

THE William Averette Anderson **FUND**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the spring edition of the Bill Anderson Fund's quarterly newsletter. This installation continues the festivities around our 10-year anniversary with stories of this organization's growing impact and information about how you can participate. I'm excited to share these highlights and look forward to having you join us!

SPRING *newsletter*

MAY 2024

Off to the Races

We are thrilled to announce that registration for the 10th annual [Disaster Dash 5K](#) is officially open! For a decade, this community event has brought people together to raise critical funds for training the diverse next generation of the hazards and disaster professionals. As always, the Dash is held in concurrence with the [Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop](#).



Whether you're a seasoned runner or a casual walker, the Disaster Dash 5K welcomes participants of all ages and abilities. It's a fantastic opportunity to:

- Get active and enjoy the outdoors! This event provides a great opportunity to enjoy the sunshine after a week of indoor Workshop sessions.
- Support a worthy cause. Proceeds from the race benefit professional development programming and research awards for our doctoral student Fellows.
- Connect with your community! The Disaster Dash brings together hazards and disaster researchers, practitioners, policymakers, students, and other professionals to build

camaraderie and promote active thinking.

Ready to lace up? Registration is now open online. [Sign up today](#) and secure your spot!

Not keen on walking or running the race route? Show your support by sponsoring a participant or donating directly to the Bill Anderson Fund. Every contribution makes a difference!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Bringing Impact to Research



In April 2024 Dr. Hans Louis-Charles, Founding Fellow and Vice President of the Bill Anderson Fund Board of Directors, presented results from his ongoing research on local emergency management issues at an event held by the Congressional Disaster Equity and Building Resilience Caucus at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, Dr. Louis-Charles emphasized the need to prioritize funding and capacity-building support in low-resource jurisdictions with high social vulnerability to natural hazards.

Full STEAM Ahead



In March, BAF Alumna Dr. Michelle Dovil hosted and organized a National Science Foundation-funded convening for the [Full STEAM Ahead: Powering Connections Among Different Generations of Geoscientists and Social Scientists](#) project in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Dovil, who identifies as an Afro-Latina, gender-fluid, queer academic, served as the Principal Investigator for this grant.



The conference welcomed 50 participants who traveled from across the nation and internationally. The event provided an opportunity for early career-professionals and graduate students to engage in meaningful conversations about promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in academia and the workplace.

Dr. Dovil kicked off the event with a Mardi Gras-themed welcome reception where attendees could network and get to know each other. The conference included panel discussions that focused on professional development, which included career paths after graduate school, negotiating salaries, best practices for networking, and job interviews. There was also a day dedicated to mental health and wellness in recognition of the challenges participants discussed related to their position as marginalized scientists. Overall, the event provided a powerful reminder that authentic conversations, intentional convenings, and a centering of the stories and needs of BIPOC scientists is essential for true advocacy and allyship.

Seeking Future Fellows

Our 2024 application window is now officially open! Submissions will be accepted until July 28. We look forward to welcoming a new cohort in August. Please encourage students in your network to apply!

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY!](#)

Getting To Know Us

As part of our 10-year anniversary, 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. Heather Smith Kirkland, whose reflections include words of advice for current students and a special message of gratitude for the work of Norma Anderson in founding the Bill Anderson Fund.

REFLECTIONS FROM A BAF ALUMNA



HEATHER SMITH KIRKLAND
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

Dr. Smith Kirkland received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from American University in Washington, D.C. She is founder of P.A.W.S., LLC, an organization that works to cultivate communities of care based on reciprocity, accountability, and mutual aid.



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Feeling the Heat

BAF Fellow Joseph Karanja was recently featured as a panelist and subject matter expert in a webinar held by the Center for Disaster Philanthropy entitled “[It Gets Hotter Every Year: How to Proactively Fund the Heat Crisis.](#)” The webinar explored how funders can address the growing heat crisis, with panelists discussing the links between climate change and heat, the inequitable impacts of heat, and ways that philanthropy can help address these impacts globally. A recording of the webinar can be viewed via the link above.



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 Founding Fellow **Cameron Horne** received the Excellence in Recovery Award from the Recovery Division in FEMA Region Four. This award is granted to staff members who exemplify excellence in their positions and in fulfilling the Division's

mission. Cameron was recognized for his role as Infrastructure Branch Director for Mississippi disasters DR 4697 and DR 4727, which he assumed in November 2023.

- BAF Fellow **Amidu Kalokoh** recently received two awards from Virginia Commonwealth University. The *Black History in the Making* award recognizes and celebrates African American students for their outstanding academic and community service achievements over a period of time, such as active and impactful academic, professional, and community engagement. The *Outstanding Doctoral Student of Public Policy and Administration* award recognizes the most outstanding doctoral student in the program based on their outstanding academic, professional, and community service achievements.
- BAF Alumna **Dr. Tihara Richardson Sommers** received the 2024 Distinguished Faculty Award from the John Lewis Public Administration Program at Tulane University. Award recipients exemplify the spirit and mission of Tulane School of Professional Advancement.
- Georgia Tech awarded BAF Alumna **Dr. Danielle Sharpe** with the [Distinguished Alumni Award](#) in recognition of work as an advocate for disproportionately affected U.S. communities through her role with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention combating domestic and global health epidemics such as HIV and COVID-19.
- The work of BAF Alumna **Dr. Amy Takebe** was recently featured in a [video report](#) by NHK World-Japan Newslines. Dr. Takebe has developed an eight-week English curriculum for university-level disaster language volunteers that helps volunteers to better communicate important information in English to others during disasters. The video on YouTube will be available until September 7, 2024.
- BAF Fellow **Chandler Ian Wilkins** was awarded one of three Unsung Hero Awards by the Texas A&M University Graduate and Professional School.



GRADUATIONS

SPRING 2024

Congratulations to our Fellows!

The Doctor Is In

Several Fellows have successfully defended their dissertations this semester and are now transitioning their careers. Please join us in congratulating these new graduates and emerging professionals:



Yajaira Ayala

University of Delaware



Mojeed Bello

Morgan State University



Jennifer Blanks

Texas A&M University



Terry Cooper

University of New Haven



Felicia Henry

University of Delaware



Ciara Horne

University of Virginia



Celine Robinson

Duke University



Mislael Valentín-Cortés

University of Michigan



Melissa Villarreal

University of Colorado Boulder

We clearly have much to celebrate and look forward to sharing more exciting developments in the months ahead. However, we cannot sustain this forward momentum without your continued support. Our donors help us produce a tremendous impact with a modest administrative footprint, and every dollar makes a real difference. Please consider donating today to help us continue building the disaster workforce our nation needs.

YOUR SUPPORT REMAINS VITAL - DONATE TODAY!

Sincerely,



Nnenia Campbell, Ph.D.
Executive Director
The William Averette Anderson Fund



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The Bill Anderson Fund

1 Willow Brook Court, Randallstown, MD 21133

hello@billandersonfund.org

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