

THE 10 William Averette Anderson **FUND**

FALL *newsletter*

NOVEMBER 2024

In this edition of the Bill Anderson Fund newsletter, we are proud to announce the launch of innovative projects, new publications, and inspiring events. We are also especially excited to introduce our newest cohort of doctoral student fellows. These exceptional individuals bring fresh perspectives, ideas, and energy to our mission, and we can't wait to see the contributions they will make in the years ahead. Read on for all the latest updates!

WELCOME

Welcome, New Fellows!

We are happy to introduce **15 extremely talented doctoral students** who have joined the BAF as the **2024 cohort**. This incoming batch of BAF Fellows represents a range of disciplinary perspectives, from engineering to literature. While hailing from diverse personal and professional backgrounds, common threads among them are outstanding accomplishments, potential, and passion for doing meaningful work in the community with other changemakers. We are proud to have the opportunity to uplift these emerging scholars as they build their careers. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to:

- **Lucas Belury**, Geography, University of Arizona
- **Denise Chavez**, Geography, Kansas State University
- **Ibrahim Nureni**, Literature, Louisiana State University
- **Jessica Nwafor**, Anthropology, University of Kentucky

- **Yvonne A. Dadson**, Information Science, University at Albany
- **Briana DeGrate**, Urban and Regional Sciences, Texas A&M University
- **America Gaviria Pabon**, Environmental Systems, University of Oklahoma
- **Nyla Howell**, Geography, Rutgers University
- **Christopher Ihinegbu**, Urban and Environmental Planning, University of California, Irvine
- **Abdulahi Opejin**, Coastal Science, East Carolina University
- **Esther Oyedele**, Geoscience, Virginia Tech
- **Zaira Pagan Cajigas**, Risk Analysis, University of Michigan
- **Michelle Ruiz**, Geography, University of Florida
- **Kachinga Silwimba**, Geoscience, Boise State University
- **Najma Thomas**, Engineering, Vanderbilt University



A Return to Arizona

The 2024 Bill Anderson Fund Fall Workshop was held at Arizona State University's Downtown Phoenix campus in October. After hosting Fellows virtually from 2020-2021 and at its Tempe campus in 2022, this was our second year in person at ASU. The BAF's connection to this university goes back much further, however, starting with Bill's appointment as Associate Professor in the ASU Department of Sociology in 1969.

We were grateful to deepen that relationship through this year's workshop, which included an array of timely and informative sessions. We were especially honored to be hosted by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community for a field trip focused on the tribe's emergency management and public health response efforts. Read all about the event [from this feature in ASU News](#). Our huge thanks goes out to the workshop planning team, including Drs. Melanie Gall, Vernon Morris, Anthony Lamana, and Francisco Lara-Valencia! [Click here](#) to view the workshop program and the list of sponsors who helped to make this event possible.



NEW SERIES ALERT

While the core mission of the BAF is to expand the number of historically underrepresented professionals in the fields of hazards and disaster research and practice, our work is founded on the recognition that communities of color and other socially and economically marginalized groups suffer disproportionate harm when extreme events occur. Representation in this professional community is vital for improving equity and inclusion in disaster response, recovery, and mitigation.

Equity and Inclusion in Disasters, a [new special collection](#) of the Natural Hazards Center's Research Counts series, celebrates this work by featuring articles from Bill Anderson Fund Fellows and Alumni in a brief and accessible format for a broad audience. Made possible with support from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, this collection will highlight cross-cutting themes that explore low-attention disasters, social marginalization, and community-based collaborations.

The first three articles in the series, authored by BAF Alums Drs. [Melissa Villarreal](#), [Nnenia Campbell](#), and [Felicia Henry](#), are out now! New installments will be released each month.

[Read the Equity and Inclusion in Disasters Special Collection](#)



GRADUATIONS

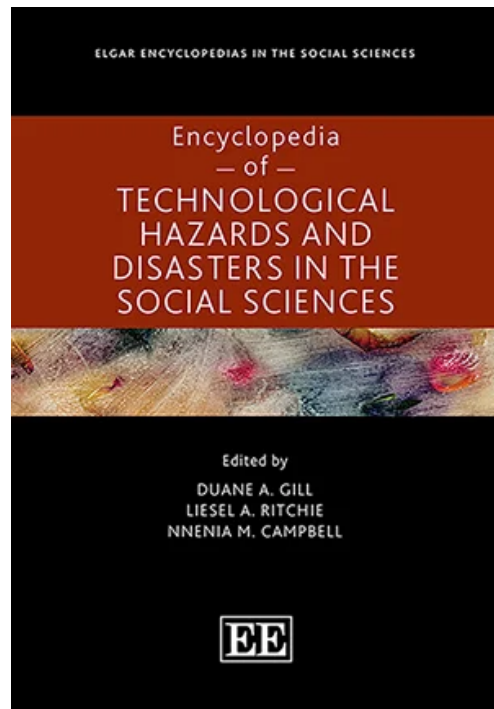
The Doctor Is In

Dr. Natalie Coleman successfully defended her dissertation, "Assessing Inequities in the Recovery of Infrastructure Systems and Lifestyle Behaviors During Climate Hazard Events," this summer. She also recently started a new position as Civil Engineer with the US Army Corps of Engineers in the Southwestern Division Regional Planning and Environmental Center. Congratulations, Dr. Coleman!



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Looking for a new read? The [Encyclopedia of Technological Hazards and Disasters in the Social Sciences](#) was just released by Edward Elgar Publishing. This Encyclopedia brings together an array of global experts to investigate, explore, and analyze human-caused disaster events. Providing insights into both the origins and aftermaths of disaster events, it offers advanced understanding of a broad range of disaster events facing society during the Anthropocene. The editors for this volume are Drs. Duane Gill, Liesel Ritchie, and BAF Executive Director Nnenia Campbell.



Fellow Feature - Diamond Cunningham, MPH



In case you missed it, November's Featured Fellow is **Diamond Cunningham**, a fourth-year PhD student in the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University. Diamond's research integrates data science, artificial intelligence (AI) policy, and health equity frameworks to examine systemic factors affecting maternal health outcomes among Black, Brown, and Indigenous women.

[Read all about Diamond Cunningham here](#)



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

AWARDS | ACCOLADES | RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to our Fellows and Alumni!

BAF Fellows and Alumni received several awards, accolades, and recognitions in the past few months! Here are a few highlights:

- The Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) recently recognized BAF Fellow **Latasha Allen** with the CFSAN Honor Award. This award is given for successful operationalization of a fourth Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network Response Team to effectively manage outbreak workload. Additionally, Latasha was also recently selected to serve on the [American College of Epidemiology](#) Board of Directors.
- BAF Alum **Dr. Kesley Richardson** received the Rising Star award from the International Association of Emergency Managers. This award recognizes someone emerging to the emergency management profession who has displayed enthusiasm, innovation, commitment, has made significant contributions to the field, and has been working in the emergency management profession.
- BAF Alum **Dr. Christin Salley's** recent publication, [Assessing Community Needs in Disasters: Transfer Learning for Fusing Limited Georeferenced Data from Crowdsourced Applications on the Community Level](#)," was recently chosen as an Editor's Choice selection in the ASCE Journal of Management in Engineering.



SUPPORT THE BAF

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we continue to grow, learn, and create positive change in the nation's efforts to address environmental hazards and extreme events.

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The Bill Anderson Fund

1 Willow Brook Court, Randallstown, MD 21133

hello@billandersonfund.org

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