

President's Message

I am struggling to find the words to express how humbled I am to be writing the President's Message for the NAFAPA newsletter; it doesn't quite seem real that I have stepped into the role held by so many of my respected colleagues.

I would like to thank our outgoing board members: JK Yun, Nancy Spencer, Myeongjin Bae, Ueli Albert, Nancy Huynh, and Kate Rozendaal. Our community is grateful for your time and efforts. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to John Foley and his team for hosting a very successful NAFAPA conference in Ithaca last fall. It was a great conference, and we are grateful.

The vision and direction of our new NAFAPA board is now taking shape, and we are excited to share with you some of our initiatives in this newsletter. The best way I can describe my vision for our work over the term of the Board is: to bring the NAFAPA communications strategy into 2025. We have begun the process of emphasizing our brand identity across all platforms and streamlining our processes for communicating with the broader NAFAPA membership.

You will note you are receiving this newsletter from a newly minted NAFAPA Board email address (**NAFAPA.boardofdirectors@gmail.com**). This email will be monitored by the NAFAPA secretary and future communication to the broader membership will be centralized here. We have also updated our website. Please check it out, I think it looks amazing: **www.nafapa.org**.

In terms of social media, we have new handles that we hope you will all follow for regular posts on what the Board and the greater NAFAPA membership are up to.

Instagram: **_NAFAPA** LinkedIn: **North American Federation of Adapted Physical Activity**

None of this communications work would be possible without the genius, effort, and dedication of our team. Please know that the brilliance behind this work is not me, but the very talented Cora Firkin, Jenna Smith, Paul Warner, Edward Ramirez, and Franzi Loetzner.

With that, I will let the rest of our team share some of our initiatives and I hope you will follow our communications efforts over the coming months.



**Cheers,
Meghann**

Our Commitment to Ongoing Accessibility Enhancements of the NAFAPA Website

NAFAPA has long benefited from the dedication of our past boards and webmasters who have developed and maintained our digital presence. Their efforts have provided a valuable platform for showcasing our history, disseminating our newsletters and announcements, fostering connection at our conferences, recognizing our new investigators and leaders in the adapted physical activity field, and supporting our network. Building upon this foundation, we are excited to announce our commitment to making the NAFAPA website more widely accessible for populations with diverse characteristics and capabilities. In our latest website launch, we have:

- I. Chosen fonts with wider inter-letter spacing.** To reduce excessive crowding, we have switched to Lexend Medium, Montserrat Bold, Open Sans, and Avenir Light.
- II. Chosen colors with high contrast.** The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Level AAA requires a contrast ratio of at least 7:1 for the main text and 4.5:1 for large text. Our color palette for text exceeds these ratios.
- III. Resized all text to at least 18 points and are exploring options for customization.**
- IV. Identified all headers, sub-headers, and text.** We leveraged the Wix Accessibility Tool to check compatibility with assistive technologies.
- V. Begun inputting captions and text alternatives for all non-text content.** We are fortunate to have many photos showcasing our network's impactful work in adapted physical activity.
- VI. Reviewed all updates to confirm they render appropriately on mobile devices.**

Enhancing accessibility is an ongoing process. By continuously refining our website, we aim to foster more equitable opportunities for individuals to engage with our awesome content and community. We welcome your feedback to help guide these enhancements and intentional steps toward digital inclusivity.



**All the best,
Cora Firkin**

Congratulations to NAFAPA 2024 Award Recipients:



Emily Bremer
Allen W. Burton
New Investigator Award



Lindsay Nowland
Patricia Austin
Graduate Student Award



Nathan Lemain
Greg Reid Research Award

Not Pictured:



Dr. Samuel R. Hodge- Dale A. Ulrich Leadership Award

NAFAPA 2024 Highlights



**Thank you to the SUNY-Cortland & SUNY-Brockport
for sponsoring a great conference!**

NAFAPA Board Members 2024-2026



MEGHANN LLOYD

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Ontario Tech University



ANDREW PITCHFORD

President-Elect
Oregon State University



JUSTIN HAEGELE

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Member at Large
University of Delaware



EDWARD RAMIREZ

Member at Large
University of Georgia



JENNA SMITH

Member at Large
University of Toronto



PAUL WARNER

Member at Large
University of Illinois

Thank you to the outgoing NAFAPA board members!

Upcoming Events:

ISAPA 2025

Tralee, Kerry, Ireland

June 16-20, 2025

<https://www.isapa2025.com>

Registration is open now!



ISAPA 2025
KERRY



NAFAPA 2026

Anticipated August 2026

Hawaii, USA

<https://www.nafapa.org/conference>

More information coming soon!

Follow Us on our NEW Instagram and LinkedIn!

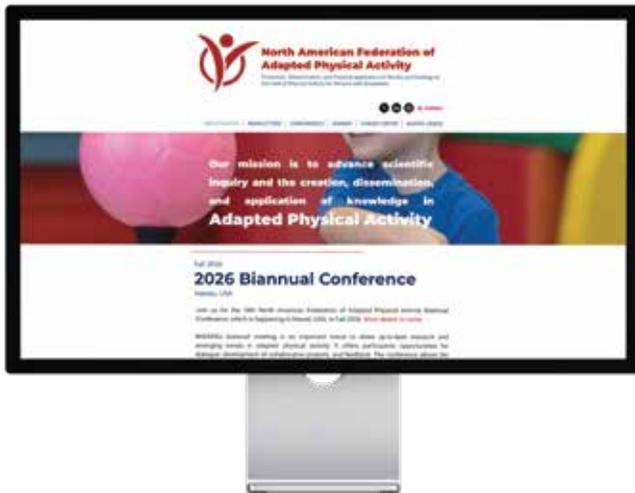


Instagram:
_NAFAPA



LinkedIn:
**North American Federation
of Adapted Physical Activity**

Check Out Our New Website!



Website Home Page



Phone Home Page

Meet the Newsletter Editors:



PAUL WARNER

Paul Warner is a PhD student at the University of Illinois. His research focuses on the lived-experiences of youth with disabilities in different physical education and physical activity settings and the use of evidence-based practices in such spaces.



EDWARD RAMIREZ

Eddie Ramirez is a PhD student at the University of Georgia. His research interest focuses on people with physical impairments who use wheelchairs and their motivation, lived experiences, and benefits of participating in wheelchair sports.