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

**Affiliated Faculty outside of HDFS**

**Ben Balas, Ph.D.,**
Psychology

**Sarah Boonstoppel, Ph.D.,**
Political Science

**Erin Conwell, Ph.D.,**
Psychology

**Britt Heidinger, Ph.D.,**
Biological Sciences

**Brent Hill, Ph.D.,**
Education

**Andrea Huset-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

**Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.,**
Criminal Justice and Political Science

**Rachelle Vettern, Ph.D.,**
Center for 4-H Youth Development