



WINTER *newsletter*

FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the spring 2024 edition of the Bill Anderson Fund's quarterly newsletter. This edition marks a special milestone, as it is the first official communication to kick off our 10-year anniversary. Over the coming months we will continue to reflect on a decade of inspirational growth and impact. I look forward to sharing what we've accomplished, what we're doing currently, where we're headed.

Highlighting Bill's Legacy: The American Sociological Association Minority Fellows Program

While it is commonly known that Bill was a sociologist, many are not aware of the breadth of his impact on the discipline of sociology. From 1974-1975, Bill took time away from his faculty position at Arizona State University to become the first full-time director of the American Sociological Association's (ASA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). This program, which continues to operate today, has supported more than 500 students of color pursuing doctoral degrees in sociology—including disaster researchers such as Drs. Havidán Rodríguez, Brandi Gilbert, and Nnenia Campbell. MFP alumni have gone on to make tremendous impacts on societal issues through groundbreaking scholarship and contributions to public policy. In celebration of the program's 50th anniversary in 2024, the ASA has developed a [special issue of Footnotes](#), the association's official magazine, as a flipbook that reflects on the program's impressive history and future promise.

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

A team of Bill Anderson Fund Fellows and Alumni, joined by BAF mentor Dr. Kathleen Tierney, is spearheading a [special issue](#) in the journal *Disaster Prevention and Management* entitled “Using Critical Perspectives to Explore Disasters Through Shifting Climates.” The issue builds on Bill Anderson’s intellectual legacy by showcasing alternative approaches and global collaborative efforts that combat the continually evolving landscape of environmental threats facing marginalized groups. It aims to foster dialogue about the impacts of changing physical, social, economic, and political climates for marginalized and minoritized communities; underscore the utility of critical theoretical approaches and standpoint epistemologies as political tools to bring about social change; and explore the legacies of scholars, advocates, activists, practitioners, and grassroots and community-based organizations in disaster research.

Lessons from Louisiana



A recently launched partnership brought together the [Mennonite Disaster Service \(MDS\)](#) and BAF Fellow Brittany Giles Jones, who visited disaster-affected communities in Louisiana to help inform research and practice. Brittany joined a team with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, MDS conference leaders, and local community leaders assembled by MDS Executive Director Kevin King. The team traveled to MDS project sites in Jennings (Jefferson Davis Parish) and communities throughout Lafourche Parish to engage with local homeowners, community representatives, and volunteers who are rebuilding homes. Brittany is leveraging her specialization in equity-related issues and emergency management to provide observational insights to the MDS leadership and to write an analytic brief that will be available on the BAF website later this spring.

Applied Learning

The Bill Anderson Fund has partnered with the Center for Disaster Resilient Communities at the University of Washington (UW) to offer training in environmental and public health disaster research methods. The new initiative, [*Increasing Diversity in and Equitable Access to Applied Learning in Disaster Research Response: IDEAAL DR2*](#), includes a weeklong in-person training program at UW during which participants will receive hands-on training in Disaster Research Response methods and skills. After the completion of this in-person component of the course, participants will return to their home institutions to complete their research projects. Each year, five BAF IDEAAL Fellows will be matched with dedicated advisors and granted an annual stipend to design and implement a collaborative research project leading to a publishable manuscript over the course of the year.

Getting To Know Us

As part of our anniversary this year, we have launched a video series in which BAF Alumni reflect on the impacts of their experiences as Fellows. These self-recorded videos demonstrate how becoming a Fellow influenced their lives, personally and professionally. This month we are proud to feature Dr. Maggie León-Cowin.

REFLECTIONS FROM A BAF ALUMNA



MAGGIE LEÓN-CORWIN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. León Corwin received her Ph.D. in environmental sociology from **Oklahoma State University** in 2022. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis at the **University of Oklahoma**.

BILL ANDERSON FUND

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A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

AWARDS | ACCOLADES | RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to our Fellows and Alumni!

BAF Fellows have received a range of awards, accolades, and recognitions in the past few months! Here is a selection of highlights:

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- BAF Fellow **Natalie Coleman** has been named a Betty Cook Karrh Memorial Scholar, a Distinction of P.E.O Scholars. She is now one of only 13 Endowed PEO Scholars nationwide. The [P.E.O. Scholar Award](#) was established in 1991 to provide substantial merit-based awards for women of the U.S. and Canada who are pursuing a doctoral-level degree at an accredited college or university.
- BAF Fellow **Diamond Cunningham** received the [Michigan Institute for Data Science Future Leaders Summit Award](#) from the University of Michigan. This award offers outstanding graduate students, postdocs, and early-career faculty from around the U.S. the opportunity to engage in research discussions with peers and research leaders, and receive career mentoring as they grow to become leaders in data science and Artificial Intelligence research.
- BAF Fellow **Annika Doneghy** has received the [Disability and Disasters Award](#) from the Natural Hazards Center. This award supports people with disabilities working in disasters, as well as those who care for, study, or advocate on behalf of those with disabilities.
- BAF Fellows **Mikah Jones** and **Jessica Moulite** were accepted into the National Science Foundation (NSF) National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Advanced Study Program's Graduate Visitor Program (GVP) Fellowship. The [GVP fellowship](#) allows awardees to spend time at NSF NCAR and work on parts of their thesis, or final project equivalent, with guidance from NSF NCAR scientists and engineers.
- BAF Fellow **Amidu Kalokoh** received the Development Advocate of the Year award from the Bai Burreh Heritage Foundation in recognition of his advocacy in education, public safety, economic livelihood, civic engagement, youth active participation in governance and leadership, women's empowerment, and environmental and food security.



GRADUATIONS

FALL 2023

Congratulations to our Fellows!

The Doctor Is In

Two Fellows graduated and officially transitioned to Alumni at the end of 2023. Please join us in cheering on Drs. Cristina Muñoz De La Torre and Kesley Richardson!



Cristina Muñoz De La Torre



Kesley Richardson

Additionally, BAF Fellow Felicia Henry successfully defended her dissertation on February 19. She will be officially launching her post-Ph.D. career as Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at American University this fall.

Thank you for being part of our story and for your continued support as we embark on the next chapter of our journey.

Sincerely,

Nnenia Campbell, Ph.D.
Executive Director



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The Bill Anderson Fund

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