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