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; Duolinger 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