, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Coordinator:** Heather Fuller, Ph.D.
- **Email:** heather.fuller@ndsu.edu
- **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); Successful Aging and Health Promotion; Aging in Rural and Cross-cultural Contexts; Aging Families and Caregiving; Aging-in-Place, Survey Research and Program Evaluation

**Joel Hektner, Ph.D.**  
University of Chicago, 1996  
Research Interests: Prevention Programs For Children with Adjustment Problems; Peer Affiliation Patterns and Peer Influences on Children's Behaviors; Family and School Conditions That Facilitate Optimal Experiences (Flow) and Optimal Development; Social Emotional Learning; Program Evaluation; The Experience Sampling Method

**Carmen Kho, Ph.D.**  
University of California Merced, 2020  
Research Interests: How cultural, family, and other contextual influences intersect with socio-emotional development of children, adolescents, and emerging adults.

**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

**Leanna McWood, PhD.**  
Auburn University, 2020  
Research Interests: Extracurricular Involvement; Social Relationships; Contextual Influences; Sleep; Adolescent Development

**Natira Mullet, Ph.D.**  
Texas Tech University, 2020
Research Interests: Intergenerational, cultural and familial protective factors to reduce interpersonal trauma and resulting substance use and mental health outcomes among marginalized communities.

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

Margaret Fitzgerald, Ph.D.
Iowa State University, 1997
Research Interests: Family owned businesses—copreneurial couples, women and minority-owned businesses, the interface between the business, family, and community, and managerial adjustment strategies.

Christi 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