

SUMMER *newsletter*

AUGUST 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of the Bill Anderson Fund's quarterly newsletter. We've been busy these past few months with a number of exciting activities that showcase the leadership, collective values, and important contributions of our fellows and alumni. I'm thrilled to summarize a selection of these developments for you below.

Building on a Legacy

The 2025 volume of *Legacy Magazine*, a publication written and produced by Bill Anderson Fund Fellows, has been released! The magazine includes research reflections, insights about mentorship, commentary on practice, and profiles of BAF Alumni. Printed copies were made available to attendees at the Natural Hazards Workshop thanks to generous support from the Natural Hazards Center and the Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center. Read about the innovative work being produced by members of our community!

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE MAGAZINE](#)

BAF at the 50th Annual Natural Hazards Workshop



-Photo courtesy of Van Zandt Visual

Since 1975, the Natural Hazards Center has been hosting an annual convening to engage and anchor the hazards and disaster community. Bill and Norma Anderson were regular participants from the time of that very first meeting. In fact, this event is where many of the Founding Fellows were recruited and connected to one another.

The 50th Annual Natural Hazards Workshop, held at a critical moment of rapid change and increasing uncertainty, invited participants to both reflect on the insights the field has produced over the last half century and, importantly, to envision the future they desire for its next 50 years. We were honored to support this visioning process and inspire a commitment to action through a dedicated plenary session entitled “Imagining Future Possibilities—Moving from Vision to Reality.” Moderated by Executive Director and Founding Fellow [Dr. Nnenia Campbell](#), this session featured remarks by four BAF Alumni, Drs. [Hans Louis-Charles](#), [Maggie León-Corwin](#), [Natasha Malmin](#), and [Marccus Hendricks](#), as well as current BAF Fellow [Carlo Chunga Pizarro](#). The panelists elicited strong praise for their insightful, innovative, and inspiring commentary. Fortunately for those who could not join us, the session was recorded! Click the button below to see it for yourself.

[VIEW THE RECORDING](#)

The annual BAF Lightning Talks, a fixture on the Workshop program, showcased the research of current fellows [Ruby Hernandez](#), [Jacquita Johnson](#), [Amidu Kalokoh](#), [TyKeara Mims](#), and [Michelle Ruiz](#), with presentations providing insights about frequently overlooked populations and understudied issues. The session was moderated by Founding Fellow [Dr. Hans Louis-Charles](#).

The growing influence of the BAF community was further reflected throughout the programs for the Natural Hazards Workshop and the Researchers Meeting, with 26 fellows and alumni presenting, moderating, and delivering training in over 25 sessions across these two events.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Natural Hazards Center for supporting thought leadership from the BAF community and making this level of active participation possible!

A Dashing Good Time



-Photo courtesy of Van Zandt Visual

Complementing our strong showing at the Natural Hazards Workshop, the 11th annual Bill Anderson Fund Disaster Dash—which has become a fixture at the event—received strong engagement and participation! The race raised more than \$18,000 with the support of 12 teams, 145 individual participants, and 300 donors! Thanks to all who contributed to making this year's Dash a success!

A special shout-out to this year's winners:

- **First Place:** Ian Fowler
- **Second Place:** Sasha Allison
- **Third Place:** Jeff Carney
- **Final Finishers:** Sky Huang & Hyewon Yoon

An IDEAAAL Convening

In August, the [*Investigations in Disasters and Emergencies: Advancing Applied Learning in Disaster Research Response*](#) (IDEAAL DR2) initiative launched its second cohort. This program is being offered through our partnership with the Center for Disaster Resilient Communities (CDRC) at the University of Washington (UW) and is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Three BAF Fellows joined 20 other participants for a five day in-person short course where they received training at the RAPID reconnaissance facility, engaged in a tabletop exercise at the Seattle Office of Emergency Management, and participated in interactive training modules. BAF Fellows Jacquita Johnson, Jessica Nwafor, and TyKeara Mims will spend the next year working with a team of

researchers from the [Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazards Research Hub](#) (CoPes) on a collaborative project to apply their training. Our sincere gratitude goes to our partners at the CDRC, CoPes, and the RAPID facility for their ongoing support for our fellows!



-Photo courtesy of Van Zandt Visual

New Read: Resilient Infrastructure, Built with Equity

BAF Alumna Natalie Coleman recently authored "[Resilient Infrastructure for People: Four Dimensions of Equity](#)," an article that discusses how incorporating an equity lens can strengthen both the physical and social aspects of the systems people use daily, ultimately contributing to more resilient communities. This article is the most recent installment of *Equity and Inclusion in Disasters*, a [special collection](#) of the Natural Hazards Center's Research Counts series that features articles from Bill Anderson Fund Fellows and Alumni that present research-based insights in a brief and accessible format for a broad audience. This collection is made possible by support from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

CHEERs to Another Year

This summer, BAF Fellows Yvonne Dadson and Michelle Ruiz participated in the six-week 2025 Summer Scholars program offered by the [Coastal Hazards, Equity, Economic Prosperity and Resilience](#) (CHEER) Hub across eastern North Carolina. Along with five other students, they participated in community engagement activities and developed individual projects related to their field observations. They concluded the program with presentations delivered in the Summer Scholars Research Showcase. Click the button below to read about

their presentations and access the recordings. Be on the lookout for additional reflections from Michelle and Yvonne about their experiences in the coming months!

PRESENTATIONS AND RECORDINGS



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

- BAF Fellow **Diamond Cunningham** of Tulane University received the Emerging Scholars in Family Planning grant from the Society of Family Planning for her project entitled *Black Fathers' Perspectives on Reproductive Health: Examining Knowledge, Attitudes, and Roles in Contraception and Abortion Decision-Making During the Fourth Trimester in Louisiana*. This investigation advances comprehensive, equity centered reproductive health approaches that could meaningfully contribute to reducing the maternal and child health disparities affecting Black communities in Louisiana and similar contexts nationwide.
- At the end of July, BAF Fellow **Amidu Kalokoh** of Virginia Commonwealth University was named as Global Goodwill Ambassador by the Global Goodwill Ambassadors Foundation. This award recognizes Amidu's expertise in and sustained humanitarian and community development impact in Sierra Leone, where he led initiatives and supported education, youth development, civic engagement, and food security.
- BAF Fellow **Ibrahim Nureni** received the Louisiana State University College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. This award is an annual honor presented by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to recognize the most exceptional graduate teaching assistant. Additionally, he wrote a winning haiku that delves into the experiences of refugees and won first prize in the social justice category at the 2025 Mukai Haiku Festival. It was also featured in their garden to engage and inspire the audience. Ibrahim also won the Alberta Spring Haiku Contest from Copper Kettle Gameworks. His haiku will be featured in the upcoming video game Nom Chomp and as part of a special art poster. Finally, he also received Second Place in the highly prestigious Maya Lyubenova International Haiku Contest Award, which this year received 643 entries from over 40 countries.
- BAF Fellow **Carlo Chunga Pizarro** recently received the 2025 Outstanding Research Award from the University of California Irvine

- BAF Fellow **Judanne Lennox-Morrison** of Texas A&M University was awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from the American Sociological Association. This competitive and prestigious grant supports theoretically grounded empirical investigations to advance understanding of fundamental social processes.

Department of Urban Planning and Public Policy. This award is given to the doctoral student with the most outstanding research accomplishments of the school year.

- BAF Alumna **Danielle Sharpe** was selected for the [2025 40 Under 40 recognition](#) by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. The Association's 40 Under 40 program recognizes innovators, researchers, and people to watch who are building brilliant legacies.

The Doctor is In



Zaira Pagan Cajigas

BAF Fellow Zaira Pagan successfully defended her dissertation recently and is transitioning into her career.

Please join us in congratulating her!

In Closing

As summer wanes, we have many reasons for gratitude despite the challenges and upheavals that this year has produced. We also have an array of exciting initiatives on the horizon. We look forward to telling you all about them soon!

Sincerely,



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



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The Bill Anderson Fund

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