Developmental Science

Department Information

- **Department Head:**
  Joel Hektner, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Coordinator:**
  Elizabeth Blodgett Salafia, Ph.D.
- **Email:**
  elizabeth.salafia@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

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

Elizabeth Blodgett Salafia, Ph.D.
University of Notre Dame, 2008
Research Interests: Family and Peer Influences on Adolescents' Disordered Eating Attitudes and Behaviors

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

**Thomas Stone Carlson, Ph.D.**
Iowa State University, 2000
Research Interests: Narrative Pedagogy; Relational Accountability Approach to Couples Therapy, LGBT Affirmative Therapy Competence Among Therapists, and Influence of Spirituality on Clinical Practice and Training

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