



THE
William Averette
Anderson **FUND**

FALL 2023

newsletter

NOVEMBER 2023

As the leaves cycle through their autumnal hues, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey that the BAF has embarked upon in the past few months. It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we bring you our Fall Newsletter, a testament to the amazing accomplishments within the BAF network and the exciting strides we've made together.

In this edition, we're thrilled to share with you a medley of accomplishments, initiatives, and plans that have been taking shape behind the scenes. From exciting new programs that are expanding career pathways, to inspiring partnerships that extend our research impact, this newsletter is a testament to the collective power of our community.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Bill Anderson Fund's story. Your support fuels our work, and your belief in our mission empowers us to continue making a difference for our Fellows, Alumni, and the communities they serve.

WELCOME

Welcome, New Fellows!

We are thrilled to introduce the eight extraordinary individuals who have joined the BAF as

our newest cohort of doctoral student fellows for the 2023-2024 academic year. Each of them brings a unique blend of expertise, passion, and dedication to our mission, and we are eager to witness the impact they will undoubtedly have in our community and in their burgeoning careers. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to:

- Kayode (**Nelson**) Adeniji, Coastal Studies, East Carolina University
- **Latasha** Allen, Global Health, Indiana University
- **Afeez** Badmus, Structural Engineering, University of Kansas
- **Tamara** Doss, Emergency Management, Jacksonville State University
- **Abbie** Robinson, Rural Sociology, Pennsylvania State University
- **Maribel** Sandoval Contreras, Urban Planning, University of California Irvine
- **Gabriela** Yañez González, Structural Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Jonathan (**Teye**) Yevuyibor, Environmental Sociology, Louisiana State University



New Project Alert

[Headwaters Economics](#), a nonprofit research group that works to improve community development and land management decisions, has partnered with the Bill Anderson Fund to support applied research conducted by two BAF Fellows that will help federal agency administrators and staff understand how to appropriately use the maps to meet congressional and agency objectives. BAF Fellows [Tiffany Cousins](#) and [Joseph Karanja](#) will analyze characteristics of social vulnerability maps and develop data summaries that provide key insights for end users and decision makers. [Dr. Mary Angelica Painter](#) of the Natural Hazards Center will support their analysis and contribute subject matter expertise as the project mentor. The Fellows will also work closely with the Headwaters Economics team to develop and disseminate informational materials that relay their findings.



BAF Returns to the White House

BAF Fellow [Felicia Henry](#) represented the Bill Anderson Fund at the White House Summit on Building Climate Resilient Communities in September. The White House Climate Policy Office hosted the event to convene leaders and practitioners across local, state, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions to discuss strategies for community climate resilience. The Summit was the first of its kind following the Biden-Harris Administration's historic investment of billions of dollars dedicated to climate resilience through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, and included representatives of various federal agencies. Additionally, the Summit highlighted the new National Climate Resilience Framework, a tool for communities developed by federal and non-federal climate resilience experts.

Agency representatives discussed how federal programs support local initiatives and expressed their commitment to working with communities to build climate resilience in locally driven ways. BAF Mentor [Dr. Atyia Martin](#), a key founder of the [Black Resilience Network](#)—of which the BAF is a founding member—participated on a panel and discussed strategies to include marginalized communities, particularly Black communities, at the forefront of the resilience efforts that are grounded in racial justice. Felicia also offered new insights into populations often left out of resilience efforts, like individuals involved in the criminal legal system, and methods to expand perspectives on climate resilience, particularly for those who separated from their local communities. BAF Founding Fellow [Dr. Marccus Hendricks](#) also participated in the event, representing the Council on Environmental Quality.



BAF Fall Workshop Recap

The 2023 Bill Anderson Fund Fall Fellows Workshop took place at the **University of California Irvine** November 2-4. This was the BAF's first event in California and it was a smashing success!

Panelists from departments and disciplines across the university contributed to discussions that highlighted the equity and justice dimensions of hydrologic extremes and water resources, energy and infrastructure, and wildfire hazards. Sessions on community-based research and indigenous engagement stimulated in-depth conversations about topics such as ensuring reciprocity in research, forging partnerships with grassroots organizations, exploring researcher positionality, and navigating scholar-activism. The workshop wrapped up with professional development training sessions on enhancing communication skills and distilling research findings into actionable information that influences public policy.

A huge thanks to the workshop planning team, including Drs. Kathleen Johnson, Aradhna Tripathi, and Robert García, as well as BAF Fellow Carlo Chunga Pizarro and UCLA graduate students Jessica Heckman and Kira Fish, for supporting the development and logistics of the workshop! Additionally, our sincere gratitude goes to Drs. Vernon Morris and Tracy Perkins at Arizona State University for facilitating connections to our new partners at UCI and UCLA. See button below to view the workshop program and the list of sponsors who made this event possible!

[CLICK HERE FOR WORKSHOP PROGRAM AND SPONSORS!](#)



FRIDAY FELLOW FEATURE

NOVEMBER 2023

Dr. Christin Salley

In case you missed it, November's Featured Fellow is **Dr. Christin Salley**, who recently graduated from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her research interests lie at the intersection of emergency management, infrastructure systems, equity, and machine learning to assess social systems and enhance community resilience related to disasters and natural hazards. Click the link below to read all about Dr. Salley and her ongoing work!



[READ THE FULL FEATURE HERE](#)



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