



THE  
William Averette  
Anderson **FUND**

*Expanding inclusive hazard disaster planning for communities of color*

## SPRING 2023 *newsletter*

### MAY 2023

The first quarter of 2023 has been full of activity throughout the Bill Anderson Fund network! We're thrilled to share what we've been up to over these past few months.



It's that time of year again! We're so excited to announce [registration for the 2023 Annual BAF Disaster Dash 5k is OPEN!](#) This year's event will be held in concurrence with the [48th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop](#). Since the Disaster Dash is our biggest fundraising event of the year, we're ready to build momentum early.

A few ideas:

- [Register](#) to participate! We would love to have you walk or run with us on Wednesday, July 12th in Broomfield, Colorado.
  - Create an individual fundraising page (once registered) to share with friends, family and colleagues.
- Have your organization partner with the BAF as an [event sponsor](#).
- [Support](#) individual BAF Fellow, Alumni, an other participants.
- [Share this event](#) on social media using the #BAFDisasterDash hashtag and ask others to participate.

We look forward to a successful and fun 9th Annual BAF Disaster Dash this July!

[www.disasterdash.org](http://www.disasterdash.org)



## Saige Hill

The Friday Fellow Feature is our way of showing off the brilliant emerging professionals within the BAF's network of doctoral students. Each month we share a post that introduces a current or recently graduated BAF Fellow and their work. Our Featured Fellow for May is Saige Hill, a doctoral candidate in public administration and policy at Old Dominion University. Saige's dissertation focuses on the evacuation behaviors and risk perceptions of college students affected by coastal hazards.



[READ THE FULL FEATURE HERE](#)

## BAF Goes to the White House

BAF Alumni **Drs. Nnenia Campbell** and **Dontá Council** represented the Bill Anderson Fund in a climate resilience roundtable at the White House at the end of February.

The event was hosted by the DHS Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in collaboration with the [Black Resilience Network](#), of which the BAF is a founding member. This roundtable was the first time in history that a collective of Black-led organizations has convened with FEMA, other federal agencies, and private sector stakeholders to discuss pathways to strengthening climate and disaster resilience in Black towns and communities.

Last but certainly not least, BAF Alumnus **Dr. Marccus Hendricks** was a featured speaker representing the White House Council on Environmental Quality! More about that below.



[READ EVENT RECAP HERE](#)

## Spring 2023 Fellows Workshop



The Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center (HRRC) at Texas A&M University once again hosted our Spring Fellows Workshop as a virtual event in April. And this time around, we met *live and in person* in Galveston, Texas!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Drs. Michelle Meyer and Deidra Davis for spearheading the workshop planning effort, and to the entire HRRC team for making this excellent learning opportunity possible.

The workshop addressed topics in high demand with the Fellows, from publishing for academic journals to job market preparation. There was even a session featuring a detailed workshopping of a Fellow's draft paper, facilitated by professional writing coach [Dr. Vernetta K. Mosley](#)! The event concluded with a field trip hosted by the [Juneteenth Legacy Project](#) and a guided discussion on storytelling in research.

This was our fifth workshop hosted by Texas A&M and its partners! We are truly grateful for their longstanding support for the Bill Anderson Fund's programs and Fellows.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMS & PRESENTER BIOS



# A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

## AWARDS | ACCOLADES | RECOGNITIONS

*Congratulations to our Fellows and Alumni!*

The BAF Fellows and Alumni received so many awards, accolades, and recognitions in the past few months that an exhaustive list is too long for this newsletter!

Here is a selection of highlights:

- BAF Alumnus **Dr. Marccus Hendricks** has joined the inaugural Environmental Justice Team of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Read the announcement [here](#).
- BAF Alumna **Dr. Akilah Alleyne** accepted a new position as the Executive Director of Government Affairs, Education Policy & External Relations at the Maryland State Department of Education.
- BAF Fellow **Yajaira Ayala** was awarded the Doctoral Fellowship for Excellence by the Graduate College at the University of Delaware.
- BAF Fellow **Jennifer Blanks** was awarded the prestigious ASCP Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning
- BAF Fellow **Diamond Cunningham** was awarded the Administrative Supplement to Promote Diversity in Lupus Research from the Lupus Research Alliance.
- BAF Fellow **Annika Doneghy** was awarded a summer research internship with the Disaster Research Center's Coastal Hazards, Equity, Economic Prosperity & Resilience Hub.
- BAF Fellow **Wendell Grinton** received the 2022-2023 Outstanding Doctoral Student of the Year Award from the Virginia Tech College of Engineering.
- BAF Fellow **Amidu Kalokoh** was awarded the 2023 Scholarship in Quantitative Methods by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program.
- BAF Fellow **Dr. Oscar Lafontaine** successfully defended his dissertation in December.
- BAF Alumna **Dr. Natasha Malmin** was appointed as a Faculty Scholar of the Clemson University School of Health Research by the Office of the Provost at Clemson University. She was also named Faculty Affiliate at Clemson's Center for Justice and Social Research.
- BAF Fellow **TyKeara Mims** was also awarded a summer research internship with the Disaster Research Center's Coastal Hazards, Equity, Economic Prosperity & Resilience Hub.
- BAF Fellow **Jean-Claude Ndongo** was accepted for a Business Analytics summer internship with the U.S. Department of Treasury.
- BAF Alumna **Dr. Danielle Sharpe** received the 2021 COVID-19 Health Equity Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in November.
- BAF Fellow **Dr. Tihara Richardson Sommers** successfully defended her dissertation in April.
- BAF Fellow **Dr. Amy Takabe** successfully defended her dissertation in March.
- BAF Alumnus **Jose Torres** joined Landwatch Monterey County as a Housing Advocate.
- BAF Fellow **Dr. Valerie Washington** successfully defended her dissertation in December.
- BAF Fellow **Darien Alexander Williams** has accepted an Assistant Professor of Climate and Environmental Justice position at the Boston University School of Social Work.



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**The Bill Anderson Fund**

1 Willowbrook Court, Randallstown, MD 21133

[hello@billandersonfund.org](mailto:hello@billandersonfund.org)

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