



July 2022 Newsletter

# A CELEBRATION OF SUMMER

The National Association of LSAMP Alumni hopes you are having a wonderful and relaxing summer.

Curious to explore famous inventions and scientist birthdays that occurred this month in history?  
[Check out this link!](#)

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# GET INVOLVED WITH NALA

NALA IS EXPANDING! THERE ARE NOW MANY WAYS TO JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION!

For position descriptions and more information click here!

## OUTREACH CHAIR

## TREASURER

## NALA MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN POSITIONS

Mentor Pairing Coordinator(s)

Mentorship Development Coordinator(s)

Mentor Relationship Coordinator(s)

## NALA OUTREACH COMMITTEE OPEN POSITIONS

Recruiting Coordinator(s)

Conference Coordinator(s)

Workshop Coordinator(s)

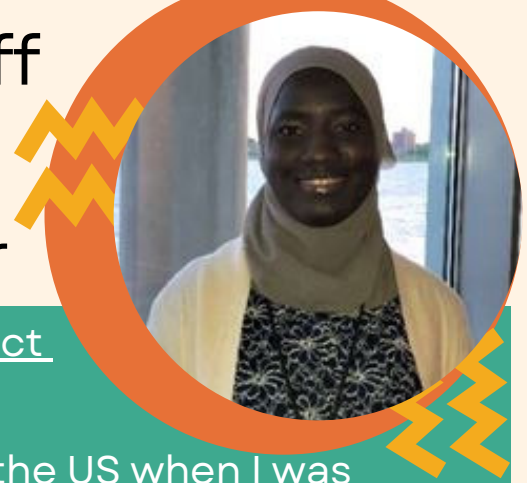


[Become a NALA member - click here!](#)

# Get to know our Executive Staff

## Ndeye Thiaw

### University Development Chair



Where did you grow up, and how does that connect with your journey of pursuing science?

I grew up in Senegal, in West Africa, and came to the US when I was around 17. The education system in Senegal and the US is quite different in terms of the curriculum and how one chooses a career field. Every student has to pass a national exam to make it to the next level from elementary school, to middle school, and then to high school. The grades you get determine which field you will get to focus on and study. During the national exam in the last year of middle school, one of the advisors suggested that science would be a good fit for me based on my scores in math and natural science. Though I was not super confident about it at first, he convinced me to try it for a year and see for myself. After one year of trying, my love for natural science grew deeper and I surpassed my fear of physics and chemistry.

What was your path to Physician Assistant (PA) school like?

Growing up in Senegal there was no such thing as PAs. The PA profession is still a growing field and has not made it to Senegal yet. My plan was always med school until the summer before my senior year of undergrad when a student in my research lab was graduating and moving on to PA school. After asking her some questions, I decided to do my research about the PA profession. PAs have more time to spend with patients, and the biggest part of my love for medicine and being a healthcare provider is the patient interactions. PA school is also shorter with 2.5 years compared to 4 years of med school. The shorter timeline of training as a PA lets me start helping patients sooner, and I will continue to learn through experience. Most importantly there is more flexibility in the PA profession to switch specialty without the need to pursue another residency program or go back to school.



# 2021-2022 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all the mentors who have shown leadership in this year's program, and to all the mentees who have shown growth.

Aaron West and Asya Davis  
Ana Collazo Martinez and Safiyah Sannoh  
Cheyanne Koran and Ansley Watkins  
Christina De Jesus Villanueva and Brittney Whitt  
Daisy Diaz-Rohena and Briauna Pope  
Daniel Faronbi and Yeamlak Workneh  
Darian James and Jami Sepke  
Folahanmi Ojo and Eldana Tadesse  
German Saltar-Rivera and Katelyn Blackwood  
Gwendolynn Fine and Alissa Cuffy  
Hezekiah Branch and Clifton Cunningham  
Hosea Santiago and Joana Hernandez  
Israel Garcia-Carachure and YaMarie Koroma  
Jean Branttie and Dawn Falokun

Kayla Davis and Christa Richardson  
Kayla Titialli-Torres and Alejandro Garavito  
Keon Jones and Emmanuella Adjei  
Ndeye Thiaw and JaNiya Ulysse  
Nidy Wagnac and Chelsea Oti  
Nikita Kozak and Warner Carnero  
Paul Faronbi and Idris Yahaya  
Rita Cacaeres-Charneco and T'Aira Bayone  
Sandro Aldana and Allen Bakira  
Sidney Smith and Sabrina Niezgoda  
Syamala Neeraja and Keon Hayes  
Tabitha Gunnars and Kyla Smith  
Tilly Duong and Terence Lesigues  
Valeria Gerena-Gonzalez and Alison Danzey  
Vanessa Alizo Vera and Mary Melo  
Victoria Villanueva and Jeto-Rivar Sanon  
Viviana Llontop-Maldonado and Verzhin Shagrikyan

"A mentor empowers a person to see a possible future, and believe it can be obtained."



# Upcoming Events

## **IN LSAMP ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

When: September 30 – October 1, 2022

Where: Indiana Memorial Union  
Bloomington, Indiana

[Event Website](#)

## **LSMRCE CONFERENCE**

When: October 28-30, 2022, 2022

Where: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg  
Schaumburg, Illinois

[Event Website](#)