Human Development and Family Science

Department Information

- **Department Head:**
  Joel Hektner, Ph.D.

- **Department Location:**
  Evelyn Morrow Lebedeff Hall

- **Department Phone:**
  (701) 231-8268

- **Department Web Site:**
  [www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/academics/masters_degree/](http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/academics/masters_degree/)

- **Application Deadline:**
  One month prior to the beginning of each term. Applications accepted for fall, spring, and summer.

- **Credential Offered:**
  M.S., Certificate

- **English Proficiency Requirements:**
  TOEFL iBT 100 (subscores of at least 24 for speaking and 21 for writing); IELTS 7; Duolingo125

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**James Deal, Ph.D.**
University of Georgia, 1987
Research Interests: Identity Development in Emerging Adults, Particularly in the Areas of Religion and the Transition to College; First Generation and/or Low Income Students and Issues Related to Financial Support

**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.

**Heather Fuller, Ph.D.**
University of Michigan, 2009
Research Interests: Social Relationships and Well-Being Across the Lifespan (e.g. Intergenerational Relationships); Successful Aging and Health Promotion; Aging in Rural and Cross-Cultural Contexts; Aging Families and Caregiving; Survey Research and Program Evaluation

**Joel Hektner, Ph.D.**
University of Chicago, 1996
Research Interests: Design and Effectiveness of Programs to Prevent Adjustment Problems and Promote Well-Being in Children and Adolescents; 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

**Leanna McWood, Ph.D.**
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.

**Melissa O'Connor, Ph.D.**
University of South Florida, 2010
Research Interests: Examining Age-Related Differences and Changes in Cognitive and Functional Abilities, Such as Driving, Among Healthy Adults and Clinical Populations; Quantitative Methods and Psychometrics; Interventions for Improving Cognition, Health, and Everyday Functioning; and Attitudes Toward Dementia

**Rachelle Vettern, Ph.D.**
North Dakota State University, 2006
Human Development and Family Science

Research Interests: Leadership and Volunteer Development