

THE 10 William Averette Anderson **FUND**

SUMMER *newsletter*

SEPTEMBER 2024



Cheers to Ten Years

In July the Bill Anderson Fund celebrated 10 years at the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, hosted by the University of Colorado Boulder Natural Hazards Center. Our [Anniversary Celebration](#) kicked off the first night of the Workshop with reflections from current BAF Fellows, Alumni, and Norma Anderson about the evolution of the BAF from its inception, initiatives the organization currently has underway, and the BAF community's vision for the future.

A special thanks to our program sponsors, the Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine; the University of Delaware Biden School of Public Policy & Administration; and Strome College of Business at Old Dominion University for helping to make this event a success. Our gratitude also goes to Cornelia Posch and Valerie Marlowe of the E.L. Quarantelli Resource Collection at the Disaster Research Center for coordinating a beautiful display of Bill's items for the event, and to the Natural Hazards Center for hosting us!

This year's event also marked the return of our annual Legacy Magazine, which was disseminated in print to Workshop attendees. The magazine, which was written and designed by current BAF Fellows, celebrates Bill Anderson's legacy with reflections about the state of the hazards and disaster field, timely issues that Fellows and Alumni are exploring in their

research, and—for the first time ever—QR codes linking to multimedia content produced by current Fellows.

Flip through a copy of the magazine here!

A Decade at the Natural Hazards Workshop

The Bill Anderson Fund was well-represented elsewhere at the 49th Annual Natural Hazards Workshop, with Fellows and Alumni engaged in presentations, add-on meetings, and as official recorders for the majority of sessions. In total, 17 members of the BAF community presented in or moderated sessions for this year's event. Their presentations spanned a range of topics, from inequities in the distribution of emergency management grants, to the tradeoffs associated with extending tornado load provisions in the design of residential buildings, to the use of citizen science to engage and empower fenceline communities battling environmental injustice.



A special shout-out goes to the presenters at the BAF Lightning Talks session, [Mason Alexander-Hawk](#), [Annika Doneghy](#), [Judanne Lennox-Morrison](#), and [Rosie Sanchez](#), who blew attendees away with their brief but insightful presentations about innovative research topics, findings, and methods (don't just take our word for it: see the shout-out that they received in Dr. Samantha Montano's [Disasterology newsletter](#)). A huge thanks to [Dr. Maggie León-Corwin](#) for moderating this session!

BAF Fellow Annika Doneghy was officially presented with the [Disability and Disasters Award](#) in a [ceremony](#) at the Workshop! 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.

Several BAF Fellows and Alumni also participated in the Researchers Meeting that immediately follows the Natural Hazards Workshop each year. Click the hyperlinks on each name to read the abstracts for presentations given by BAF Fellows [Kayode Nelson](#)

[Adeniji](#); [Joshua McDuffie](#); [Teye Yevuyibor](#); [Gabriela Yáñez González](#), as well as Alumni [Yajaira Ayala](#); [Kesley Richardson](#); [Amy Takebe](#); [Chandler Wilkins](#); and [Melissa Villarreal](#).

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



The First Decadal Dash

The tenth annual Bill Anderson Fund Disaster Dash was held also in concurrence with this year's Natural Hazards Workshop. The race raised over \$17,000 with the support of ten teams and 134 registrants. In addition to having a great turnout, we were honored to have a special guest, Deanne Criswell, the current administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the first woman to serve in this role, as a Dash participant!

Congratulations to this year's winners:

- First Place: William Chupp
- Second Place: Hannah Friedrich
- Third Place: Jeffrey Gunderson
- Final Finisher: Rebekah Annan

Webinar Recap: Adding Capacity to the Federal Vulnerability Mapping Mix

In June, BAF Fellows Joseph Karanja and Tiffany Cousins presented in the [Making Mitigation Work webinar](#) series hosted by the Natural Hazards Center. Their presentation was the product of a larger [research collaboration](#) between the BAF and [Headwaters Economics](#), which supported their analyses.

The study compared two federal vulnerability maps, the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST) and the [Community Disaster Resilience Zones](#) (CDRZ), with [Headwaters' Rural Capacity Index](#) at the county, tract, and census-designated places. The [findings](#) they presented indicate that the federal vulnerability maps overlook low-capacity communities, constituting a gap in the allocation of climate resilience resources.

The CDRZ and CEJST maps are designed to identify disadvantaged, at-risk, and in-need places that will benefit from billions of dollars toward building climate resilience. However, Joseph and Tiffany's analyses found that federal maps overwhelmingly intersected with high-capacity places compared to low-capacity ones, potentially reinforcing legacies of disinvestment.

Watch the recording of the webinar to learn more.

Getting to Know Us

This year we launched a video series in which BAF Alumni reflect on the impacts of their experiences as Fellows to celebrate the Bill Anderson Fund's accomplishments at its 10-year anniversary. These videos demonstrate how becoming a Fellow influenced their lives and career trajectories. This month we are proud to feature Founding Fellow Dr. Quentin Stubbs.

REFLECTIONS FROM A BAF ALUMNUS



QUENTIN STUBBS

REGIONAL NAVIGATION MANAGER

Dr. Stubbs received his Ph.D. in Physical Sciences from the University of Maryland in 2016. He is currently a regional navigation manager with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coast Survey.



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An IDEAAAL Opportunity

The first cohort of the [*Increasing Diversity in and Equitable Access to Applied Learning in Disaster Research Response: IDEAAAL DR2*](#) initiative, which was launched this year in partnership with the Center for Disaster Resilient Communities at the University of Washington (UW), gathered in August. As part of this initiative, six BAF Fellows and Alumni joined 19 other advanced doctoral students and early career researchers for a five-day short course. The group participated in interactive training modules at the UW campus in Seattle, engaged in a tabletop exercise at the Seattle Office of Emergency Management, and received training at the RAPID Reconnaissance Facility. They will spend the next year completing individual research projects. Congratulations to Fellows Judanne Lennox Morrison and Joseph Karanja, as well as BAF Alumni Drs. Maggie León-Corwin, Natasha Malmin, Tihara Richardson Sommers, and Melissa Villarreal for their acceptance into the inaugural IDEAAAL cohort!



Hot off the Presses

The BAF recently released a policy brief from a project entitled [Understanding Research Priorities to Promote Economic Wellbeing in Lower-to-Moderate Income Communities and Communities of Color](#). In recognition of the fact that climate change disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities, this study gathered input from professionals from underrepresented backgrounds who were positioned to contribute critical perspectives and innovative approaches toward building resilience. BAF Alumnus Dr. Dontá Council spearheaded this project, which was supported by the National Resources Defense Council. Current BAF Fellow Mason Alexander served as research assistant and led data collection and analysis.

The brief includes key findings on:

- The role of wealth inequality in climate vulnerability
- Strengthening infrastructure and energy systems
- Empowering communities through research
- Funding solutions for frontline communities
- Building financial stability and worker protections

Download the brief here to learn how we can create a more just and equitable approach to climate resilience!



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

AWARDS | ACCOLADES | RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to our Fellows and Alumni!

As is often the case, 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 Alumna **Dr. Jennifer Blanks**, who defended her dissertation this spring, has started a new role as Geospatial Analyst for the US Forest Service
- The National Academy of Sciences named BAF Alumna **Dr. Benika**
- BAF Fellow and Student Council Chairperson **Diamond Cunningham** was recently awarded a Public Health Law Fellowship by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Public Health Law Fellowship offers fellows on-the-job training to

Dixon a [Kavli Fellow](#) for her research, which focuses on the mental and physical health implications of environmental exposures, hazards and disasters on vulnerable populations, particularly inmates within the Texas prison system.

- BAF Fellow **Judanne Lennox-Morrison** recently received a Higher Education Award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for her dissertation research, which explores Community Emergency Response Teams in rural areas.

prepare them for careers in public health law or policy.

- The BAF National Council of Structural Engineers Associations selected BAF Fellow **Afeez Badmus** for a [Diversity Scholarship Award](#).
- BAF Fellow **Alexa Riobueno-Naylor** received an Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Program as well as a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the Boston College Lynch School of Education, which will fully fund her dissertation research for the 2024-2025 academic year.



GRADUATIONS

SUMMER 2024

Congratulations to our Fellows!

Dr. Joy Semien



Dr. Joy Semien received her doctorate from Texas A&M in August and has started a new role as Chief of Staff for EPA Region 6.

Dr. Chandler Wilkins



Dr. Chandler Wilkins also graduated from Texas A&M in August and is now a Research Associate at the Urban Institute.



The Bill Anderson Fund

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