Dr. Nordness has been part of the Special Education and Communication Disorders faculty for 16 years. His extensive knowledge of behavioral disorders helped to develop the Behavior Intervention Specialist concentration.

What led you to choose a career in special education?

I love the challenge of being able to build a relationship with children whose behaviors make developing relationships with peers and adults difficult. Problem solving and figuring out ways to help children be more successful in relationships and academics is the ultimate challenge and I have always found that to be invigorating and rewarding.

What has been the best family vacation you've taken?

Our summer vacation to Banff, Canada was one of my favorites. This trip was special because we finally had a pop-up camper, so we no longer had to sleep in a tent and we had space for when it was wet or rainy. The hikes and the views throughout Banff and Jasper were amazing. It was a great trip!

What is the coolest place you have ever traveled for work?

This is a tough question because Lithuania holds a special place in my heart. However, taking a group of students and my family on a visit to Norway was amazing. Getting to see the city of Bergen, traveling through the fjords of Norway, hiking to Pupit Rock, and taking a train across the country to the city of Kristinsand was one of the best experiences of my life. I got to share this experience with students and family, which made it even more special.

What are the top three research projects you have been a part of?

First, during my doctoral program we worked on two research papers related to the Academic Status of Students with Emotional Disturbance. Each of those papers became frequently cited in other papers and textbooks. Second, doing the survey and writing the manuscript on "Student Perceptions of Online Learning" was a great project because it was still a new topic at the time. Third, my research on translating strength based assessments into Finish and Lithuanian was a fun, collaborative experience.