



SUMMER 2023 *newsletter*

SEPTEMBER 2023



BAF at the Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop

The Natural Hazards Center (NHC) at the University of Colorado Boulder hosted the 48th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in July. This was the first in-person Workshop since 2019, as it has been held virtually for the past three years. The NHC secured funding to support the participation of nearly 40 Fellows at both the Workshop and Researchers Meeting. We are so grateful for their continued partnership!

The Bill Anderson Fund was well-represented across the Workshop program, with Fellows and Alumni engaged in presentations, add-on meetings, and social events. In total, 15 members of the BAF community presented in or moderated sessions for this year's event. Their contributions covered diverse topics ranging from the challenges of bureaucracy in disaster recovery, to methods for inclusive data collection and adoption, to understanding hazard risks in public housing developments. A round of applause to BAF Alumni Drs. [Benika Dixon](#), [Oronde Drakes](#), [Cassandra Jean](#), [Maggie León-Corwin](#), and [Nnenia Campbell](#), as well as current Fellows [Yajaira Ayala](#), [Natalie Coleman](#), [Joshua McDuffie](#), [Judanne Lennox Morrison](#), [Jean-Claude Ndongo](#), [Kesley Richardson](#), and [Melissa Villarreal](#) for their stellar presentations and facilitation.

The Workshop concluded with a powerful plenary session, [Ethical Obligations to Current and Future Generations of the Natural Hazards Workforce](#), which featured inspirational remarks from BAF Founder Norma Anderson. Watch the full session using the link above!

BAF at the Researchers Meeting

Several BAF Fellows and Alumni also participated in the Researchers Meeting that immediately follows the Natural Hazards Workshop each year.

One presentation, [Don't Look Up: Local Emergency Management and Falling Space Debris](#), showcased collaboration across representatives of three separate BAF cohorts! The research presented involved two BAF Alumni, Dr. Hans Louis-Charles and Jose Torres, and one current Fellow, Amidu Kalokoh. BAF affiliates also gave individual presentations, including Alumni [Santina Contreras](#) and [Dontá Council](#), and [Cassandra Jean](#), and Fellows [Jennifer Blanks](#), [Natalie Coleman](#), [Ciara Horne](#), and [Joseph Karanja](#).

Congratulations to all Fellow and Alumni participants, and again, many thanks to the Natural Hazards Center for their continued partnership and support!



Dashing Back to Colorado

The 9th Annual BAF Disaster Dash 5K was held in concurrence with the Natural Hazards Workshop in Broomfield, Colorado. This year's Dash was the first to have an in-person component since 2019. The race raised over \$22,000 with the support of seven teams and 80 registrants. A special partnership provided further support, as the Dash was [sponsored by members of the ARISE-US Network!](#)

A special congratulations to the winners of the race:

- Overall Winners
 - 1st Place: Declan Goddard
 - 2nd Place: Alexa Riobueno-Naylor

3rd Place: Jeffrey Gunderson

Final Finisher: Paula Burgi

- Winners by Age Category

18-29: Declan Goddard

30-39: Christine Gibb

40-49: Jeffrey Gunderson

50-59: Shingo Nagamatsu

60-69: Mark Lindberg

www.disasterdash.org

Food Bank Preparedness Research

The Bill Anderson Fund is playing a key role in a collaborative study that will examine disaster planning and preparedness within food banks. Led by Drs. Liesel Ritchie (Virginia Tech), Nnenia Campbell (Bill Anderson Fund), Melanie Gall (Arizona State University), and Susan Cutter (University of South Carolina), this two-year project is being carried out in collaboration with [Feeding America](#), the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization. The BAF will be spearheading qualitative research with food bank representatives and supporting the development of disaster planning tools prototyped for Feeding America's national food bank network. Current Fellow Judanne Lennox-Morrison is assisting with the first phase of the BAF's work, building on expertise gained through her recent research on culturally responsive practices employed by grassroots food assistance organizations as part of a [separate BAF research collaboration](#).

First Fellows Join the CHEER Hub

In June and July, BAF Fellows Annika Doneghy and TyKeara Mims joined five other students in an eight-week summer research program as the first cohort of the Disaster Research Center's [Coastal Hazards, Equity, Economic prosperity and Resilience](#) (CHEER) Hub. The students received training in disaster science and collaborated as part of an interdisciplinary research team, working at the University of Delaware for the first half of the program and at East Carolina University for the second half. Each student explored a different research question, and the experience culminated with a summit at which they presented their findings to members of the CHEER team and partner organizations. Annika's presentation, *Closing the Gap: Examining Hurricane Recovery through an Equity Lens*, and Tykeara's presentation, *Resilience in the Face of Disaster: Understanding*

Decision-Making, Displacement and Recovery Dynamics, drew from on-the-ground observations and stakeholder interviews conducted throughout the summer.

READ MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM HERE

Making Mitigation Work Webinar

On August 15, 2023, a group of BAF Fellows and Alumni were featured in a webinar entitled [Research with Impact: Improving Mitigation Practice and Increasing Community Resilience](#). Part of the Natural Hazards Center's Making Mitigation Work webinar series, this event showcased how their work is providing the research foundation necessary to improve mitigation practice and increase community resilience. Dr. Cassandra Jean moderated the webinar, while Yajaira Ayala, Natalie Coleman, Dr. Maggie León-Corwin, and Joshua McDuffie gave short presentations about their work.

DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH PRESENTATION AND VIEW WEBINAR



Three Fellows successfully defended their dissertations this summer and began transitioning to Alumni status. Please join us in cheering on **Drs.:**



Saige Hill



Taylor Lightner



Christin Salley

We are so proud of these brilliant emerging scholars!



Felicia A. Henry

In case you haven't seen it, our Friday Fellow Feature for the month of September showcases **Felicia Henry**, a rising star and Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the **University of Delaware**.



[READ THE FULL FEATURE HERE](#)

In Closing...

As summer draws to a close, we have much to celebrate and many reasons for gratitude. We also have an array of exciting activities on the horizon as we approach the Bill Anderson Fund's 10-year anniversary in 2024. We look forward to telling you all about them soon!



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